

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

Fiftieth Session
Geneva, March 3 to 7, 2025

ACCREDITATION OF CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (“the Committee”), at its first session, held in Geneva, from April 30 to May 3, 2001, approved certain organizational and procedural matters, including according *ad hoc* observer status to a number of organizations that had expressed their wish to have a role in the work of the Committee (see the Report adopted by the Committee, WIPO/GRKTF/IC/1/13, paragraph 18).

2. Since then, an additional number of organizations have expressed to the Secretariat their wish to obtain the same status for the subsequent sessions of the Committee. The applications containing the names and other biographical details of the organizations which, before January 3, 2025, requested accreditation at the Fiftieth Session of the Committee are annexed to this document, as received from each organization.

3. *The Committee is invited to consider and decide upon the accreditation request as ad hoc observers submitted by the organizations referred to in the Annex to this document.*

[Annex follows]

ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE REQUESTED ACCREDITATION AS OBSERVERS
IN SESSIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

Center for the Study of Cultural Heritage “Promoting the Sustainable Development of the Peoples of the North”

Focus Droits et Accès (received in French)

Hear Their Voice Initiative (HTVI)

Initiative de Promotion de l'Éducation des Batwa pour le Développement Durable (IPREBAD)
(received in French)

Nepal Indigenous Nationalities Preservation Association (NINPA)

Union of Community Development Volunteers

Center for the Study of Cultural Heritage “Promoting the Sustainable Development of the Peoples of the North”

To: Traditional Knowledge Division
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Fax.: +41 (0) 22 338 81 20
Email: grtkf@wipo.int

Dear Traditional Knowledge Division,

Re: Request for accreditation as an observer in future sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee

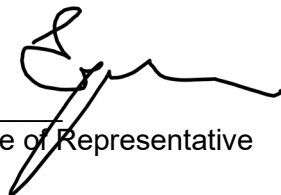
I am writing to express the intention of our organization to take part in the sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore as an *ad hoc* observer.
Please find the application attached for the Committee's consideration.

In case any questions or additional information might be required, we are ready to provide all documents on your request to the further review,

Yours sincerely,

Daria Egereva

(Name and Signature of Representative)



**Application Form for Accreditation as *Ad Hoc* Observer
to the
WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources,
Traditional Knowledge and Folklore^{1,2}**

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

Full name of the Organization:

Center for the Study of Cultural Heritage “Promoting the Sustainable Development of the Peoples of the North”

Description of the Organization: (maximum 150 words)

The Center for the Study of Cultural Heritage is actively working to promote, preserve, study, document and maintain traditional knowledge, practices and culture of Indigenous Peoples, promote and use the intellectual property of Indigenous Peoples. The Centre brings together Indigenous Peoples from different regions of Russia who work in preservation of traditional knowledge at the local level and raise awareness to traditional economics and way of life of Indigenous Peoples. Members of the Center actively participate in regional and international negotiations, including public speaking at the UN events.

Main aims and objectives of the Organization: (Please use a bulleted list)

- Research and data of the cultural heritage of the Indigenous Peoples the North, Siberia and Arctic territories of Russia
- Protecting the intellectual property of the cultural heritage of Indigenous Peoples and their traditional knowledge
- Promoting sustainable development of Indigenous Peoples of the North

Main activities of the Organization: (Please use a bulleted list)

- Cultural heritage research
- Documentation of cultural heritage of Indigenous Peoples and their traditional knowledge
- Capacity-building seminars and meetings for Indigenous Peoples at regional and local level
- Assistance in legalizing of the intellectual property rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Protecting the intellectual property of the cultural heritage of Indigenous Peoples and their traditional knowledge
- Promoting sustainable development of Indigenous Peoples of the North

Please do not enclose any attachment with your application.

¹ Please note that the decision on accreditation will not be made by the Secretariat, but by the Member States at the beginning of the session of the Intergovernmental Committee. It is therefore possible that certain organizations may not receive accreditation. Therefore, if the requesting organization is not based in Geneva, it might not be advisable to travel to Geneva for the sole purpose of participating in the session of the Committee until accreditation has been granted.

