

**Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources,  
Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (51<sup>th</sup> Session)**

**CEBS' STATEMENTS, 30 May - 5 June 2025, Geneva**

Opening of the Session, 30 May 2025

Co-Chairs, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues

Estonia is honoured to deliver the opening statement on behalf of the Central European and Baltic States Group.

Let me start by thanking you, Co-Chairs, as well as the Vice-Chair(s) and the Secretariat for the preparation of this IGC session and for the information meetings held prior to it. The CEBS Group welcomes continuing discussions on Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions. However, we regret that last two IGC sessions failed in transmitting the revisions or documents to subsequent sessions. Therefore, we underline the importance of continued efforts to achieve progress and build consensus.

The CEBS Group once again expresses its preference for a measure-based approach in addressing TK and TCEs. We believe that sharing national experiences and practical examples from Member States is instrumental in this regard. Concrete examples of how TK and TCEs are addressed and protected under national legislation would help to clarify core principles, facilitate understanding of textual proposals, and contribute to building common ground.

With respect to any potential international instrument on TK and TCEs, we consider that further dialogue is essential. In this context, we would welcome proposals rooted in national practices, especially those that reflect compatibility with the global intellectual property framework. Such contributions would provide legal clarity and promote greater coherence in the application of IP standards across jurisdictions.

Our position remains that any international instrument on TK or TCEs should remain non-binding and should aim to promote the appropriate use and effective, balanced, and adequate protection within the IP system. Accordingly, our strong preference remains a soft law outcome.

Regarding the methodology, the CEBS Group supports flexible, transparent and inclusive process, as well as open format for IGC discussions with the focus on core issues and considering all official documents.

At the same time, the CEBS Group shares the hope that we will be able to agree on a reasonable and mutually acceptable recommendation to the upcoming General Assembly regarding the new IGC mandate for 2026/2027 biennium.

Finally, let me assure you, Co-Chairs, of the readiness of the CEBS Group to engage constructively into discussions during this week with a view to achieve a positive outcome.



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