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WIPO
WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/2
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
DATE: AUGUST 4, 2026

Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore

Fifty-Third Session
Geneva, September 16 to 25, 2026

ACCREDITATION OF CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. At its First session, held in Geneva, from April 30 to May 3, 2001, the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore ("the Committee") approved certain organizational and procedural matters, including according *ad hoc* observer status to a number of organizations (see paragraph 18 of document WIPO/GRKTF/IC/1/13).

2. The Annex to this document contains information on the organizations that, by July 16, 2026, requested *ad hoc* observer status in sessions of the Committee. The applications are reproduced as received.

3. The Committee is invited to consider and decide upon the requests submitted by the organizations referred to in the Annex to this document for accreditation as ad hoc observers.

[Annex follows]

ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE REQUESTED ACCREDITATION AS *AD HOC* OBSERVERS TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

International Indigenous Fashion Council (IIFC)

Kumina Mosi Transnational Customary Polity (KMTCP)

Nubian Heritage Society

Ogiek Cultural Initiative Program (O.C.I.P.)

World Intangible Cultural Heritage Federation (WICHF)

INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS FASHION COUNCIL (IIFC)

To: Traditional Knowledge Division
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) 34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

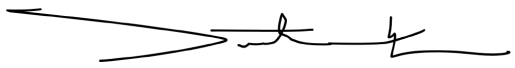
Fax.: +41 (0) 22 338 81 20
Email: grtkf@wipo.int

Dear Traditional Knowledge Division,

Re: Request for accreditation as an observer in future sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee

I am writing on behalf of the International Indigenous Fashion Council (IIFC) to request accreditation to participate as an ad hoc observer in future sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. IIFC is an Indigenous-led nonprofit governance, standards, protection, and resource body for Indigenous fashion and related creative industries. The Council's work is directly connected to traditional cultural expressions, traditional knowledge, cultural heritage, Indigenous intellectual property, free, prior and informed consent, truthful attribution, fair benefit sharing, and safeguards against appropriation and misuse. Please find the completed application form below for the Committee's consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us if further information is required.

Yours sincerely,



Dante Biss-Grayson, Founder
International Indigenous Fashion Council (IIFC)

Application Form for Accreditation as *Ad Hoc* Observer to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

Full name of the Organization:

International Indigenous Fashion Council (IIFC)

Description of the Organization: (maximum 150 words)

The International Indigenous Fashion Council (IIFC) is an Indigenous-led nonprofit governance, standards, protection, and resource body for Indigenous fashion and related creative industries. IIFC is building a global federation that connects chapters, sectors, partners, and future national structures through shared standards, accountable stewardship, and intergenerational continuity. Its work protects Indigenous cultural expression and intellectual property, advances fair and safe industry practice, and expands professional and economic opportunity for Indigenous designers, makers, models, producers, workers, students, and communities. IIFC's standards work is grounded in Indigenous sovereignty, cultural authority, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), truthful attribution, fair pay, benefit sharing, ethical supply chains, data respect, and accountability. The Council uses education, policy engagement, partnerships, convenings, grants, media, consultation pathways, and practical tools to support Indigenous-led participation in the global fashion ecosystem.

Main aims and objectives of the Organization: (Please use a bulleted list)

- Protect Indigenous cultural expression, intellectual property, traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions, provenance, and self-determined representation in fashion and related creative industries.
- Promote Indigenous sovereignty, cultural authority, FPIC, truthful attribution, fair compensation, fair benefit sharing, labor dignity, safe work, and anti-appropriation practice.
- Build and steward a global Indigenous-led federation of chapters, sectors, partners, and future national structures with shared standards and accountable governance.
- Develop public standards, guidance, model clauses, educational tools, and voluntary alignment pathways through the UNDRIP Fashion Charter, the International Indigenous Fashion Accord, and future evaluation systems.
- Expand professional, economic, educational, and market opportunities for Indigenous designers, makers, artists, models, producers, textile workers, students, and communities.
- Engage with policy, institutional, and multilateral processes affecting Indigenous fashion, cultural heritage, traditional cultural expressions, AI/data use, archives, ethical supply chains, and responsible collaboration.

