

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

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

VOLUNTARY FUND FOR ACCREDITED INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE ADVISORY BOARD

Information Note prepared by the Director General

1. The arrangements establishing the WIPO Voluntary Fund (“the Fund”), as approved by the General Assembly, are contained in the Annex to Document WO/GA/39/11. Article 6(i) of the Decision states:

“The Advisory Board will adopt its recommendation before the end of the Committee session on the margins of which it meets. This recommendation will identify:

- (i) the subsequent Committee session and, should the case arise, the IWG meeting(s) intended for financial support (i.e., the subsequent session of the Committee),
- (ii) the applicants whom the Advisory Board agrees should be supported for that session and/or the IWG meeting(s), for whom funds are available,
- (iii) any applicant or applicants whom the Advisory Board agrees should be supported in principle but for whom insufficient funds are available,
- (iv) any applicant or applicants whose application has been rejected in accordance with the procedure in Article 10,
- (v) any applicant or applicants whose application has been postponed until the next session of the Committee in accordance with the procedure in Article 10.

The Advisory Board will immediately forward the contents of the recommendation to the Director General who will take a decision in accordance with the recommendation. The Director General will inform the Committee immediately and, in any case, prior to the end of its current session, by means of an information note specifying the decision taken concerning each applicant.”

2. Accordingly, the Secretariat wishes to communicate to the Committee the report and recommendations adopted by the Advisory Board at the conclusion of its meeting held on the margins of the Fiftieth Session of the Committee. This report is attached in the Annex.

3. The Committee is advised that, in accordance with Article 6(d) of the Annex to document WO/GA/39/11 as approved by the General Assembly (39th session), the Director General has taken note of the content of this report and adopted the decisions as recommended by the Advisory Board in paragraph 5 of its report.

[Annex follows]

WIPO VOLUNTARY FUND

ADVISORY BOARD

REPORT

1. The Advisory Board of the WIPO Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities ("the Fund"), whose members were appointed by decision of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore ("the Committee") during its Fifty-First Session and whose names appear at the end of this report, held its forty-first meeting on June 3, 2025, under the chairmanship of Ms. Audrey NEEQUAYE, member *ex officio*, on the margins of the Fifty-First Session of the Committee.
2. The members of the Advisory Board met in accordance with Articles 7 and 9 of the Annex to document WO/GA/39/11.
3. Recalling Article 5(a) of the Annex to document WO/GA/39/11, the Advisory Board took note of the financial situation of the Fund as described in the Information Note WIPO/GRTKF/IC/51/INF/4 dated April 17, 2025 which specified that the amount available in the Fund was 0.- Swiss francs on April 17, 2025. The Advisory Board noted with great concern that the Fund remains depleted. It noted again that no fresh contribution had been made to the Fund since the Forty-Ninth Session of the Committee. It recalled that none of the applicants recommended by the Advisory Board for funding with the view to the Forty-Eight, Forty-Ninth, Fiftieth and Fifty-First Sessions of the Committee could be funded. Furthermore, the Advisory Board was concerned that none of the recommended applicants could be funded with the view to the Fifty-Second Session, should the mandate of the Committee be renewed by the WIPO General Assembly, unless new contributions are made in due time. The Advisory Board strongly encouraged WIPO Member States and other potential donors to contribute further to the Fund so that the recommendations of the Advisory Board could be implemented with sufficient funding.
4. The Advisory Board reiterated its appreciation of the contribution to the Fund received most recently from the Government of Australia on June 22, 2023 amounting to 29,795.36 Swiss francs (the equivalent of 50,000 Australian dollars at the time of the transfer), the *Instituto Nacional de los Pueblos Indígenas* of Mexico on August 7, 2023 amounting to 8,239.99 Swiss francs (equivalent of 167,555 Mexican pesos at the time of the transfer) and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, Spain, on February 8, 2024 amounting to 18,518.24 Swiss francs (the equivalent of 20,000 euros at the date), as well as the crediting of 817.10 Swiss francs and 872.60 Swiss francs on behalf of anonymous contributors made respectively on March 3, 2023 and July 4, 2023.
5. The Advisory Board adopted the following recommendations based on the consideration of the list of applicants as it appears in the Information Note WIPO/GRTKF/IC/51/INF/4 as well as of the content of the applications of those applicants, and in accordance with Article 6(i) of the Annex to document WO/GA/39/11:
 - (i) future session intended for financial support in accordance with Article 5(e), pending the renewal of the mandate of the Committee by the WIPO General Assembly: Fifty-Second Session;

- (ii) applicants whom the Advisory Board agreed should be supported in principle, pending sufficient availability of funds (in order of priority):

Jennifer Tauli CORPUZ (Mrs.)

Nihal KADIOĞLU ÇEVİK (Mrs.)

- (iii) applicants whose applications should be postponed for further consideration by the Advisory Board until the next session of the Committee (in alphabetical order):

None

- (iv) applicants whose applications should be rejected:

None

The content of the present report and the recommendations it contains will be forwarded to the Director General of WIPO following its adoption by the members of the Advisory Board in accordance with Article 6(i) last paragraph of the Annex to document WO/GA/39/11.

Done in Geneva, June 3, 2025

Names of the members of the Advisory Board of the WIPO Voluntary Fund:

Chair: Audrey NEEQUAYE (Ms.), Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Committee, member *ex officio*, [agreed]

and in alphabetical order:

Mouhamed Nour-Dine ASSINDOH (Mr.), Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Togolese Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva [agreed]

Ann CAINDEC (Ms.), Representative, Native Nations Law and Policy Centre, University of California, Los Angeles School of Law [agreed]

Jessica FORERO (Ms.), Representative, *ECOHUMANITA* [agreed]

Aaron JONES (Mr.), Representative, Tulalip Tribes of Washington Governmental Affairs Department [agreed]

Aelita MUSSABAYEVA (Ms.), Attache, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the World Trade Organization, Geneva [unavailable]

Takashi ONO (Mr.), Assistant Director, Japan Patent Office, Japan [agreed]

Pornpimol SUGANDHAVANIJA (Ms.), Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the World Trade Organization and World Intellectual Property Organization, Geneva [agreed]

Ligia Fanny UTITIAJ ANKUASH (Ms.), Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the World Trade Organization, Geneva [agreed]

[End of Annex and of document]