

Opening Statement of the Tebtebba Foundation

Thank you Madam Co-chair for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Tebtebba Foundation. Tebtebba supports the statement by the Indigenous Caucus. While disappointed in lack of progress in the last two sessions, we still had good discussions and we remain positive and willing to work in a constructive manner with all member states.

Tebtebba would like to supplement the Caucus statement with one observation. While genetic resources themselves are a complex mixture of jurisdictions and involve the natural creations of the living world, this is not the case with TCEs and TK. TKs and TCEs are our creations, even where they may incorporate some natural elements. It is for this reason that we must incorporate rights-based approaches. These must be broader than the existing rights-based mechanisms such as patents and copyrights with limited terms of protection. TCEs and TK are clearly our creations and our property, under our guardianship and care. Solutions developed here must respect our customs and laws related to our creations.

Thank you, Madam Co-Chair