



Brussels, 17 June 2025  
(OR. en)

10390/25

PI 124

**NOTE**

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From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	9330/1/25 REV 1
Subject:	51st session of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC), Geneva, 30 May–5 June 2025 – Final EU/Member States Statements

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

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**51<sup>st</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)****Geneva, 30 May–5 June 2025****Opening statement**

Madam Co-Chairs,

1. On behalf of the European Union and its Member States, we wish you every success in chairing this session of the Committee. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for organising and preparing this meeting.
2. The European Union and its Member States note that no consensus was found at the last two sessions to transmit the documents to subsequent sessions. 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. On what refers to agenda item 6, we are hopeful that the membership of WIPO will be able to agree on a recommendation to the 2025 WIPO General Assembly concerning the IGC's new mandate for 2026/2027. We are confident that, under your able guidance, we will agree by consensus on a recommendation and stand ready to work with other delegations toward that goal.
6. Madam Co-Chairs, the EU and its Member States stay committed to engaging constructively in further work on TK/TCEs in the upcoming biennium.

Thank you.

## Agenda item 6

### Taking stock of progress and making a recommendation to the General Assembly

Madam Co-Chairs,

1. The EU and its Member States acknowledge the progress made under this biennium with the conclusion of the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional knowledge. We consider the treaty to be a major outcome of the work of this committee.
2. On what refers to the continuation of the work of the committee for the next years, we reiterate our position that any international instrument on TK or TCE should be non-binding and support a balanced, flexible and measured-based approach. With that caveat, we are hopeful that the membership of WIPO will be able to agree on a recommendation to the 2025 WIPO General Assembly concerning the IGC's new mandate for 2026/2027.
3. We consider it important that the future work of the Committee will include discussions on the principles forming the basis of what we aim to achieve. These exchanges would be a good complement to the text-based discussions that we have been having in recent meetings of the Committee and will, hopefully, help us advance towards a common understanding.
4. It is also relevant to dedicate time to sharing sessions and exchanges of best practices that help us build the evidence we need to advance our discussions.
5. Madam Co-Chairs, the EU and its Member States stand ready to explore different options for a new IGC mandate and we stay committed to engaging constructively in further work on TK and TCEs in the upcoming biennium.

Thank you.

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