

Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (53rd Session) 16-25 September, 2026, Geneva

CEBS STATEMENT

[Opening of the Session – 16 September 2026](#)

Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Secretariat,

Georgia has the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Central European and Baltic States (CEBS) Group.

We thank the Chair, Vice-Chairs and Secretariat for their continued efforts in supporting the Committee's work.

The CEBS Group remains committed to constructive and Member State-driven discussions under the Committee's current mandate. We welcome sharing of the Chair's Notes from last session with questions that can help us to clarify some of the key matters and find possible areas of convergence. At the same time, we regret that only one sharing session is planned for this IGC as we believe that sharing national and regional experiences can contribute to a better understanding of existing approaches to the protection of Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs).

Our position remains unchanged: any possible international instrument should be non-binding, flexible, supported with necessary evidence and compatible with the existing international intellectual property framework.

Regarding TK and TCEs, as reflected in documents WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/4 and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/5, we stand ready to engage constructively. We take note of the different approaches reflected in the draft articles, including effective protection, interlinkage between the existing IP framework and traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, recognition of holders, determination of beneficiaries, and addressing the prevention of misappropriation of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. We also emphasize the importance of national and regional particularities and a balanced approach to rights and obligations.

We also recognize the importance of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' participation and support the continued operation of the WIPO Voluntary Fund.

On genetic resources, we look forward to constructive discussions on related intellectual property issues and their interlinkages with TK and TCEs.

We thank you, Chair, and look forward to the Committee's continued work.

Thank You.