Main activities of the Organization: (Please use a bulleted list)

- Develop rights-based policies, standards, and guidance for Indigenous fashion engagement, including FPIC, cultural protocols, collaboration, attribution, provenance, AI/data, archives, and benefit sharing.
- Convene Indigenous designers, makers, models, producers, youth, elders, cultural authorities, chapters, sectors, partners, and institutions through consultations, panels, roundtables, workshops, trainings, and public briefings.

- Provide education, mentorship, coaching, media, editorial, and professional development for Indigenous fashion practitioners and leaders.
- Create partner pathways and consultation/advisory services for brands, fashion houses, museums, universities, productions, fashion councils, government bodies, and cultural institutions seeking ethical engagement.
- Support chapters and sectors, grantmaking or micro-awards, strategic partnerships, fashion week or production protocol pilots, museum/archive projects, labor/worker briefs, and provenance/supply chain initiatives.
- Monitor and contribute to policy and international discussions concerning Indigenous rights, intellectual property, TK, TCEs, cultural heritage, AI ethics, labor standards, and ethical fashion systems.

Relationship of the Organization with intellectual property matters, including a full explanation of why you are interested in the issues under discussion by the Committee (Maximum 150 words)

IIFC seeks observer accreditation because the Committee's work on intellectual property, genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions is directly relevant to Indigenous fashion. Fashion can involve the use of community designs, symbols, regalia, textiles, materials, stories, names, imagery, archives, and traditional knowledge. IIFC's work focuses on preventing appropriation and misrepresentation; strengthening FPIC, cultural authority, attribution, provenance, fair pay and benefit sharing; and supporting Indigenous-led standards for collaborations, exhibitions, education, media, production, supply chains, AI and digital use. Participation would help IIFC follow negotiations, share practical experience from the fashion and creative sectors, and contribute an Indigenous-led perspective on how international intellectual property frameworks affect traditional cultural expressions and Indigenous rights holders.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

Global / international. Primary country of registration or headquarters: United States. IIFC’s work is organized through an Indigenous-led federation model with chapters, sectors, collaborators, and representatives connected across multiple regions. Regional descriptions are used to reflect broad participation while respecting the distinct sovereignty, recognition systems, cultural protocols, and decision making authority of Tribal Nations, First Nations, Pueblos, Indigenous Nations, and Indigenous communities. IIFC does not claim to speak for any Nation, community, or rights holder without proper authority; rather, it provides a shared governance, standards, protection, and resource framework for Indigenous fashion and related creative industries. Current activity and relationships include representation and participation across the Plains, Pueblo, Southwest, East and West Coast regions of North America, Canada, the Arctic, Peru, Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, and parts of Asia, including Bali.

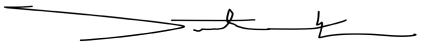
Additional Information: Please provide any additional information which you feel may be relevant (maximum 150 words)

IIFC is developing a rights-based standards suite including the UNDRIP Fashion Charter, International Indigenous Fashion Accord, and future UNDRIP Fashion Seal pathway. The Accord is a public declaration and voluntary alignment framework for Indigenous fashion sovereignty, cultural authority, FPIC, fair pay, benefit sharing, labor dignity, truthful representation, AI and data respect, and institutional accountability. IIFC’s strategy includes chapters and sectors, grants, mentorship, media, consultation services, policy engagement, provenance and archive guidance, and tools for brands, museums, universities, productions, fashion councils, labor bodies, governments, and cultural institutions. Its emerging federation includes member, chapter, sector, and partner representation from the Plains, Pueblo, Southwest, East and West Coasts, across Canada and the Arctic, and relationships connected

to Peru, Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, and parts of Asia, including Bali. IIFC would participate as an Indigenous-led civil society observer while respecting WIPO procedures and Member State decision-making.

