

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

Fifty-Second Session
Geneva, March 4 to 13, 2026

BRIEF SUMMARY OF DOCUMENTS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

I. WORKING DOCUMENTS FOR THE FIFTY-SECOND SESSION

1. The following is a brief summary of the documents prepared for the Fifty-Second Session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (the “Committee” or “IGC”) as of February 6, 2026. Each of these documents, as well as any additional documents, will be posted as soon as they are finalized at: https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=89810.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/1 Prov. 2: Draft Agenda for the Fifty-Second Session

2. This document contains the proposed items to be dealt with by the Committee, and is submitted to the Committee for possible adoption.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/2: Accreditation of Certain Organizations

3. This document sets out the name, contact details and aims and objectives of the organizations that have applied to the Committee for accreditation as *ad hoc* observers to the current and future sessions of the Committee.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/3: Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities: Voluntary Fund

4. The WIPO General Assembly, in 2005, established the “WIPO Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities”. The decision was taken on the basis of document WO/GA/32/6, subsequently amended by the WIPO General Assembly in September 2010, which sets out the objectives and operation of the Fund. This document refers to the appointment of the Fund’s Advisory Board, and provides information on the fund-raising drive initiated by the Secretariat. The required information note providing details of contributions received and beneficiaries is circulated in parallel as document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/INF/4.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/4: The Protection of Traditional Knowledge: Draft Articles

5. At its Fifty-First Session, which took place from May 30 to June 5, 2025, 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.”. The Committee decided that this text, as at the close of Agenda Item 5, 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), and transmitted to the 2025 General Assembly. The WIPO General Assembly in 2025 decided that the Committee “will, during the next 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”, and “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) [...]”. This document has been prepared for this session pursuant to this decision.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/5: The Protection of Traditional Cultural Expressions: Draft Articles

6. At its Fifty-First Session, which took place from May 30 to June 5, 2025, the Committee developed, 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 this text, as at the close of Agenda Item 5, 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), and transmitted to the 2025 General Assembly. The WIPO General Assembly in 2025 decided that the Committee “will, during the next 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”, and “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) [...]”. This document has been prepared for this session pursuant to this decision.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/6: Proposal by the Delegation of the United States of America for a Questionnaire on the Use of *Sui Generis* Protections for Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions, a Summary Report of Responses Received, and Presentation of Results

7. This document contains a proposal, submitted by the Delegation of the United States of America, for the WIPO Secretariat to prepare and circulate a questionnaire to Member States on the use of *sui generis* systems for traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, and to prepare a summary report of responses and a presentation of results.

II. INFORMATION DOCUMENTS FOR THE FIFTY-SECOND SESSION

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/INF/1: List of Participants

8. A draft list of participants will be circulated at the Fifty-Second Session of the Committee.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/INF/2 Rev.: Brief Summary of Documents

9. The present document has been prepared as an informal guide to the Committee's documentation.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/INF/3 Rev.: Draft Program for the Fifty-Second Session

10. In line with the Committee's request at its Tenth Session, this document sets out a suggested program and identifies a possible timing for each agenda item. This draft program is indicative only, and the actual organization of work of the Committee would be determined by the Chair and its members in line with the rules of procedure.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/INF/4: Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities: Information Note on Contributions and Applications for Support

11. This document sets out information required to be reported to the Committee on the operation of the Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities. The rules are set out in the Annex to document WO/GA/32/6, as approved by the WIPO General Assembly at its Thirty-Second Session and subsequently amended by the WIPO General Assembly in September 2010. In particular, it gives information on contributions received or pledged, and actual support provided to representatives of accredited Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/INF/5: Information Note for the Panel of Indigenous and Local Communities

12. Following a decision of the Committee at its Ninth Session, each subsequent session of the Committee has commenced with a panel chaired by a member of an Indigenous community. The panel has been held at the commencement of the previous 42 sessions of the Committee. On each occasion, representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities gave presentations on a specific theme related to the IGC's negotiations. This document sets out the proposed practical arrangements for the panel at the Fifty-Second Session of the Committee.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/INF/7: Glossary of Key Terms Related to Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions

13. At its Nineteenth Session, “the Committee invited the Secretariat to update the glossaries available in documents WIPO/GRTKF/IC/19/INF/7 (‘Glossary of Key Terms Related to Intellectual Property and Traditional Cultural Expressions’), WIPO/GRTKF/IC/19/INF/8 (‘Glossary of Key Terms Related to Intellectual Property and Traditional Knowledge’) and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/19/INF/9 (‘Glossary of Key Terms Related to Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources’), to combine them in a single document and to publish the consolidated glossary as an information document for the next session of the Committee”. This document is made available in the same version of the consolidated glossary for the session.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/INF/8: Resources Available on the WIPO Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions and Genetic Resources Website

14. At its Twentieth Session, the Committee invited the Secretariat to produce an information document briefly describing the resources available on the WIPO Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions and Genetic Resources website as a means to support and enhance the participation of observers in its work. This document provides an update on the resources available on the website.

[End of document]