

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

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

VOLUNTARY FUND FOR ACCREDITED INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE ADVISORY BOARD

Information Note prepared by the Secretariat

1. The rules of the WIPO Voluntary Fund (“the Fund”) were approved by the WIPO General Assembly at its Thirty-second session and subsequently amended at its Thirty-ninth session.¹ The amendments are contained in Annex II to document WO/GA/39/11.

2. Article 6(i) of the rules, as amended, states:²

“The Advisory Board will adopt its recommendation before the end of the Committee session on the margins of which it meets. This recommendation will identify:

- (i) the subsequent Committee session and, should the case arise, the IWG meeting(s) intended for financial support;
- (ii) the applicants whom the Advisory Board agrees should be supported for that Committee session and/or the IWG meeting(s), and for whom funds are available;
- (iii) any applicant or applicants whom the Advisory Board agrees should be supported in principle but for whom insufficient funds are available;
- (iv) any applicant or applicants whose application has been rejected in accordance with the procedure in Article 10; and

¹ See document WO/GA/39/14, paragraph 218.

² See document WO/GA/39/11, Annex II, page 4.

- (v) any applicant or applicants whose application has been postponed for further consideration until the next Committee session in accordance with the procedure in Article 10.

The Advisory Board will immediately forward the contents of the recommendation to the Director General who will take a decision in accordance with the recommendation. The Director General will inform the Committee immediately and, in any case, prior to the end of its current session, by means of an information note specifying the decision taken concerning each applicant.”

3. Accordingly, the present Information Note communicates to the Committee the report adopted by the Advisory Board at the conclusion of its meeting held on the margins of the Fifty-third session of the Committee, including the recommendations contained therein. The report is attached in the Annex.

4. In accordance with Article 6(d) of the rules, the Director General has taken note of the content of this report and adopted the decisions as recommended by the Advisory Board in paragraph 5 of its report.

[Annex follows]

WIPO VOLUNTARY FUND

ADVISORY BOARD

REPORT

1. The Advisory Board of the WIPO Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities ("the Fund"), whose members were appointed by decision of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore ("the Committee") during its fifty-third session and whose names appear at the end of this report, held its forty-third meeting on September 23, 2026, under the chairship of Ms. Alhanoof AlDebasi, member *ex officio*, on the margins of the fifty-third session of the Committee.
2. The members of the Advisory Board met in accordance with Articles 7 and 9 of the Annex to document WO/GA/39/11.
3. Recalling Article 5(a) of the Annex to document WO/GA/39/11, the Advisory Board took note of the financial situation of the Fund as described in the Information Note WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/INF/4 dated August 13, 2026, which specified that the amount available in the Fund was 2,315.21 Swiss francs on August 13, 2026. The Advisory Board is gravely concerned that the Fund is still almost depleted. It regretted that only one of the two applicants that the Advisory Board recommended for funding in relation to the fifty-third session could benefit from funding due to the lack of sufficient resources in the Fund. It strongly encouraged WIPO Member States and other potential donors to contribute further to the Fund so that the recommendations of the Advisory Board could be implemented with sufficient funding, and invited WIPO Member States to consider other funding alternatives.
4. The Advisory Board reiterated its appreciation of the most recent contributions to the Fund received respectively from the Government of Australia on November 18, 2025, and anonymous contributors following a call for voluntary contributions made by the Co-Chairs of the Committee during its fifty-first session.
5. The Advisory Board adopted the following recommendations based on the consideration of the list of applicants as it appears in the Information Note WIPO/GRTKF/IC/53/INF/4, as well as of the content of the applications of those applicants, and in accordance with Article 6(i) of the Annex to document WO/GA/39/11:
 - (i) future session intended for financial support in accordance with Article 5(e):
fifty-fourth session;
 - (ii) applicants whom the Advisory Board agreed should be supported in principle,
pending sufficient availability of funds (in order of priority):

Rebecka Ekberg (Ms.)

Babagana Abubakar (Mr.)
 - (iii) applicant whose application should be postponed for further consideration by
the Advisory Board until the next session of the Committee:

none
 - (iv) applicant whose application should be rejected:

none

The content of the present report and the recommendations it contains will be forwarded to the Director General of WIPO following its adoption by the members of the Advisory Board in accordance with Article 6(i) last paragraph of the Annex to document WO/GA/39/11.

Done in Geneva, September 23, 2026

Names of the members of the Advisory Board of the WIPO Voluntary Fund:

Chair: Alhanoof ALDEBASI (Ms.), Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, member *ex officio*,
[agreed]

and in alphabetical order:

Mouhamed Nour-Dine ASSINDOH (Mr.), Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Togolese Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva [agreed]

Jessica FORERO (Ms.), Representative, *ECOHUMANITA* [agreed]

Johnny HADLEY (Mr.), First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Federated States of Micronesia in Geneva [agreed]

Aaron JONES (Mr.), Representative, Tulalip Tribes of Washington Governmental Affairs Department [agreed]

Makhabbat KAMALITDEN (Ms.), Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva [agreed]

Tadashi KITANAKA (Mr.), Senior Specialist for International Copyrights, Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan [agreed]

Elen Anna SOLBERG (Ms.), Representative, Saami Council [agreed]

Cristina VIEIRA MACHADO ALEXANDRE (Ms.), Intellectual Property (IP) Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Other Economic Organizations in Geneva [agreed]

[End of Annex and of document]