

**Assemblies of Member States of WIPO
Fortieth (20th Ordinary) Session
September 26 to October 5, 2011**

**Matters Concerning the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and
Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore**

Agenda Item 31

DECISION

The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO took note of the information contained in document WO/GA/40/7, and decided to renew the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) for the 2012-2013 biennium on the terms set out in paragraph 16 of the said document.

Paragraph 16 states as follows:

“At its 19th session, the IGC agreed to recommend to the WIPO General Assembly the renewal of its mandate for the 2012-2013 biennium. In this regard, the IGC agreed to recommend the following decision to the General Assembly:

Bearing in mind the Development Agenda recommendations, the WIPO General Assembly agrees that the mandate of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore be renewed as follows:

- (a) The Committee will, during the next budgetary biennium (2012/2013), and without prejudice to the work pursued in other fora, expedite its work on text-based negotiations with the objective of reaching agreement on a text(s) of an international legal instrument(s) which will ensure the effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs.
- (b) The Committee will follow, as set out in the [table below], a clearly defined work program, based on sound working methods, for the 2012/2013 biennium. This work program will make provision initially for four sessions of the IGC, three of which will be thematic, as detailed in the future work program of the IGC, taking into account sub paragraph (d) with regard to the possible consideration by the General Assembly in 2012 of the need for additional meetings.
- (c) The focus of the Committee’s work in the 2012/2013 biennium will build on the existing work carried out by the Committee and use all WIPO working documents, including WIPO/GRTKF/IC/19/4, WIPO/GRTKF/IC/19/5, WIPO/GRTKF/IC/19/6 and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/19/7, which are to constitute the basis of the Committee’s work on text-based negotiations, as well as any other textual contributions by Members.
- (d) The Committee is requested to submit to the 2012 General Assembly the text(s) of an international legal instrument(s) which will ensure the effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. The General Assembly in 2012 will take stock of and consider the text(s), progress made and decide on convening a Diplomatic Conference, and will consider the need for additional meetings, taking account of the budgetary process.

(e) The General Assembly requests the International Bureau to continue to assist the Committee by providing Member States with necessary expertise and funding, in the most efficient manner, of the participation of experts from developing countries and LDCs, taking into account the usual formula.

(f) With a view to enhancing the positive contribution of observers, the General Assembly invites the Committee to review its procedures in this regard. To facilitate this review, the General Assembly requests the secretariat to prepare a study outlining current practices and potential options.”

Date	Activity
February 2012	IGC 20 (GRs). Undertake text based negotiations with a focus on considering options for a draft legal text as detailed in WIPO/GRTKF/IC/19/7. In developing this text, the IGC should also carefully consider texts already submitted by Members. Duration 8 days, including Saturday.
April/May 2012	IGC 21 (TK). Focus on 4 key Articles <i>viz</i> Subject Matter of Protection, Beneficiaries, Scope of Protection and Limitations and Exceptions.
July 2012	IGC 22 (TCEs). Focus on 4 key Articles <i>viz</i> Subject Matter of Protection, Beneficiaries, Scope of Protection and Limitations and Exceptions
September 2012	WIPO General Assembly
2013	IGC 23. Consider decision of General Assembly and take stock of further work required to finalize the text/s.