



29.11.2024

Opening Statement WIPO IGC 48 Regarding Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and  
Traditional Cultural Expressions

Dear Members of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO),

In 2012, WIPO made the decision to separate genetic resources from traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. Today, we find ourselves engaged in a distinct process concerning traditional knowledge and cultural expressions, following the success of the diplomatic conference on genetic resources.

In Riyadh, we once again observed that genetic resources were separated from traditional knowledge and cultural expressions. Only the latter received legal protection.

We must emphasize that Indigenous Peoples hold a holistic view, as we have consistently expressed to WIPO and will continue to do so. The division of our knowledge systems into three parts is, undeniably, a colonial construct.

Finally, we assert the right to self-determination of all peoples across the seven cultural regions of the world, none of whom were present at WIPO's recent diplomatic conference in Saudi Arabia. This conference led to the exclusion of genetic resources from protection under the new WIPO treaty on design rights.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,  
Maloca Internationale