



**WIPO/EXP/GR/GE/18/1**  
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## ***Ad Hoc* Expert Group on Genetic Resources**

**Geneva, June 24, 2018**

INFORMATION NOTE ON METHODOLOGY AND PROGRAM

*Prepared by the International Bureau of WIPO*

1. The overall objective of the *ad hoc* expert group on genetic resources is, as indicated in the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (“IGC”) and the Decisions of the Thirty-Fifth Session of the IGC (“IGC 35”), which took place from March 19 to 23, 2018, to address specific legal, policy or technical issues. The results of the work will be reported to and further addressed by the IGC.
2. This Information Note sets out the methodology and program for the *ad hoc* expert group, in accordance with the Decisions taken at IGC 35.
3. A separate Substantive Background Note (document WIPO/EXP/GR/GE/18/2) will provide more specific questions and some background information on the list of issues to be addressed, which are:
  - Subject Matter, including scope (intellectual property or patents) and use of terms – genetic resources, traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, derivatives;
  - Disclosure:
    - Trigger and use of terms – directly based on, utilization.
    - Content and use of terms – source, providing country, country of origin.
    - Consequences of non-compliance – sanctions/remedies;
  - Databases: technical issues such as safeguards and practical issues relating to the establishment and functioning of databases;
  - Due Diligence Mechanisms: technical issues relating to the establishment and functioning of various kinds of such mechanisms.
4. In general, as indicated in the Decisions of IGC 35, the *ad hoc* expert group will work in a transparent and inclusive way.

## **Mandate**

5. As indicated in the Decisions of IGC 35, the IGC plenary is the negotiating and decision-making body. The *ad hoc* expert group is to support and facilitate the negotiations of the IGC, by providing advice and analysis on the issues to be addressed.

## **Experts**

6. All experts will participate in their personal capacities. The experts nominated to participate in the meeting, in accordance with the Decisions of IGC 35, are listed in the List of Participants for the meeting, document WIPO/EXP/GR/GE/18/INF/1.
7. It is proposed that the meeting follow the Chatham House Rule, i.e., “participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speakers, nor that of any other participant, may be revealed”.
8. All participants are also requested to respect the informality of the *ad hoc* expert group, and not to communicate to the public, whether “live” or at any future time, the content or nature of the discussions taking place in the *ad hoc* expert group, whether in general terms or by way of quoting specific experts.
9. In accordance with the Decisions of IGC 35, the WIPO Secretariat has invited the following three experts to participate, also in their personal capacities, in the meeting:
  - Mr. Pedro Roffe, Senior Fellow, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development;
  - Ms. Manisha Desai, *Union Chimique Belge* (UCB); and

- Mr. Paul Oldham, Director, One World Analytics / Senior visiting fellow, United Nations University.

### Co-Chairs

10. In accordance with the Decisions of IGC 35, the IGC Chair, Mr. Ian Goss (Australia) has nominated Mr. Pedro Roffe and Ms. Krisztina Kovacs (Policy Officer, European Commission) to be the Co-Chairs of the *ad hoc* expert group. Mr. Roffe is one of the experts nominated by the WIPO Secretariat and Ms. Kovacs is one of the experts nominated by the European Union, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

11. Mr. Roffe and Ms. Kovacs will co-chair the *ad hoc* expert group by introducing the issues and facilitating the discussions.

### Reporting to the IGC

12. Mr. Roffe and Ms. Kovacs, in their capacities as the Co-Chairs of the *ad hoc* expert group on genetic resources, or representatives appointed by them, will report to the IGC plenary at IGC 36 on Monday, June 25, on the outcomes and results of the *ad hoc* expert group's work, and their report will be included in the report of IGC 36. The Co-Chairs' report will be prepared and delivered under their own responsibility and authority.

### Documents

13. The *ad hoc* expert group may refer to and use all WIPO working documents, including WIPO/GRTKF/IC/36/4, as well as any other contributions of Member States and materials produced by the WIPO Secretariat.

### Program

14. The table below indicates a proposed program for the *ad hoc* expert group, noting that the process should be flexible. The Co-Chairs will adjust the program as they believe appropriate.

Time	Activity
9:00 – 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opening by the Co-Chairs</li> <li>- Introductions</li> <li>- Subject matter</li> <li>- Disclosure</li> </ul>
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Disclosure (continued)</li> <li>- Databases</li> <li>- Due diligence mechanisms</li> <li>- Wrap-up by the Co-Chairs</li> </ul>

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