Statement by Statement by Salman Khalid Chaudhary, Second Secretary, under Agenda Item 9 (vi): the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) at the Sixty-Third Series of Meetings of Assemblies of WIPO
Geneva, 18 July 2022

Thank you, Madam Chair,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by APG and LMC Group.

We greatly value the work of IGC. We would like to thank the Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretariat and Facilitators for their constructive work during last two sessions. I would also take this opportunity to convey our sincere gratitude to the previous Chair, Mr. Ian Goss of Australia for his useful contributions to the IGC process. My delegation reaffirms its support for appropriate participation of indigenous communities and people at IGC.

An early finalization of international legally binding instrument or instruments on Genetic Resources (GRs), Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs) is necessary to prevent their misappropriation and unauthorised exploitation.

A mandatory disclosure requirement is only necessary to adequately address the issue of misappropriation of GR, TK and TCEs. A reference to Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT), Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and Access & Benefit System (ABS) should also be included in the draft instrument or instruments with ample policy space for Member States to enact appropriate national legal framework.

On Genetic Resources, while we recognize the significance of the Consolidated Document as contained in WIPO/GRTKF/IC/43/4, my delegation, like many others, is of the view that Chair's Text as contained in document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/43/5 should be the basis for further negotiations and the basis upon which a Diplomatic Conference should be convened.

We look forward to resumption of substantial negotiations on TK and TCEs in the upcoming sessions of the IGC in the current biennium with a view to finalize legally binding instrument or instruments on these subjects as well.

I thank you.