
WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/5
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Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore

Fifty-Third Session
Geneva, September 16 to 25, 2026

DECISIONS OF THE FIFTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

Adopted by the Committee

AGENDA ITEM 1:

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Fifty-third session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) was opened by Mr. Edward Kwakwa, Assistant Director General.

AGENDA ITEM 2:

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. The Committee adopted the draft agenda (WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/1 Prov.2).

AGENDA ITEM 3:

ACCREDITATION OF CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS

3. The Committee approved the accreditation of International Indigenous Fashion Council (IIFC), Kumina Mosi Transnational Customary Polity (KMTCP), Nubian Heritage Society and Ogiek Cultural Initiative Program (O.C.I.P.) as *ad hoc* observers. The Committee did not approve the accreditation of the World Intangible Cultural Heritage Foundation (WICHF).

AGENDA ITEM 4:

PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

4. The Committee took note of documents WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/3, WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/INF/4 and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/INF/6.

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

6. The Committee elected the following eight members of the Advisory Board to serve in their individual capacities:

Mr. Mouhamed Nour-Dine Assindoh, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Togolese Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Ms. Jessica Forero, Representative, *ECOHUMANITA*

Mr. Johnny Hadley, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Federated States of Micronesia in Geneva

Mr. Aaron Jones, Representative, Tulalip Tribes of Washington Governmental Affairs Department

Ms. Makhabbat Kamalitden, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Geneva

Mr. Tadashi Kitanaka, Senior Specialist for International Copyrights, Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan

Ms. Elen Anna Solberg, Representative, Saami Council

Ms. Cristina Viera Machado Alexandre, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Geneva

7. The Chair nominated Ms. Alhanoof AlDebasi, Vice-Chair of the Committee, to serve as Chair of the Advisory Board.

8. A panel of presentations by representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities was organized, chaired by a representative from an Indigenous Peoples, focusing on the Positive and Defensive Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions using Intellectual Property (WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/INF/5).

AGENDA ITEM 5:

INFORMATION SHARING SESSIONS

9. The Committee took note of the information shared during the information-sharing session focusing on the Positive and Defensive Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions using Intellectual Property.

AGENDA ITEM 6:

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE/TRADITIONAL CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

10. The Committee worked, including text-based negotiations, on the basis of documents WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/4 and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/5 and decided to continue this work at its next session on the basis of the texts, as modified at IGC/53.

11. The Committee decided that the updated proposal submitted by the Delegation of the United States of America, contained in document [WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/4](#), will continue to be discussed at the next session of the Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 7:

GENETIC RESOURCES

12. The Committee will continue to discuss intellectual property issues concerning genetic resources and their interlinkage with traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, without normative work on genetic resources at IGC/54.

AGENDA ITEM 8:

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13. The Committee took note of the updates made to the online [table](#) presented by the Secretariat containing information on national and regional *sui generis* regimes for the intellectual property protection of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.

AGENDA ITEM 9:

CLOSING OF THE SESSION

14. The Committee adopted the decisions on the above agenda items.

15. The Chair closed the session.

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