

Esteemed madame President, honourable delegates, and friends,

A century ago, Chief Deskaheh of the Iroquois Confederacy was received by the Mayor of Geneva, but was denied access to the League of Nations, the predecessor of the UN system of which WIPO is part. Since then, WIPO has made efforts to support the participation of Indigenous Peoples, yet our ongoing sustainable participation is still uncertain, including in the preparatory meeting and diplomatic conference.

The renewal of the mandate to discuss these issues is fundamental and we continue to insist that we are guaranteed participation in the process. Sufficient and sustainable funds must be secured for our effective participation at the next biennium in 2024. Effective Participation is key to the integrity of the diplomatic conference and its outcomes. The perspectives and interests of Indigenous Peoples must be heard and incorporated. Parties must accommodate our concerns for the outcomes to be legitimate and in accordance with Article 43 of UNDRIP. We are accountable to our Peoples and these outcomes will be judged by them, not by us. Delegates of the Diplomatic Conference, must not just listen to us but effectively recognize, respect, promote and fulfill our rights. Effective participation of Indigenous Peoples from the seven socio-cultural regions is imperative to ensure their free, prior and informed consent. Indigenous Peoples are the owners of the resources, knowledge and expressions embodied in the instruments and their views must be respected.

Genetic resources discussions cannot be separated from the TK and TCE instruments and Indigenous People's rights to their lands are imperative. We support the chairs attempts to bring together the TCE and TK articles and the move away from referring to Indigenous Peoples in square brackets.

We urge members to recognise the centrality of our rights and voices in the continued development of these instruments.