



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement by Pakistan at the Sixty-Fourth Series of Meetings of the WIPO General Assemblies under Agenda Item 13(v): Report on the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)

(Geneva, 11 July 2023)

Thank you, Madam Chair,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the APG.

We greatly value the work of the IGC and would like to thank the IGC Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretariat and Facilitators for their constructive work during the previous two sessions. An early finalization of international legally binding instrument or instruments on Genetic Resources, Associated Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs) is necessary to prevent their misappropriation and unauthorized exploitation.

My delegation reaffirms its support for the funding and appropriate participation of indigenous communities and people at the IGC. The purposes of the IGC can only be fulfilled through an inclusive, balanced and effective IP regime which promotes fair and equitable sharing of benefits with the concerned individuals and communities. This would also take us one-step forward in the fulfilment of both the Development Agenda and the realization of the 2030 agenda.

A mandatory disclosure requirement is necessary to address the issue of misappropriation of GR, TK and TCEs. The inclusion of Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT), Prior Informed Consent (PIC), and Access & Benefit Sharing (ABS) in relevant international instruments are essential for a balanced global regime allowing Member States sufficient policy space to enact appropriate national legal framework.

While we look forward to constructive negotiations on the Draft Instrument on IP, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge associated with GR during the 2024 Diplomatic Conference, we support the renewal of the IGC's mandate for the 2024-25 biennium in a manner which does not prejudice the outcome of the Diplomatic Conference.

Madam Chair,

We also call attention of all parties to stepping up efforts to minimize divergence on outstanding issues for the finalization of an international legal instrument on TK and TCEs. My delegation advocates for exceptions and limitations to be narrow in scope in view of the fact that any exception would directly impact the collective right, cultural wealth and economic prospects of entire communities.

I thank you madam chair.