² Please note that this application form may be presented to the Committee exactly in the form received. Please therefore, as far as possible, complete the form using a type-writer or word processor. The completed form should preferably be emailed to grtkf@wipo.int

Relationship of the Organization with intellectual property matters, including a full explanation of why you are interested in the issues under discussion by the Committee (Maximum 150 words)

The Center for Cultural Heritage of Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North has played an instrumental role in publishing guidebooks and resources aimed at addressing critical issues like climate change, the role of Indigenous women, and activism. These guidebooks are part of the Center's broader educational efforts to raise awareness and empower Indigenous communities, particularly women and youth, to protect traditional knowledge, cultural heritage, and their rights in the face of growing environmental and social challenges.

In essence, these guidebooks serve as tools for empowerment, protection, and preservation, ensuring that Indigenous communities can safeguard their knowledge systems against exploitation while maintaining their cultural heritage for future generations. They bridge gaps between traditional practices and modern legal frameworks, strengthening the ability of Indigenous Peoples to defend their intellectual property rights on both local and international levels.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

Russian Federation

Additional Information:

Please provide any additional information which you feel may be relevant (maximum 150 words)

One key initiative is to ensure sustainable development while preserving traditional knowledge and practices. These efforts include creating, supporting traditional lifestyle like reindeer herding, and integrating modern technologies to sustain Indigenous ways of life. Cultural heritage is also strengthened through arts, music, and tourism, often as part of broader International Indigenous initiatives, such as Indigenous Peoples Caucuses in the UN mechanisms

Full contact details of the Organization:

Postal address: 123423 Moscow, Pr-t Marshala Zhukova 24/2 app.81

Telephone number: +79150805682

Fax number:

Email address: dariandy7@gmail.com

Web site: <https://www.indigenouswomen.ru/>

Name of the representative of the organization

Daria Egereva, Director of the Center

FOCUS DROITS ET ACCES

To: Traditional Knowledge Division
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Fax.: +41 (0) 22 338 81 20

Email: grtkf@wipo.int

Dear Traditional Knowledge Division,

Re: Request for accreditation as an observer in future sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee

I am writing to express the wish of my organization to participate in the sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore as an *ad hoc* observer. Please find our application attached for the Committee's consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

RUSABIKA NANGA Huguette

(Name and Signature of Representative)

/...

**Application Form for Accreditation as *Ad Hoc* Observer
to the
WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources,
Traditional Knowledge and Folklore^{1,2}**

**BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT
ORGANIZATION**

Full name of the Organization:

FOCUS DROITS ET ACCES

Description of the Organization: (maximum 150 words)

Focus Droits et Accès (FDA) is an organization working to promote human rights and to build capacities among local communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since 2010, FDA has undertaken initiatives to underscore the importance of traditional knowledge, foster social justice and promote sustainable development. The organization works closely with communities to document traditional knowledge, protect cultural heritage and encourage their transmission to future generations. It also works to ensure equitable access to resources and opportunities, with a particular focus on marginalized groups.

Main aims and objectives of the Organization: (Please use a bulleted list)

- Promoting human rights and social equity
- Enhancing local traditional knowledge and cultural heritage
- Helping to preserve cultural and natural heritage
- Encouraging the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from local resources
- Strengthening the capacity of communities to manage and protect their resources

Main activities of the Organization: (Please use a bulleted list)

- Working with local experts to register and preserve traditional practices in various areas (such as medicine, agriculture and art), while underscoring the importance of obtaining the prior consent of the holders of such traditional knowledge
- Holding classes in local communities to explain intellectual property rights (IPRs) and the means available to protect them
- Attending forums and conferences to advocate a global legal framework to protect traditional knowledge and acknowledge the rights of local communities
- Launching and contributing to studies on the scientific and cultural value of traditional knowledge, while underscoring the rights of its holders
- Providing local communities with technical and legal assistance to defend their rights where their knowledge or resources are misappropriated

