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

Fifty-First Session
Geneva, May 30 to June 5, 2025

DECISIONS OF THE FIFTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

Adopted by the Committee

DECISION ON AGENDA ITEM 2:

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chair submitted the draft agenda circulated as WIPO/GRTKF/IC/51/1 Prov. 2 for adoption and it was adopted.

DECISION ON AGENDA ITEM 3:

ACCREDITATION OF CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS

The Committee unanimously approved the accreditation of AISadu Society - Weaving Cooperative, Inisiasi Masyarakat Adat (IMA), Pungu Borneo Sdn Bhd Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca (CRIC) National, Sámi Duodji Samesløjdstiftelsen, United States Council for International Business, and University of Oslo, Department of Archaeology, Conservation and History as *ad hoc* observers. The Committee did not approve the accreditation of Interregional Public Organization «Union of Indigenous Small-Numbered Peoples “SOYUZ”».

DECISION ON AGENDA ITEM 4:

PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The Committee took note of documents WIPO/GRTKF/IC/51/3 and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/51/INF/4.

The Committee strongly encouraged and called upon members of the Committee and all interested public and private entities to contribute to the WIPO Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities.

The Chair proposed, and the Committee elected, the following eight members of the Advisory Board to serve in an individual capacity: Mr. Mouhamed Nour-Dine Assindoh (Togo); Ms. Ann Caindec (Native Nations Law and Policy Centre); Ms. Jessica Forero (ECOHUMANITA); Mr. Aaron Jones (Tulalip Tribes); Ms. Aelita Mussabayeva (Kazakhstan); Mr. Takashi Ono (Japan); Ms. Pornpimol Sugandhavanija (Thailand); and Ms. Ligia Fanny Utitiaj Ankuash (Ecuador).

The Chair of the Committee nominated Ms. Audrey Akweley Yeboawaa Neequaye, a Vice-Chair of the Committee, to serve as Chair of the Advisory Board.

DECISION ON AGENDA ITEM 5:

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE/TRADITIONAL CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

The Committee developed, on the basis of document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/49/4, a further text, “The Protection of Traditional Knowledge: Draft Articles – Facilitators’ Rev.”, and on the basis of document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/49/5, a further text, “The Protection of Traditional Cultural Expressions: Draft Articles – Facilitators’ Rev.”. The Committee decided that these texts, as at the close of this agenda item on June 3, 2025, be considered by the Committee under Agenda Item 6 (Taking Stock of Progress and Making a Recommendation to the General Assembly), in accordance with the Committee’s mandate for 2024-2025 and the work program for 2025.

DECISION ON AGENDA ITEM 6:

TAKING STOCK OF PROGRESS AND MAKING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Committee took stock of progress made during the 2024-2025 biennium, and confirmed that the texts contained in the annexes to documents WIPO/GRTKF/IC/51/4 and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/51/5 be transmitted to the 2025 WIPO General Assembly, in accordance with the Committee's mandate for 2024-2025 and the work program for 2025.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the 2025 WIPO General Assembly that the mandate of the Committee be renewed for the 2026-2027 biennium. The Committee further agreed to recommend to the 2025 General Assembly that the terms of the mandate and work program for 2026-2027 be as follows:

"Bearing in mind the Development Agenda recommendations, reaffirming the importance of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (Committee), noting the different nature of these issues and acknowledging the progress made, the WIPO General Assembly agrees that the mandate of the Committee be renewed, without prejudice to the work pursued in other fora, as follows:

- (a) The Committee will, during the budgetary biennium 2026/2027, in a Member State driven process, continue its work on the protection of genetic resources (GRs), traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs), 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 TK and TCEs.
- (b) The Committee's work on TK and TCEs in the 2026/2027 biennium will build on the existing work carried out by the Committee, including text-based negotiations, with a primary focus on narrowing existing gaps and reaching common understanding on core issues.
- (c) Noting the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge adopted in 2024, the Committee will, during the budgetary biennium 2026/2027, continue to discuss intellectual property issues concerning GRs and their interlinkage with TK and TCEs, without normative work on GRs.
- (d) The Committee will follow, as set out in the table below, a work program based on open and inclusive working methods for the 2026/2027 biennium, including an evidence-based approach with actual examples, including national/regional experiences, as set out in paragraph (e). This work program will make provision for 3 sessions of the Committee in 2026/2027, including thematic, cross-cutting, and stocktaking sessions.
- (e) The Committee will use all WIPO working documents, including WIPO/GRTKF/IC/51/4 (The Protection of Traditional Knowledge: Draft Articles) and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/51/5 (The Protection of Traditional Cultural Expressions: Draft Articles), as well as any other contributions of Member States, such as conducting/updating studies covering, inter alia, examples of national experiences, including domestic legislation, impact assessments, databases, and examples of protectable subject matter and subject matter that is not intended to be protected; and outputs of any related activities conducted under the capacity-building and technical assistance program of the Secretariat (the Traditional Knowledge Division). The Secretariat is requested 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. Studies or additional activities are not to delay progress or establish any preconditions for the negotiations.

- (f) In 2026, the Committee is requested to submit to the General Assembly the results of its work. The General Assembly in 2027 will take note of discussions on GRs, and take stock of progress made on TK and TCEs, and based on the maturity of the text(s) on TK and TCEs, including levels of agreement on objectives, scope, and nature of the instrument(s), decide on whether to convene a diplomatic conference and/or continue negotiations.
- (g) The General Assembly requests the Secretariat to continue to assist the Committee by providing Member States with necessary expertise and funding, in the most efficient manner, of the participation of experts from developing countries and LDCs, taking into account the usual formula for the IGC.
- (h) The Secretariat is requested to facilitate the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities in WIPO's normative work related to TK and TCEs. With a view to deepening interaction, the Secretariat is also requested to organize, within existing resources, a hybrid Expert Workshop, following similar arrangements *mutatis mutandis* to those as agreed at the Twentieth Session of the Committee under Agenda Item 8.

WORK PROGRAM – 3 SESSIONS

Indicative Dates	Activity
March 2026	IGC 52 Undertake discussions on GRs and negotiations on TK and/or TCEs. Duration 8 days
September/October 2026	IGC 53 Undertake discussions on GRs and negotiations on TK and/or TCEs. Duration 8 days.
March/April 2027	IGC 54 Undertake discussions on GRs and negotiations on TK and/or TCEs. Take note of discussions on GRs and take stock of progress made on TK/TCEs, and make a recommendation Duration 8 days.
July 2027	WIPO General Assembly will take stock of the progress made, consider the text(s) and make the necessary decision(s)."

DECISION ON AGENDA ITEM 7:

CONTRIBUTION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE
(IGC) TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESPECTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee had no statements on this item. The Committee will report that there are no statements to the WIPO General Assembly taking place from July 8 to 17, 2025, in line with the decision taken by the 2010 WIPO General Assembly related to the Development Agenda Coordination Mechanism.

DECISION ON AGENDA ITEM 8:

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no discussion under this item.

DECISION ON AGENDA ITEM 9:

CLOSING OF THE SESSION

The Committee adopted its decisions on agenda items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 on June 5, 2025.

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