

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

Twenty-Fourth Session
Geneva, April 22 to 26, 2013

RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON THE WIPO TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, TRADITIONAL CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS AND GENETIC RESOURCES WEBSITE

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. At its Twentieth Session, held from February 14 to 22, 2012, the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (“the IGC”) invited the Secretariat to produce an information document briefly describing the resources available on the WIPO Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions and Genetic Resources website (“the WIPO TK website”), as a means to support and enhance the participation of observers in its work.¹ This decision was among several decisions taken following discussion of a “Draft Study on the Participation of Observers in the Work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore: Executive Summary” (see document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/20/7).
2. Pursuant to that decision, a brief description of the available resources was issued by the Secretariat as documents WIPO/GRTKF/IC/23/INF/9 and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/23/INF/9 Add. Such description is intended to assist IGC participants, particularly observers and newcomers, to make better use of already available materials on the WIPO TK website.
3. In addition, the IGC, at its Twentieth Session, took note that a distinct WIPO webpage on the WIPO TK website is dedicated to comments, proposals, submissions and papers from observers, including drafting proposals on IGC negotiating texts and other working documents for consideration by Member States. The IGC requested the Secretariat to encourage observers to contribute to this observers’ comments webpage and to draw the attention of Member States to these comments before each session of the IGC.² The Secretariat is

¹ See draft report of the Twentieth Session (WIPO/GRTKF/IC/20/10), paragraph 801 (f).

² See draft report of the Twentieth Session (WIPO/GRTKF/IC/20/10), paragraph 801 (f).

accordingly, through several means, encouraging observers to contribute comments and other materials to the webpage (submissions may be sent by accredited observers to the Secretariat at grtkf@wipo.int) and hereby draws to the attention of the Member States that the page is available at <http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/igc/ngo/ngopapers.html>. As at the date of this document, no submission from an observer has been made since the Twenty-Third Session of the IGC.

4. At its Twentieth Session, the IGC also “requested the Secretariat to improve the accessibility of the WIPO website devoted to traditional knowledge, genetic resources and traditional cultural expressions.” Accordingly, the WIPO TK website is being re-structured with a view to improving its accessibility, as well as part of a general re-design of the WIPO website. Should the new site be published by then, a similar document to the documents mentioned under paragraph 2 will be prepared in view of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the IGC and that document will reflect the new structure of the website as appropriate and new links, if any, to the various resources. In the interim, IGC participants are invited to consult document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/23/INF/9 and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/23/INF/9 Add.

5. *The IGC is invited to take note of this document.*
