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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	50th session of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC), Geneva, 3–7 March 2025 - Final EU/Member States statements

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

50th session of WIPO's Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)

(3–7 March 2025)

Madam Chair,

1. On behalf of the European Union and its Member States, we wish you all success in chairing this session of the Committee. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for organising and preparing it.
- 1a. The EU is in favour of a non-binding instrument that would provide solutions to very complex issues with a broad scope, while leaving the necessary flexibility for national jurisdictions to maintain and develop solutions adjusted to their national needs and priorities.
2. The European Union and its Member States regret that no consensus was found at the last IGC session to transmit the facilitator's text to this session. In our view, the facilitator's text prepared at IGC 49 properly reflected the different views expressed and provided therefore a good basis for substantial discussions on both the textual proposals and the key principles of the texts. The work of this Committee can only move forward if we manage to reach a common understanding of what we want to achieve collectively. For this reason, it is important to maintain a transparent and inclusive process, taking into account all Member States' views and positions.
3. As regards agenda item 5, the European Union and its Member States are ready to provide comments on the Facilitators' Review prepared at IGC 47, contained in the Annexes of documents WIPO/GRTKF/IC/49/4 and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/49/5.

4. The European Union and its Member States consider that the topic, as well as the texts that form the basis for discussions, require further deliberations, as many points appear not sufficiently mature. We remain of course ready to engage in these discussions and to share our views on preferable wording as regards the articles. In any instance, we would like to reiterate our view that any international instrument on traditional knowledge or traditional cultural expressions should be non-binding and support a balanced, flexible and measured-based approach. The European Union and its Member States are also particularly attentive to making sure that any outcome of the work of this Committee maintains coherence with the IP system.
5. Madam Chair, you can count on the EU and its Member States to stay committed to engaging constructively in further work on traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, on the basis of the IGC mandate for 2024-2025, with the objective of making progress towards a common understanding on the core issues.

Thank you.