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- Working with local authorities to draft regulations that protect genetic resources and ensure their sustainable management
- Organizing events to promote traditional knowledge and cultural expressions at home and abroad
- Designing teaching programs for young people on the importance of preserving their cultural and natural heritage
- Monitoring cases of illegal or unethical exploitation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge and carrying out actions to demand compensation or the sharing of benefits

Relationship of the Organization with intellectual property matters, including a full explanation of why you are interested in the issues under discussion by the Committee (Maximum 150 words)

FDA strives to promote IPRs and thereby protect traditional knowledge and cultural expressions, which are often exploited without the consent of the local communities concerned. The WIPO Intergovernmental Committee provides a vital platform for addressing issues such as biopiracy and equitable access to genetic resources. FDA is strongly committed to contributing to debate on international legal frameworks, to raising awareness of the impact of IP policies on local communities and to sharing best practices for safeguarding intangible heritage.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Additional Information:

Please provide any additional information which you feel may be relevant (maximum 150 words)

FDA has worked with national and international partners in support of projects to document local knowledge, particularly in the areas of traditional medicine and sustainable agriculture. It has also conducted studies on local biodiversity conservation projects and on the impact of IP frameworks on rural communities. The organization has also attended regional forums on natural resource management and the preservation of intangible heritage. That experience have strengthened its resolve to take an active part in the Intergovernmental Committee's discussions.

We are of the view that protecting traditional knowledge and genetic resources is key to sustainable and inclusive development, and it is our wish to enrich the Committee's discussions with perspectives born of our experience on the ground.

Full contact details of the Organization:

Postal address: N/A

Telephone number: +243 998714053

Fax number:

Email address: huguette@focusdroitsetaccés.org

Web site: www.focusdroitsetaccés.org

Name of Organization Representative and Title:

RUSABIKA NANGA Huguette, Executive Director

Hear Their Voice Initiative (HTVI)

To: Traditional Knowledge Division
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20 Switzerland

Fax.: +41 (0) 22 338 81 20

Email: grtkf@wipo.int

Dear Traditional Knowledge Division,

Re: Request for accreditation as an observer in future sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee

I am writing to express the wish of my organization to participate in the sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore as an *ad hoc* observer. Please find our application attached for the Committee's consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information. Yours sincerely,



Benon MUGARURA
Founder and CEO
Tel: + (250) 786424086
E-mail: voice
Hear Their Voice Initiative (HTVI)

(Name and Signature of Representative)

**Application Form for Accreditation as *Ad Hoc* Observer
to the
WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources,
Traditional Knowledge and Folklore^{1,2}**

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

Full name of the Organization:

Hear Their Voice Initiative (HTVI)

Description of the Organization: (maximum 150 words)

Hear Their Voice Initiative (HTVI) initially was known as 'Hear Their Voice International', but during registration process, Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) requested our organization to change its name since we were registering as a local entity to its current name Hear Their Voice Initiative (HTVI). Reg No: 1251/RGB/NGO/OC/08/2023. HTVI is dedicated:

- (1) To protect, promote, and defend human rights both individual and collective rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups especially the formerly categorized groups of Category I & II of Ubudehe poverty rankings with the aim of not leaving anyone behind, with special emphasis on indigenous peoples of Rwanda Batwa former hunter-gatherers currently legally known as Historically Marginalized Populations (HMPs);
- (2) To facilitate sustainable development process among vulnerable & underserved;
- (3) To change the culture of dependency and promote community's overall well-being;
- (4) To ensure that no body is left behind in all aspect of life (men, women, children, youth, and people with disabilities).