Full contact details of the Organization:

Postal address: ***PO Box 40, El Prado, New Mexico, 87529, USA***
Telephone number: 1-505-592-6375
Fax number: N/A, unless IIFC has an official fax number
Email address: info@iifc.pro
Web site: https://iifc.pro/
Name of Organization Representative and Title: ***Dante Biss-Grayson, Founder***
Signature:



KUMINA MOSI TRANSNATIONAL CUSTOMARY POLITY (KMTCP)

To: Traditional Knowledge Division
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Fax.: +41 (0) 22 338 81 20
Email: grtkf@wipo.int

Dear Traditional Knowledge Division,

Re: Request for accreditation as an observer in future sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee

I am writing to express the wish of my organization to participate in the sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore as an ad hoc observer. Please find our application attached for the Committee's consideration.

This revised application is submitted in response to the request of the Traditional Knowledge Division of July 28, 2026, and bears the signature of the authorized representative and the official seal of the organization.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Signature:

Joshmar Walford
Designated Focal Point, authorized representative
Kumina Mosi Transnational Customary Polity

Application Form for Accreditation as *Ad Hoc* Observer to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

Full name of the Organization:

Kumina Mosi Transnational Customary Polity (KMTCP)

Description of the Organization: (maximum 150 words)

The Kumina Mosi Transnational Customary Polity (KMTCP) is a non-governmental Indigenous peoples' organization constituted under the customary law of the Kumina Mosi nation, whose member communities are of Kongo/Bantu descent and are located across the Caribbean and the African diaspora. The Polity is governed by three standing organs: the Elder Assembly (Nana Council), its supreme decision-making body; the Ntanu Central Council, which carries administrative and operational responsibility; and the Kanda Network, a lineage-based system of community representation. Decisions are taken by consensus in accordance with customary law protocol. The Polity is administered from Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, and exercises self government in accordance with Articles 4, 31 and 34 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Its authorized representatives are mandated by the Elder Assembly to speak on behalf of its member lineages in international forums.

Main aims and objectives of the Organization: (Please use a bulleted list)

- To protect the traditional knowledge of the Kumina Mosi nation and its member communities against misappropriation and against the erroneous grant of intellectual property rights;
- To safeguard the traditional cultural expressions of member communities, including ceremonial practice and Kikongo-derived customary vocabulary;
- To secure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge held by member communities;
- To maintain community-controlled documentation of traditional knowledge for defensive purposes, under the free, prior and informed consent of the lineages concerned;
- To strengthen the capacity of member communities to participate in national and international intellectual property policy-making;
- To uphold the customary law of the Kumina Mosi nation as the governing authority over its own knowledge systems.

Main activities of the Organization: (Please use a bulleted list)

- Operation of the International Registry of Traditional Science (IRTS) at kmtcpirts.org, a community-controlled digital registry for the documentation and defensive publication of member communities' traditional knowledge, using the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH, version 2.0);
- Documentation of traditional medicinal knowledge held by member lineages, with provenance recorded in accordance with IEEE 2890-2025, IEEE Recommended Practice for Provenance of Indigenous Peoples' Data;
- Community consultation and training on the disclosure requirement established by the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge, adopted at Geneva in May 2024;

- Preparation of technical and policy submissions on traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions and genetic resources for national and international processes.

Relationship of the Organization with intellectual property matters, including a full explanation of why you are interested in the issues under discussion by the Committee (Maximum 150 words)

The subject matter before the Committee - intellectual property in relation to genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions - is the direct subject matter of the Polity's mandate. The Polity holds and administers traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions on behalf of its member lineages, and those holdings are exposed to misappropriation and to the erroneous grant of patents and other rights. The Polity has operating experience in community-controlled defensive documentation and in the recording of data provenance for Indigenous knowledge holders. It wishes to place that experience before the Committee, to follow the development of the draft instruments on traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions and the implementation of the 2024 WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge, and to ensure that the position of Kongo/Bantu-descended diasporic communities is reflected in the elaboration of international norms.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

Canada (with member communities across the Caribbean and the African diaspora)

Additional Information:
Please provide any additional information which you feel may be relevant (maximum 150 words)

The Polity maintains an administrative secretariat and a designated focal point for correspondence with WIPO. The focal point holds the WIPO Academy General Course on Intellectual Property (DL-101) and IP Training Strategies (IPTI-001), and is a 2026 cohort candidate in the WIPO/KIPO Advanced International Certificate Course on Intellectual Property Asset Management. He has completed the OHCHR e-learning tool on the rights of Indigenous Peoples (Modules 1 and 2) and the UNITAR courses on strengthening stakeholder engagement for the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda. The Polity therefore holds the internal technical and financial-administration capacity required to operate its registry and to account for funds received. Although administered from Canada, the Polity's member lineages are located across the Caribbean and the African diaspora, and its work is accordingly transnational in character.

