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

Forty-First Session
Geneva, March 16 to 20, 2020

BRIEF SUMMARY OF DOCUMENTS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

I. WORKING DOCUMENTS FOR THE FORTY-FIRST SESSION

1. The following is a brief summary of the documents prepared for the Forty-First Session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (the “Committee” or “IGC”) as at January 15, 2020. Each of these documents, as well as any additional documents, will be posted as soon as they are finalized at: https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=55246.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/41/1 Prov.: Draft Agenda for the Forty-First Session

2. This document contains the proposed items to be dealt with by the Committee, and is submitted to the Committee for possible adoption.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/41/2: Accreditation of Certain Organizations

3. This document sets out the names, contact details and aims and objectives of the organizations which have applied to the Committee for accreditation as ad hoc observers to the current and future sessions of the Committee.
4. The WIPO General Assembly, in 2005, established the "WIPO Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities". The decision was taken on the basis of document WO/GA/32/6, subsequently amended by the WIPO General Assembly in September 2010, which sets out the objectives and operation of the Fund. This document refers to the appointment of the Fund’s Advisory Board, and provides information on the fund-raising drive initiated by the Secretariat. The required information note providing details of contributions received and beneficiaries is circulated in parallel as document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/41/INF/4.

5. At its Thirty-Sixth Session, which took place from June 15 to 29, 2018, the IGC decided to transmit the text in the annex to document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/36/4 to the Fortieth Session of the Committee, in accordance with the Committee’s mandate for 2018-2019 and the work program for 2019, as contained in document WO/GA/49/21. The text was made available to the Fortieth Session of the Committee as document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/40/6 and was transmitted to the 2019 General Assembly as Annex III to document WO/GA/51/12. The WIPO General Assembly in 2019 took note of document WO/GA/51/12, including its annexes, and decided that the Committee will "continue to expedite its work, with the objective of finalizing an agreement on an international legal instrument(s), without prejudging the nature of outcome(s), relating to intellectual property which will ensure the balanced and effective protection of genetic resources (GRs), traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs)", and "use all WIPO working documents, including WIPO/GRTKF/IC/40/6, WIPO/GRTKF/IC/40/18 and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/40/19, […] as well as other contributions of Member States, […] and outputs of any expert group(s) established by the Committee and related activities conducted under Program 4". Document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/41/4 has been prepared for this session pursuant to this decision.

6. In April 2019, Mr. Ian Goss, the Chair of the IGC for the 2018-2019 biennium, prepared a text of a Draft International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources, for the consideration of the IGC. At its Fortieth Session, the Committee decided to include it as a working document of the Committee as a Chair’s Text. Pursuant to that decision, document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/41/5 has been prepared for this session.

7. The WIPO General Assembly in 2017 requested the Secretariat to “produce a report(s) compiling and updating studies, proposals and other materials relating to tools and activities on databases and on existing disclosure regimes relating to GR and associated TK, with a view to identify any gaps.” Pursuant to this decision, document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/35/5 was prepared for the Thirty-Fifth Session of the Committee, and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/36/5, WIPO/GRTKF/IC/37/8 Rev., WIPO/GRTKF/IC/38/8, WIPO/GRTKF/IC/39/8 and
WIPO/GRTKF/IC/40/9 were prepared with a few updates for the Thirty-Sixth, Thirty-Seventh, Thirty-Eighth, Thirty-Ninth and Fortieth Sessions of the Committee. The same document with a few updates has been re-issued as document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/41/6.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/41/7: Report on the Compilation of Materials on Disclosure Regimes Relating to Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge

8. The WIPO General Assembly in 2017 requested the Secretariat to “produce a report(s) compiling and updating studies, proposals and other materials relating to tools and activities on databases and on existing disclosure regimes relating to GR and associated TK, with a view to identify any gaps.” Pursuant to this decision, document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/35/6 was prepared for the Thirty-Fifth Session of the Committee, and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/36/6, WIPO/GRTKF/IC/37/9, WIPO/GRTKF/IC/38/9, WIPO/GRTKF/IC/39/9 and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/40/10 were prepared with a few updates for the Thirty-Sixth, Thirty-Seventh, Thirty-Eighth, Thirty-Ninth and Fortieth Sessions of the Committee. The same document with a few updates has been re-issued as document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/41/7.

II. INFORMATION DOCUMENTS FOR THE FORTY-FIRST SESSION

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/41/INF/1: List of Participants

9. A draft list of participants will be circulated at the Forty-First Session of the Committee.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/41/INF/2: Brief Summary of Documents

10. The present document has been prepared as an informal guide to the Committee’s documentation.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/41/INF/3: Draft Program for the Forty-First Session

11. In line with the Committee’s request at its Tenth Session, this document sets out a suggested program and identifies a possible timing for each agenda item. This draft program is indicative only, and the actual organization of work of the Committee would be determined by the Chair and its members in line with the rules of procedure.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/41/INF/4: Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities: Information Note on Contributions and Applications for Support

12. This document sets out information required to be reported to the Committee on the operation of the Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities. The rules are set out in the Annex to document WO/GA/32/6, as approved by the WIPO General Assembly at its Thirty-Second Session and subsequently amended by the WIPO General Assembly in September 2010. In particular, it gives information on contributions received or pledged, and actual support provided to representatives of accredited indigenous and local communities.
13. Following a decision of the Committee at its Seventh Session, each subsequent session of the Committee has commenced with a panel chaired by a member of an indigenous community. The panel has been held at the commencement of the previous 33 sessions of the Committee. On each occasion, representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities gave presentations on a specific theme related to the IGC’s negotiations. The presentations are available on WIPO’s site at: https://wipo.int/tk/en/igc/panels.html and may also be accessed through the Indigenous Portal on the WIPO website. This document sets out the proposed practical arrangements for the panel at the Forty-First Session of the Committee.

14. This information note will inform the Committee on the decisions on funding that the Director General will take in accordance with the recommendation that the Advisory Board of the Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities may adopt in the margins of the Forty-First Session of the Committee.

15. At its Nineteenth Session, “the Committee invited the Secretariat to update the glossaries available in documents WIPO/GRTKF/IC/19/INF/7 (‘Glossary of Key Terms Related to Intellectual Property and Traditional Cultural Expressions’), WIPO/GRTKF/IC/19/INF/8 (‘Glossary of Key Terms Related to Intellectual Property and Traditional Knowledge’) and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/19/INF/9 (‘Glossary of Key Terms Related to Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources’), to combine them in a single document and to publish the consolidated glossary as an information document for the next session of the Committee”. This document is made available in the same version of the consolidated glossary for the session.

16. The WIPO General Assembly in 2019 requested the WIPO Secretariat to “continue to collect, compile and make available online information on national and regional sui generis regimes for the intellectual property protection of TK and TCEs”. Pursuant to this decision, this document provides a report on the compilation of information on national and regional sui generis regimes for the intellectual property protection of TK and TCEs.
17. At its Twentieth Session, the Committee 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 as a means to support and enhance the participation of observers in its work. This document provides an update on the resources available on the website.