Main aims and objectives of the Organization: (Please use a bulleted list)

- HTVI is a local organization, founded in Rwanda, headquartered in Gasabo District, Kigali-City, in Rwanda. Our identity is particularly inscribed within our vision, mission, core values as well as our focus and domain activities.
- Our vision is to empower communities to become agents of change
- Our mission is to support vulnerable & marginalized communities to overcome extreme poverty and thrive.
- Our core values, at HTVI, we embrace the values of empathy, sustainability, inclusivity, integrity, and collaboration as the pillars of our work.
- Hear Their Voice Initiative (HTVI), is an organization committed to holistic and comprehensive programs which aim at empowering especially the formerly categorized groups of Category I & II of Ubudehe poverty rankings with the aim of not leaving anyone behind, with special emphasis on indigenous peoples of Rwanda the Batwa former hunter-gatherers currently legally known as Historically Marginalized Populations (HMPs).

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Main activities of the Organization: (Please use a bulleted list)

Our programs span across:

- Human Rights and advocacy;
- Food security;
- Climate Resilience;
- Soil Health;
- Gender and women empowerment;
- Healthcare;
- Sexual Reproduction & Health Rights;
- Education;
- Hygiene & Sanitation;
- Job creation; and
- Sustainable Livelihoods Development.

Relationship of the Organization with intellectual property matters, including a full explanation of why you are interested in the issues under discussion by the Committee (Maximum 150 words)

Our organization is related to the intellectual property matters, for the following reasons:

HTVI is committed to address plight of Batwa Indigenous Peoples former hunter-gatherers currently legally categorized as Historically Marginalized Peoples (HMPs) due to the fact that:

- HMPs like other indigenous peoples have retained distinct characteristics which are clearly different from those of other segments of national populations;
- They hold their own diverse concepts based on their traditional values, vision, needs and priorities;
- They are the poorest of the poor in Rwanda and suffer a acute poverty and high level of illiteracy and as a result, their children are being totally deprived from accessing education;
- Their smallest number in Rwandan population is resulting into a non-representation in all sorts of social, economic and other participation in all human well-being spheres and segmentations;
- HMPs are the poorest of the poor for the time immemorial, and they have not been considered for inclusion in the development programs meant to improve their socio-economic, education, health care, and many other amenities;
- HMPs are nearly three times as likely to live in extreme poverty and suffer negative outcomes from historical background, and as a result the community up to present time lag behind. Therefore, by attending sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore as an ad hoc observer, will offer an opportunity to raise our voice further, sharing our stories and learning more on how to explore intellectual property and genetic resources and traditional knowledge and folklore for our people.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

Hear Their Voice Initiative (HTVI) is based and operate in Rwanda.

Additional Information:

Please provide any additional information which you feel may be relevant (maximum 150 words)

Hear Their voice Initiative (HTVI), we are looking forward to learn more on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore processes. Indigenous Peoples

and Local Communities deserve the rights to participate and take part in their social protection as holders of custodians of traditional knowledge, and traditional cultures. As former forest hunter-gatherers, we have a lot to share and learning from our brothers and sisters from different regions of the world. Participating in the sessions of WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore will be an opportunity for us to explore chances of interacting and networking with experts, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), NGOs, and country representatives, representatives of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities from different regions.

Batwa/Pygmies (also known as Twa) are the former hunter-gatherers or forest dwellers of Rwanda currently legally categorized as Historically Marginalized Peoples (HMPs) who are recognized as having been the first inhabitants of the land. Traditionally, the Batwa/Pygmies were forest hunter-gatherers, living throughout Rwanda. Estimated to make 33,000 before independence a small number of HMPs obtained a privileged positions at the Tutsi royal court as entertainers (and a few cases as executioners). However, HMPs maintain a rich distinctive cultural tradition centered on songs, dance and music. As of the 33,000 HMPs in an estimated 600 households, as estimated by CUARWA in 2004, none are thought to maintain a traditional existence as forest-dwellers. HMPs are dispersed throughout the country in small groups. Most work as potters, though others earn a living as day laborers and beggars. Almost none own land or livestock. Traditionally, HMPs were forest-dwellers. As farming and herding Hutu and Tutsi encroached on and cleared their ancestral forests, HMPs were increasingly forced to abandon their traditional lifestyle and culture. On the margins of the new society, big percentage survived by making and selling pottery. By the 1970s agriculture and conservation schemes created ever-greater pressures on the HMPs, rendering many landless – without consultation or compensation. In the late 1980s, all remaining forest-dwelling HMPs were evicted from Volcanoes National Park, Nyungwe Forest Reserve, and the Gishwati Forest. As a result of this land confiscation, HMPs have lost much of their traditional forest knowledge. Increasing poverty brought on by the loss of their livelihoods in turn led other Rwandans increasingly to stigmatize HMPs as social outcasts.

