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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	45th session of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) (Geneva, 5-9 December 2022) - Final EU/Member States Statements

Delegations will find attached the final EU/Member States statements delivered at the above-mentioned WIPO meeting.

45th session of WIPO's Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)

(5-9 December 2022)

Opening Statement

Madam Chair,

1. On behalf of the European Union and its Member States, let me first thank you and your Vice Chairs for your efforts to facilitate ongoing work in the IGC on Traditional Knowledge/Traditional Cultural Expressions. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for preparing this session, including the organisation of the ad hoc Expert Group that took place yesterday. We very much appreciated the substantive background note giving core guidance for us to discuss topics in the focus of IGC 44.
2. Two experts from the EU participated in discussions at the Expert Group and we look forward to the report by the Co-Chairs.
3. Madam Chair, prior to this IGC session we had the first meeting of a newly established Advisory Group concerning a draft text on TK/TCEs that you have engaged in preparing. We would like to thank you for convening that meeting and also for involving experts from the EU in your consultations. Please rest assured of our readiness to support you in your endeavour. We look forward to working with you on your draft as it evolves and the experts representing the EU in the Advisory Group will be happy to provide comments as requested.
4. We reiterate our commitment to engage constructively in the work of the IGC. We have studied the REV documents prepared by the facilitators at IGC 44 and prepared for sharing our comments under agenda item 6.
5. Madam Chair, the EU and its Member States look forward to participating constructively in substantive discussions throughout this week.

Thank you.

Statement on Ukraine

Madam Chair,

1. On behalf of the European Union and its Member States, let me once again strongly condemn Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine. We especially condemn Russia's repeated targeted attacks against Ukrainian cities, infrastructure and civilian people. As we start the discussions in IGC, it is our duty to strongly protest against the negative consequences that the ongoing Russia's invasion against Ukraine has had on the traditional knowledge and folklore, being part of cultural heritage and national identity. We call on Russia to immediately stop this war.
2. Our solidarity with Ukraine, and our support to its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity remains unwavering.
3. In line with the UN General Assembly resolution, condemning Russia's attempted annexation of further regions from Ukraine's internationally recognized territory, let me stress that the EU and its Member States will never recognize such illegal claims on Ukraine's territories.
4. In the same line, the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine needs to be also respected within the global IP system.
5. Finally, I want to recall the GA decision on WIPO's Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and Intellectual Property System, as well as our wish to receive regular updates on its implementation.

Thank you.

Item 7 – Establishment of an *Ad Hoc* Expert Group

Madam Chair,

The EU and its Member States support the establishment of an *Ad Hoc* Expert Group to be organised in line with the IGC's mandate and work programme for 2022/2023 before IGC 46, according to the modalities adopted in the corresponding decision taken at IGC 44.

Thank you.

Closing statement

Madam Chair,

1. The EU and its Member States would like to thank you, your Vice-Chairs and the Secretariat for guiding us through this session. In particular, we would like to thank Vice-Chair Felipe Carino for chairing the drafting group on Article 4 (Beneficiaries) and Vice-Chair Jukka Liedes for chairing sessions of the Contact Group during this session.
2. We welcome the establishment of a drafting group at this session and appreciate progress that could be achieved in that format in narrowing gaps and identifying key points for continued discussions.
3. We would also like to thank the Facilitators for preparing revised versions of documents 45/4 and 45/5 to capture comments made during this session relating to almost all of the draft articles. We look forward to studying these new documents and to providing substantive comments at the next IGC session.
4. Madam Chair, we stay committed to engaging constructively in further work on TK/TCEs.

Thank you.
