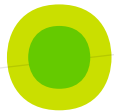


# The WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore



**WIPO**

The WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (the IGC) was established in 2000, enabling WIPO Member States and observers to discuss and address the intellectual property issues that arise in the context of access to and benefit-sharing of genetic resources, as well as the protection of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. Since 2009, WIPO Member States have been negotiating international legal instrument(s) that would ensure the balanced and effective protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.



# Participation in the IGC

Participation in the IGC is open to WIPO member states and to inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations that are permanent observers to WIPO, or have been specifically accredited to the IGC. Decisions on accreditation are made by the WIPO member states at the beginning of each session of the IGC.

Organizations requesting to be accredited as an observer at the IGC should complete the accreditation form that is available on WIPO's website and submit it to WIPO at least 60 days prior to a session of the IGC.

Accredited observers can attend IGC sessions, participate in the work of the IGC and express their views in accordance with the WIPO General Rules of Procedure.

Accredited observers to the IGC include many representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities. Indigenous peoples and local communities in particular need to be able to participate, express their views and have their voices heard in the IGC decision-making process, in accordance with the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as the outcome of the IGC negotiations will affect their rights.

# The WIPO Voluntary Fund

To enhance and support the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the IGC, a voluntary contribution fund for representatives of accredited observers who represent indigenous peoples or local communities was set up in 2005. Only already accredited NGO which represent indigenous peoples or local communities may nominate representatives for funding by the WIPO Voluntary Fund.

## Find out more

For more information on the WIPO IGC, please see:  
[www.wipo.int/tk/en/igc](http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/igc)

For information on participation of indigenous peoples in the WIPO IGC negotiations, please see:  
[www.wipo.int/tk/en/engagement.html](http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/engagement.html)

For regular news and resources about intellectual property and traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions and genetic resources, as well as IGC updates, please subscribe to our newsletter: [www.wipo.int/newsletters/en/#tk\\_updates](http://www.wipo.int/newsletters/en/#tk_updates)





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