Our role as an organization, is to consolidate on what HMPs community own as their traditional knowledge and work together to improve their skills and knowledge. Over 50 years HMPs have been surviving by making and selling pottery products. The preservation of traditional crafts (pottery production) is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, these crafts are an integral part of cultural identity, providing a tangible link to the past. They carry the wisdom and practices of ancestors, offering insight into how previous generations lived, worked, and expressed themselves artistically. Secondly, pottery productions contribute significantly to local economies, providing livelihoods for entire community. Lastly, the skills and knowledge involved in pottery making have immense educational value, teaching future generations about history, creativity, and sustainability. They have been producing pottery traditionally, there is a great need of adopting new ways of making pottery products for better revenue. HTVI is providing skills and knowledge on modernized pottery products, we are also trying to teach them other handicrafts such as baskets and wooden crafts. We anticipate to develop and design project and programs which will generate income to addressing challenging issues faced by HMPs including: education, health care, community development, civic education for their traditional values, etc. We've observed that within the HMPs communities there are a number of talents extraordinary traditional singers and dancers, storytellers, and poem writers what is missing is just to organize them and empowering them to preserve their cultural heritage.

Full contact details of the Organization:

Postal address: KK 101 ST 35 Remera-Gasabo District, Kigali-Rwanda

Telephone number: + (250) 786424086

Fax number:

Email address: voice.2021htvi@gmail.com

Web site: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100085691834272>

Name of Organization Representative and Title:

Benon MUGARURA Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Initiative de Promotion de l'Education des Batwa pour le Développement Durable (IPREBAD)

To: Traditional Knowledge Division
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Fax.: +41 (0) 22 338 81 20

Email: grtkf@wipo.int

Dear Traditional Knowledge Division,

Re: Request for accreditation as an observer in future sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee

I am writing to express the wish of my organization to participate in the sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore as an *ad hoc* observer. Please find attached the biographical details of my organization as required by the Committee in order to examine this request.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Jean Claude **Ndayiragije**
Legal representative
IPREBAD
Bujumbura, December 2, 2024

/...

**Application Form for Accreditation as *Ad Hoc* Observer
to the
WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources,
Traditional Knowledge and Folklore^{1,2}**

**BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT
ORGANIZATION**

Full name of the Organization:

Initiative de Promotion de l'Éducation des Batwa pour le Développement Durable (IPREBAD)

Description of the Organization: (maximum 150 words)

IPREBAD is a Burundian organization that promotes the rights of the Batwa Indigenous Peoples. It works to achieve economic, social and cultural independence for the Batwa through education, community leadership and advocacy. The organization focuses on protecting and enhancing the traditional knowledge of the Batwa, which is an essential part of their identity and critical for sustainable development.

Main aims and objectives of the Organization:

- Promoting education for the Batwa and combating illiteracy
- Protecting and enhancing the traditional knowledge and culture of the Batwa
- Strengthening the economic and social independence of Batwa women
- Advocating the land and environmental rights of Indigenous Communities
- Preventing and combating gender-based violence in Indigenous Communities
- Raising awareness of human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Promoting inclusive and participatory governance

Main activities of the Organization:

- Running training sessions on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and traditional knowledge
- Implementing agropastoral and income-generating projects
- Building infrastructure, such as housing and schools, to improve the living conditions of the Batwa
- Raising awareness of and advocating land and environmental rights
- Promoting the involvement of the Batwa in national and international forums
- Documenting and preserving cultural practices and traditional knowledge of the Batwa

Please do not enclose any attachment with your application.

