WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/INF/2 REV.
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

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

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

BRIEF SUMMARY OF DOCUMENTS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

I. WORKING DOCUMENTS FOR THE FIFTY-THIRD SESSION

1. This document provides a brief summary of the documents prepared for the Fifty-third session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (the "Committee" or "IGC") as of September 9, 2026. Session documents will be published at: https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=90652.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/1 Prov.2: Draft Agenda for the Fifty-Third 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/53/2: Accreditation of Certain Organizations

3. This document sets out the name, contact details, 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/53/3: 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 activities initiated by the Secretariat. The information note on contributions received and beneficiaries provided for under the rules of the Voluntary Fund, is made available as document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/INF/4.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/4: The Protection of Traditional Knowledge: Draft Articles; and
WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/5: The Protection of Traditional Cultural Expressions: Draft Articles

5. At its Fifty-second session, which took place from March 4 to 13, 2026, the Committee worked, *inter alia*, on the basis of documents WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/4 and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/5. The Committee decided to continue working on the basis of those documents at its following session. Accordingly, documents WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/4 and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/5 have been made available for the Committee's discussion at its Fifty-third session.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/4: Updated 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

6. At the Fifty-second session of the Committee, the Delegation of the United States of America submitted a proposal, contained in document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/6, concerning the preparation and circulation of a questionnaire to Member States on the use of *sui generis* systems for traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as preparation of a summary report of responses received and a presentation of results. The Committee decided that the proposal would continue to be discussed at its following session. The Delegation of the United States of America subsequently submitted an updated proposal, contained in document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/4, which replaces the proposal contained in document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/6 for the purposes of the Committee's discussion at its Fifty-third session.

II. INFORMATION DOCUMENTS FOR THE FIFTY-THIRD SESSION

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/INF/1: List of Participants

7. Document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/INF/1 Prov. will contain a provisional list of participants. The final list of participants will be made available as document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/INF/1.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/INF/2 Rev.: Brief Summary of Documents

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

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/INF/3 Rev.: Draft Program for the Fifty-Third Session

9. In line with the Committee's request at its Tenth session, document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/INF/3 Rev. sets out a suggested program and identifies a possible timing for each agenda item. The draft program is indicative only, and the actual organization of the Committee's work will be determined by the Chair and the members of the Committee in accordance with the rules of procedure.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/INF/4: Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities: Information Note on Contributions and Applications for Support

10. This document contains 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 in September 2005 and subsequently amended by the WIPO General Assembly at its Thirty-ninth session in September 2010. In particular, the document provides information on contributions paid into the Fund, resources available, support provided or committed to representatives of accredited Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and applications for support in respect of the following session.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/INF/5: Information Note for the Panel of Indigenous and Local Communities

11. Following a decision of the Committee at its Seventh session, half-day panel presentations have been organized at each Committee session convened from 2005. Representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities have given 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-third session of the Committee.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/INF/7: Glossary of Key Terms Related to Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources. Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions

12. This document contains a consolidated glossary of key terms related to intellectual property and genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions, made available as an information document for the Fifty-third session of the Committee.

WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/INF/8: Resources Available on the WIPO Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions and Genetic Resources Website

13. As at previous sessions of the Committee, this information document briefly describes the resources available on the WIPO Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions and Genetic Resources website. The document is intended to assist IGC participants, particularly newcomers, in making better use of available materials.

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