Full contact details of the Organization:

Postal address: 1560 Bloor Street, Mississauga, Ontario L4X 1R8, Canada

Telephone number: +1 (289) 659-2785

Email address: admin@kmtcpirts.org

Web site: https://kmtcpirts.org/

Name of Organization Representative and Title:

Joshmar Walford, Designated Focal Point

SIGNATURE AND OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE ORGANIZATION

This application is signed by the authorized representative of the Polity and attested by the presiding officers of its governing organs, in accordance with the customary law protocol of the Kumina Mosi nation.

Joshmar Walford
Designated Focal Point and authorized representative

Signature (1): _____

Date: 29th July 2026

Ashley Keiron Jermaine Barnes
Presiding Elder, Elder Assembly (Nana Council)

Signature (2): _____

Date: 29th July 2026

Dervhano Harris
Chair, Ntanu Central Council

Signature (3): _____

Date: 29th July 2026

NUBIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

To: Traditional Knowledge Division
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Fax.: +41 (0) 22 338 81 20
Email: grtkf@wipo.int

Dear Traditional Knowledge Division,

Re: Request for accreditation as an observer in future sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee

I am writing to express the wish of my organization to participate in the sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore as an ad hoc observer. Please find our application attached for the Committee's consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Adel Moussa

_____

(Name and Signature of Representative)

Application Form for Accreditation as *Ad Hoc* Observer to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

Full name of the Organization:

Nubian Heritage Society

Description of the Organization: (maximum 150 words)

The Nubian Heritage Society is a non-governmental organization founded in 1980 in Cairo, Egypt. It is officially accredited to the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Accreditation No. 90446). The society serves as a central hub for the documentation, preservation, and promotion of Nubian cultural identity and heritage, bridging the gap between academic research and community-based safeguarding.

Main aims and objectives of the Organization: (Please use a bulleted list)

- To document and safeguard Nubian intangible cultural heritage, including oral traditions, languages, and folk tales.
- To empower the Nubian local community, particularly women and youth, through heritage-based development projects.
- To protect traditional Nubian knowledge and craftsmanship from cultural misappropriation.
- To facilitate scientific research and provide an authentic cultural resource for scholars worldwide.
- To promote Nubian cultural expressions through national and international forums.

Main activities of the Organization: (Please use a bulleted list)

- Documenting and Archiving Heritage: NHS records and digitizes Nubian traditional knowledge, including handcrafted techniques, architectural styles, and oral traditions to protect them from loss.

- Community Training and Capacity Building: The society organizes field-data collection training for local youth and workshops for artisans to ensure the sustainable safeguarding of Nubian traditional cultural expressions.

Relationship of the Organization with intellectual property matters, including a full explanation of why you are interested in the issues under discussion by the Committee (Maximum 150 words)

As an organization representing the Nubian local community, we are primarily interested in developing legal frameworks to protect our Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs). Our current strategic focus is to establish a "Collective Mark" for Nubian handicrafts to ensure geographical indication protection and prevent commercial exploitation by external parties without community consent. Participation in the IGC is vital for us to align our local safeguarding protocols with international IP standards.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

Egypt

Additional Information:
Please provide any additional information which you feel may be relevant (maximum 150 words)

The Nubian Heritage Society (NHS) is a community-led organization dedicated to the grassroots safeguarding of the Nubian cultural identity. As a UNESCO-accredited NGO (Accreditation No. 90446), the society acts as a vital bridge between international safeguarding standards and local community practices. Our work is characterized by direct field engagement, including the training of local youth and women in documentation and inventorying techniques to ensure that traditional knowledge remains under the community's stewardship. The NHS is committed to ensuring that the Nubian community's Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs) are protected against cultural misappropriation, and our participation in the IGC is essential to developing community-based protocols for the legal protection of our collective heritage.