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Relationship of the Organization with intellectual property matters, including a full explanation of why you are interested in the issues under discussion by the Committee (Maximum 150 words)

IPREBAD is actively involved in the preservation and enhancement of the traditional knowledge of the Batwa, which constitutes a unique heritage in terms of handicrafts (pottery is a signal element of the culture of the Batwa Indigenous Peoples in Burundi), agricultural practices and medicines. By taking part in the work of the Committee, IPREBAD hopes to contribute to the development of legal mechanisms to protect that knowledge, with a view to preventing its inequitable exploitation and to ensure that it is passed down to future generations.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

Burundi

Additional Information:

Please provide any additional information which you feel may be relevant (maximum 150 words)

IPREBAD has taken part in a range of international initiatives on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and related expert committees. At the twelfth Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva, the director of IPREBAD, Gervais Ndiokubwayo, gave the opening address and met with WIPO Assistant Director General, Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector, Edward Kwakwa, who is also responsible for issues involving cultural preservation and efforts to support economic independence. The organization works with partners at home and abroad to build the resilience of the Batwa in the face of socioeconomic and environmental challenges.

Full contact details of the Organization:

Postal address: Rue Muhabo No. 4, Kigobe Sud, Bujumbura
Telephone number: +257 62 00 52 25
Fax number: +257 69 99 52 56
Email address: ijprebad@gmail.com
Web site: <https://www.iprebad.org>

Name of Organization Representative and Title:

Jean Claude NDAYIRAGIJE

Nepal Indigenous Nationalities Preservation Association (NINPA)

To: Traditional Knowledge Division
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Fax.: +41 (0) 22 338 81 20

Email: grtkf@wipo.int

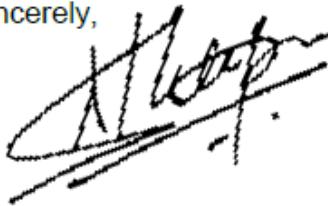
Dear Traditional Knowledge Division,

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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. K. Singh', written over a horizontal line.

(Name and Signature of Representative)

/...

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Traditional Knowledge and Folklore^{1,2}**

**BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT
ORGANIZATION**

Full name of the Organization:

Nepal Indigenous Nationalities Preservation Association (NINPA)

Description of the Organization: (maximum 150 words)

The Nepal Indigenous Nationalities Preservation Association (NINPA) is dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage, rights, and identity of Nepal's indigenous nationalities. With a focus on safeguarding traditional knowledge, practices, and languages, the organization aims to protect the unique ways of life of these diverse communities. NINPA works to ensure that indigenous peoples have a voice in national development and policymaking processes, advocating for their rights in areas such as education, healthcare, and land ownership.

In addition, NINPA emphasizes the importance of protecting indigenous intellectual property, particularly traditional knowledge related to biodiversity, medicine, and cultural expressions. By collaborating with national and international bodies, including the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and those working under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), NINPA seeks to prevent the exploitation of indigenous resources and foster sustainable development that benefits indigenous communities while preserving their rich heritage for future generations.

Main aims and objectives of the Organization: (Please use a bulleted list)

- Preservation of culture and heritage: Safeguard the traditions, languages, and cultural practices of Nepal's indigenous nationalities.
- Protection of indigenous rights: Advocate for the social, economic, and political rights of indigenous communities in national development policies.
- Promotion of traditional knowledge: Protect and promote indigenous knowledge systems, including practices related to biodiversity, medicine, and agriculture.
- Empowerment through education: Ensure access to education for indigenous groups, promoting culturally sensitive curricula and policies.
- Healthcare access: Advocate for equitable healthcare services, including recognition of indigenous health practices and medicinal knowledge.
- Land rights and resource management: Support indigenous claims to land ownership and sustainable management of natural resources.

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- Legal protection of intellectual property: Collaborate with organizations like WIPO to prevent exploitation of indigenous intellectual property and resources.
- Sustainable development: Promote development models that respect indigenous rights and ensure their participation in decision-making processes.
- International collaboration: Work with global institutions to protect indigenous rights within international legal frameworks like CBD.

