

IGC 50**Statement made by the United Kingdom on 3 March 2025**

The United Kingdom would like to thank the Chair and the vice chairs for their continuing efforts. We would also like to thank the WIPO secretariat for the preparatory work for IGC 50.

As raised during the meeting to discuss IGC 50 methodology, on 21 February, the United Kingdom has concerns about continued text-based discussions whilst key underlying principles remain undiscussed and unresolved. These include fundamental questions such as,

- a. Who and what constitutes indigenous people and local communities for the purposes of this instrument(s).
- b. What constitutes traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions for the purposes of this instrument(s).
- c. How any potential instrument(s) or process would work for secret or unidentifiable traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions
- d. Who and to what extent indigenous peoples' and local communities', traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expression can or should be recognised or protected as intellectual property or similar rights.
- e. Whether any proposed instrument(s) will be legally binding or not.
- f. Critically, how any instrument(s), particularly any proposed right based approach, would work alongside member states' existing international copyright and related rights obligations?
- g. How this will impact on existing copyright and related right works, performances and broadcasts, as well as right holders, where it is claimed that those are based on or use of traditional knowledge or traditional cultural expressions?

We welcome the discussions in this forum and remain committed to engage on this important topic. It is regrettable that no time has been allocated to discuss these underpinning principles, without which consensus will be hampered. Unfortunately, it leaves us in a position where we can neither engage with nor agree any current text.

Thank you chair.