Full contact details of the Organization:

Postal address:
15 Abdel Aziz Gawish St., Abdeen, Cairo, Egypt

Telephone number: +20 1009539667
Fax number: -
Email address: nb.altarath@gmail.com
Web site: -

Name of Organization Representative and Title:

Adel Moussa,
Director, Nubian Heritage Society

OGIEK CULTURAL INITIATIVES PROGRAMS

To: Traditional Knowledge Division
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Fax.: +41 (0) 22 338 81 20
Email: grtkf@wipo.int

Dear Traditional Knowledge Division,

Re: Request for accreditation as an observer in future sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee

I am writing to express the wish of my organization to participate in the sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore as an ad hoc observer. Please find our application attached for the Committee's consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Nadungwenkop
(Name and Signature of Representative)

OGIEK CULTURAL INITIATIVES PROGRAMME
Cell. +254-734-370751
Date: 24/7/2007
P.O Box 226-20500, NAROK KENYA

Application Form for Accreditation as *Ad Hoc* Observer to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

Full name of the Organization:

OGIEK CULTURAL INITIATIVES PROGRAMS

Description of the Organization: (maximum 150 words)

The Ogiek Cultural Initiatives Program (O.C.I.P.) recognizes that effective involvement of community stakeholders requires a structured approach founded on transparency, inclusivity, and active collaboration. To achieve meaningful and sustainable outcomes, the organization adopts a four-phase framework comprising stakeholder mapping, engagement, co-creation, and feedback. This participatory approach ensures that stakeholders are actively involved throughout the planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs, thereby promoting ownership, accountability, and long-term impact.

Main aims and objectives of the Organization: (Please use a bulleted list)

- Promoting peace and human rights awareness and practice.
- Conducting inter-community workshops.
- Consulting and exchanging information with international organizations.
- Organizing tree planting campaigns in conflict affected areas.
- Advocating for ancestral rights, preserving the Ogiek culture.
- Cultural heritage through community-led museums protecting the forest

Main activities of the Organization: (Please use a bulleted list)

- International advocacy and policy engagement.
- Training and capacity-building programs.
- Publishing educational and awareness materials.
- Community outreach and school support initiatives.

Relationship of the Organization with intellectual property matters, including a full explanation of why you are interested in the issues under discussion by the Committee (Maximum 150 words)

In Kenya intellectual property is regulated by laws like the Copyrights Act (2001) Trademarks Act CAP 506, Intellectual Property Act (2001) and Copyrights protection. We are interested because of our common sense and understanding of our property and other physical possessions. In modern society, though what constitutes property goes beyond.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

Narok, Kenya

Additional Information:
Please provide any additional information which you feel may be relevant (maximum 150 words)

The Ogiek Cultural Initiatives Programs (O.C.I.P) is a non-governmental organization based in Kenya. It was registered in the year 2003 as an NGO in the Republic of Kenya. We fight for the rights of the Ogiek indigenous people in the continent of Africa including countries such as Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and other African countries. The Ogiek are indigenous, Hunters and Gatherers community in Kenya, historically and culturally tied to the Mau forest complex. Their social organization is deeply rooted in egalitarian structures, clan based lineage and age set system.

Full contact details of the Organization:

Postal address:
P.o.Box 226 Narok, Kenya
Telephone number: +254791908016/ +254739182051
Fax number: N/A
Email address: ogiekcip.indigenious@gmail.com
Web site: N/A

Name of Organization Representative and Title:

Simon Nadungwenkop (Executive Director (O.C.I.P))

WORLD INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE FEDERATION (WICHF)

To: Traditional Knowledge Division
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Fax.: +41 (0) 22 338 81 20
Email: grtkf@wipo.int

Dear Traditional Knowledge Division,

Re: Request for accreditation as an observer in future sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee

I am writing to express the wish of my organization to participate in the sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore as an ad hoc observer. Please find our application attached for the Committee's consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Yangyang Duan

Yangyang Duan, President
18 July 2026

Application Form for Accreditation as *Ad Hoc* Observer to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