Main activities of the Organization: (Please use a bulleted list)

- Cultural preservation programs: Organize events, workshops, and initiatives to promote and safeguard indigenous languages, arts, and traditions.
- Advocacy for indigenous rights: Engage in advocacy campaigns and policy dialogue with the government to ensure indigenous representation and inclusion in decision-making.
- Education and awareness: Conduct educational programs and awareness campaigns on the importance of preserving indigenous knowledge and cultural heritage.
- Capacity-building initiatives: Provide training and skill development programs to empower indigenous communities, especially in areas of leadership, governance, and entrepreneurship.
- Research and documentation: Document and research indigenous knowledge systems, cultural practices, and traditional medicine to preserve them for future generations.
- Partnerships with international organizations: Collaborate with organizations like WIPO and CBD to secure legal protections for indigenous intellectual property and biodiversity.
- Legal aid and support: Offer legal assistance to indigenous communities in defending their land, cultural, and resource rights.
- Sustainable development projects: Implement community-based sustainable development initiatives that align with indigenous values and practices.
- Networking and collaboration: Build networks with national and international stakeholders to strengthen the collective voice of indigenous communities

Relationship of the Organization with intellectual property matters, including a full explanation of why you are interested in the issues under discussion by the Committee (Maximum 150 words)

The Nepal Indigenous Nationalities Preservation Association (NINPA) has a strong focus on protecting indigenous intellectual property (IP), particularly traditional knowledge, cultural expressions, and biodiversity-related practices. As indigenous communities often possess invaluable knowledge in areas like herbal medicine, agriculture, and environmental stewardship, NINPA is deeply concerned about the exploitation of these resources without proper recognition or compensation. The organization is committed to preventing the misappropriation of indigenous cultural assets and ensuring that their communities retain control over their heritage. NINPA's interest in IP matters aligns with the discussions in global forums, such as the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC). By participating in these discussions, NINPA seeks to advocate for stronger international protections for indigenous IP, ensuring that traditional knowledge is respected, preserved, and fairly used, benefiting indigenous people both culturally and economically.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

The Nepal Indigenous Nationalities Preservation Association (NINPA) is primarily active in Nepal, focusing on the preservation and promotion of the rights, culture, and heritage of the country's indigenous nationalities.

Additional Information:

Please provide any additional information which you feel may be relevant (maximum 150 words)

The Nepal Indigenous Nationalities Preservation Association (NINPA) plays a vital role in advocating for the recognition and protection of Nepal's indigenous communities, which represent over 36.7% of the country's population. Nepal's indigenous groups face challenges related to land rights, cultural preservation, and access to resources, and NINPA works to address these issues through advocacy, capacity building, and legal support.

NINPA is particularly focused on the protection of traditional knowledge and intellectual property in light of increasing global interest in biodiversity and indigenous practices. The organization collaborates with international bodies like WIPO and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to promote fair benefit-sharing mechanisms and ensure that indigenous communities are compensated for the use of their resources and knowledge. NINPA also facilitates dialogues between indigenous groups and government agencies to ensure the inclusion of indigenous voices in national policies and development strategies.

Full contact details of the Organization:

Postal address: GPO BOX 7238 KATHMANDU NEPAL
Telephone number: 977-1-4107615
Fax number: 977-1-4115590
Email address: ninpanepal@gmail.com
Web site: www.ninpa.org.np

Name of Organization Representative and Title:

Mr. Ngwang Sonam Sherpa Executive Chairperson

Union of Community Development Volunteers

To: Traditional Knowledge Division
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Fax.: +41 (0) 22 338 81 20

Email: grtkf@wipo.int

Dear Traditional Knowledge Division,

Re: Request for accreditation as an observer in future sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee

I am writing to express the wish of my organization to participate in the sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore as an *ad hoc* observer. Please find our application attached for the Committee's consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Eddie Mutebi



(Name and Signature of Representative)

/...

