

Assemblies of Member States of WIPO Fifty-Seventh Session

October 2 to 11, 2017

Agenda Item 18

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

DECISION

Bearing in mind the Development Agenda recommendations, affirming the importance of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (Committee), noting the different nature of these issues and acknowledging the progress made, the WIPO General Assembly agrees that the mandate of the Committee be renewed, without prejudice to the work pursued in other fora, as follows:

- (a) The Committee will, during the next budgetary biennium 2018/2019, continue to expedite its work, with the objective of reaching an agreement on an international legal instrument(s), without prejudging the nature of outcome(s), relating to intellectual property which will ensure the balanced and effective protection of genetic resources (GRs), traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs).
- (b) The Committee's work in the 2018/2019 biennium will build on the existing work carried out by the Committee, including text-based negotiations, with a primary focus on narrowing existing gaps and reaching a common understanding on core issues, including definitions, beneficiaries, subject matter, objectives, scope of protection, and what TK/TCEs subject matter is entitled to protection at an international level, including consideration of exceptions and limitations and the relationship with the public domain.
- (c) The Committee will follow, as set out in the table below, a work program based on sound working methods for the 2018/2019 biennium, including an evidence-based approach as set out in paragraph (d). This work program will make provision for 6 sessions of the Committee in 2018/2019, including thematic, cross-cutting and stocktaking sessions. The Committee may establish *ad hoc* expert group(s) to address a specific legal, policy or technical issue¹. The results of the work of such group(s) will be submitted to the Committee for consideration.
- (d) The Committee will use all WIPO working documents, including WIPO/GRTKF/IC/34/4, WIPO/GRTKF/IC/34/5 and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/34/8, as well as any other contributions of member states, such as conducting/updating studies covering, inter alia, examples of national experiences, including domestic legislation, impact assessments, databases, and examples of

¹ The expert group(s) will have a balanced regional representation and use an efficient working methodology. The expert group(s) will work during the weeks of the sessions of the IGC.

protectable subject matter and subject matter that is not intended to be protected; and outputs of any expert group(s) established by the Committee and related activities conducted under Program 4. The Secretariat is requested to update the 2008 gap analyses on the existing protection regimes related to TK and TCEs. The Secretariat is also requested to produce a report(s) compiling and updating studies, proposals and other materials relating to tools and activities on databases and on existing disclosure regimes relating to GR and associated TK, with a view to identify any gaps. However, studies or additional activities are not to delay progress or establish any preconditions for the negotiations.

- (e) In 2018, the Committee is requested to provide to the General Assembly a factual report along with the most recent texts available of its work up to that time with recommendations, and in 2019, submit to the General Assembly the results of its work in accordance with the objective reflected in paragraph (a). The General Assembly in 2019 will take stock of progress made, and based on the maturity of the texts, including levels of agreement on objectives, scope and nature of the instrument(s), decide on whether to convene a diplomatic conference and/or continue negotiations.
- (f) 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 for the IGC.

Work Program – 6 Sessions

Indicative Dates	Activity
February/March 2018	(IGC 35) Undertake negotiations on GRs with a focus on addressing unresolved issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument Duration 5 days.
May/June 2018	(IGC 36) Undertake negotiations on GRs with a focus on addressing unresolved issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument Expert group(s) Duration 5/6 days.
September 2018	(IGC 37) Undertake negotiations on TK/TCEs with a focus on addressing unresolved and cross-cutting issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument(s) Possible recommendations as mentioned in paragraph (e) Duration 5 days.
October 2018	WIPO General Assembly Factual report and consider recommendations.
November/December 2018	(IGC 38) Undertake negotiations on TK/TCEs with a focus on addressing unresolved and cross-cutting issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument(s) Expert group(s) Duration 5/6 days.
March/April 2019	(IGC 39) Undertake negotiations on TK/TCEs with a focus on addressing unresolved and cross-cutting issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument(s) Duration 5 days.
June/July 2019	(IGC 40) Undertake negotiations on TK/TCEs with a focus on addressing unresolved and cross-cutting issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument(s) Expert group(s) Stocktaking on GRs/TK/TCEs and making a recommendation Duration 5/6 days.
October 2019	WIPO General Assembly will take stock of the progress made, consider the text(s) and make the necessary decision(s).