Full name of the Organization:

World Intangible Cultural Heritage Federation (WICHF)

Description of the Organization: (maximum 150 words)

World Intangible Cultural Heritage Federation (WICHF) is a Colorado nonprofit corporation working with heritage organizations, practitioners and specialists on traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. WICHF has developed a rights-aware digital provenance platform with separate QR-based profiles for heritage bearers and products. The platform is designed to record lineage, recognized status, certificates, works and audiovisual materials, together with provenance, consent, access levels. attribution, permitted and restricted uses, licensing contacts and benefit arrangements. Through authorized cooperation with the Zhuzhou Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection Association, WICHF is preparing a Hunan pilot concerning heritage items, bearers and representative craft expressions, beginning with Xiang embroidery. It also conducts applied research on traditional lacquer knowledge and contemporary design.

Main aims and objectives of the Organization: (Please use a bulleted list)

- Document TK and TCEs with informed consent and practitioner or custodian participation.
- Develop rights-aware records for bearers, crafts and products, including provenance and use conditions.
- Reduce misappropriation and unauthorized commercial use of embroidery, textile and craft expressions.
- Promote attribution, appropriate licensing and equitable benefit arrangements.
- Strengthen IP awareness among practitioners and cultural organizations.
- Support ethical contemporary design and research involving TCEs.
- Contribute practical civil-society experience to IGC work.

Main activities of the Organization: (Please use a bulleted list)

- Operate a digital provenance platform with separate QR profiles for heritage products and heritage bearers.
- Configure fields for consent, access, attribution, permitted use, licensing contacts and benefit arrangements.
- Prepare an authorized Hunan pilot beginning August 1, 2026; information on 15 heritage items has been organized, with Xiang embroidery planned as a initial focus.
- Research responsible use of traditional motifs and traditional lacquer knowledge, associated materials and contemporary designs.

Relationship of the Organization with intellectual property matters, including a full explanation of why you are interested in the issues under discussion by the Committee (Maximum 150 words)

Traditional embroidery, textile motifs and other craft expressions may be reused in commercial products without clear consent, attribution, provenance or benefit arrangements. Existing copyright and design systems may protect some contemporary works, but often do not fully address inherited, collectively held or intergenerational traditional cultural expressions. WICHF is therefore developing a practical framework combining provenance records, informed consent, access controls, attribution, permitted-use information, licensing contacts, community protocols and equitable benefit arrangements. Its digital platform is designed not merely as a public archive, but as rights-aware infrastructure that records custodianship and use conditions while protecting restricted knowledge. WICHF seeks observer status to contribute experience from platform development, preparatory traditional-craft documentation, applied research and an authorized emerging rights-governance pilot, and to follow the IGC's negotiations on preventing misappropriation and enabling communities and practitioners to control and benefit from their traditional knowledge and cultural expressions.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

China. WICHF is incorporated in Colorado, United States, and coordinates its international activities from there, while its current field cooperation and pilot implementation are primarily conducted in China.

Additional Information:
Please provide any additional information which you feel may be relevant (maximum 150 words)

WICHF was incorporated in Colorado, United States, on December 28, 2025 (Entity ID 20258404839). Its platform’s core functions were deployed in phases on May 1 and July 1, 2026 and currently operate with test records only. A partner-authorized Hunan pilot is scheduled to commence on August 1, 2026. Preparatory information concerning 15 heritage items has been organized. The initial live phase will introduce verified heritage-bearer and product records only after individual consent, partner verification and data-readiness checks. WICHF does not claim ownership of community-held knowledge or traditional cultural expressions. Its role is to support participating custodians and practitioners in documenting provenance, defining access and permitted uses, receiving attribution, and establishing appropriate licensing and benefit arrangements. Intellectual property professionals participate in the initiative.

Full contact details of the Organization:

Postal address:

500 N GRANT ST STE C
DENVER, CO 80203, UNITED STATES

Telephone number: +86 15510217232
Fax number: N/A
Email address: president@wichf.org
Web site: https://www.wichf.org

Name of Organization Representative and Title:

Yangyang Duan, President

[End of Annex and document]