**Application Form for Accreditation as *Ad Hoc* Observer
to the
WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources,
Traditional Knowledge and Folklore^{1,2}**

**BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT
ORGANIZATION**

Full name of the Organization:

Union of Community Development Volunteers

Description of the Organization: (maximum 150 words)

Union of Community Development Volunteers (UCDV) is a national indigenous humanitarian/ charitable organization founded in 2004 in Uganda, also with a Special Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. UCDV is known as an agency of action and a champion of hope whose mission is "To improve the lives of the disadvantaged communities by promoting community participation and voluntarism to realize their full potentials". UCDV provides the best opportunities to showcase the contributions of volunteers to society and it promotes humanitarian works to complete worthwhile projects for the common benefit of the less privileged groups of people.

Main aims and objectives of the Organization: (Please use a bulleted list)

- To provide of clean Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in the water - stressed communities throughout the country.
- To provide education support to the Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVCs).
- To provide healthcare services.
- To create awareness on manage climate change/ protection of the environment.
- To create economic security.
- To support innovators and creators so that their innovations can be promoted at a global scope.
- To promote/ advocate for universal human rights declaration.
- To provide life skills vocational training for a sustainable living especially for the unemployed population.
- To hosting International Volunteers/ connecting potentials.
- To empower Youth, girls and women.
- To promote and advocate for economic empowerment to the youth, women and People With Disabilities (PWDs) and communities at large through initiation of Income Generating Activities (IGAs)/ projects to alleviate poverty among the population.
- To provide humanitarian relief assistance in communities experiencing natural disaster/ calamities such as flood, drought, fire, landslides among other, with food, clothes, shelter, medical support among other needs.

Please do not enclose any attachment with your application.

¹ Please note that the decision on accreditation will not be made by the Secretariat, but by the Member States at the beginning of the session of the Intergovernmental Committee. It is therefore possible that certain organizations may not receive accreditation. Therefore, if the requesting organization is not based in Geneva, it might not be advisable to travel to Geneva for the sole purpose of participating in the session of the Committee until accreditation has been granted.

² Please note that this application form may be presented to the Committee exactly in the form received. Please therefore, as far as possible, complete the form using a type-writer or word processor. The completed form should preferably be emailed to grtkf@wipo.int

Main activities of the Organization: (Please use a bulleted list)

- Provision of clean water to the thirsty communities by drilling of boreholes, spring wells and water tanks.
- Create awareness about the deadly disease HIV/AIDS.
- Conducting trainings on good hygiene and sanitation practices.
- Providing vocational life skills to the less privileged so that they can be able to create their own jobs.
- Planting of trees to protect our environment.

Relationship of the Organization with intellectual property matters, including a full explanation of why you are interested in the issues under discussion by the Committee (Maximum 150 words)

UCDV has some relationship related to intellectual property matters as it gives training to build skills for its staff members in the administration and use of IP rights. Union of Community Development Volunteers would like to be accredited for the official observer status by WIPO so that the organization can be able to learn and share experiences with others actors for a broader spectrum and impact. We believe that our presence at the WIPO meetings will make us reap benefits from the IP system and to enhance our participation in the global innovation economy.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

Uganda

Additional Information:

Please provide any additional information which you feel may be relevant (maximum 150 words)

We shall profoundly be very grateful for your cordial support and positive consideration for accreditation of our organization (Union of Community Development Volunteers) as we put our hands together to boost development impact by changing lives and transforming communities for better as we complement to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, hence making a difference in the world.

Full contact details of the Organization:

Block 26, Plot 842,
Professor Apollo Nsibambi Road,
Bulange Zone 'A',
Rubaga Division.

Postal address:

Union of Community Development Volunteers,
P.O. Box 35792,
Kampala – Uganda.

Telephone number: +256 782 713 500

Fax number: Not Applicable

Email address: ucdvolunteersug@gmail.com

Web site: www.ucdv.org

Name of Organization Representative and Title:

Mutebi Eddie, Executive Director

[End of Annex and document]