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From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	52nd session of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC), Geneva, 4–13 March 2026 – Final EU/Member States Statements

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

52nd session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)

Geneva, 4–13 March 2026

Opening statement

Chair,

1. On behalf of the European Union and its Member States, we congratulate you, and the vice-chairs, on your election and 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 consensus was found in the last session on transmitting documents WIPO/GRTKF/IC/51/4 and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/51/5 and on recommending the renewal of the Committee's mandate to the General Assembly. We consider these are positive steps towards advancing the work of the Committee and we stay committed to engaging constructively in further work.
3. We underline the importance of the evidence-based approach for the European Union and its Member States. In this regard, we look forward to the information sharing sessions that will take place in the next days. We hope that these sessions will present real-life examples that will deepen our knowledge about how the different systems function at national and regional level.
4. Specifically, on what refers to traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, it is our expectation that the information sharing sessions will enable us to conduct better-informed negotiations next week. We are also of the view that, as a complement to these information sharing sessions, continued reference to real-life examples during the negotiations themselves would allow a clearer understanding of what we aim to achieve with the draft articles, once we start text-based negotiations.

5. However, we don't think that any exchange would be complete without holding discussions on the principles that will sustain the instruments, as evidenced by the limited advancement in negotiations during the previous biennium, due, at least partly, to a lack of debate on such principles. The different principles on which the international legal instruments on traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions would be based, should constitute an integral part of the debate and we expect this will be the case.
6. In this regard, 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 measures-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.
7. As regards genetic resources, we note that, as decided by the General Assembly last year, during this biennium, the Committee will continue to discuss intellectual property issues concerning genetic resources and their interlinkage with traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, without undertaking any normative work on genetic resources. We will engage constructively in such discussions.
8. Lastly, we wish to underline that the work of this Committee can only move forward if we manage to reach a common understanding of what we wish 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.
9. Chair, the EU and its Member States stay committed to engaging constructively in the work of the IGC.

Thank you.

Agenda item 7

Traditional Knowledge/Traditional Cultural Expressions

Chair,

1. We would like to start our statement by thanking the Secretariat for organizing the information sharing sessions last week. We found very useful to hear about the different national experiences and are hopeful that all information shared last week will feed into the negotiations that we are undertaking this week. In this regard, we consider that it would be a good use of our time to follow-up on the good practices and examples that were shared during these information sharing sessions.
2. Following this, we support the questions put forward by Group B.
3. To begin with, we propose having an exchange on the different approaches that have been implemented in respect of TK and TCEs, including measures and rights. The discussions around these principles seem a good way to support and link to the discussions on Article 5 on the scope present in both TK and TCE draft texts.
4. Complementing this, and further exploring the exchanges held last week, we would suggest as a second point of discussion how national initiatives, such as databases and local, regional or national traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions bodies can support the IGC agenda. These exchanges could support a more informed and precise exercise when discussing different articles of the draft documents, such as Article 5bis TK text on databases, and Article 8 TK text and Article 6 TCE text on administration of rights/ interests.
5. Lastly, we think it is important to understand how to achieve the right balance between the interests of the beneficiaries of the instrument and other interests, such as those belonging to artists, creators and companies, as well as the interests of the society as a whole. We can do this based on national experiences, including the ones we heard last week of, and of course, taking into account the existing international rules on intellectual property.
6. Chair, we remain committed to engage in the work that we will do this week.

Thank you.

Agenda item 7, third indent

Proposal by the Delegation of the United States of America for a Questionnaire on the Use of *Sui Generis* Protections for Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions, a Summary Report of Responses Received, and Presentation of Results

See document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/52/6

Chair,

1. We would like to thank the delegation of the United States for submitting this proposal.
2. As a general principle, the European Union welcomes initiatives that help deepen our shared understanding of how *sui generis* systems for the protection of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions operate in practice. We believe that providing further concrete information and real-life examples on the functioning of *sui generis* systems will enrich our discussions and strengthen our common understanding.
3. In this spirit, the EU can show openness to this proposal. We take note of the views expressed so far and remain ready to engage constructively with all delegations in order to achieve a balanced and satisfactory outcome for everyone.

Closing Statement

Chair,

1. The European Union and its Member States would like to thank you for the smooth and efficient conduct of this session. We also wish to thank the Vice-Chair, the Secretariat, and the interpreters for all their work.
2. The organisation of the sharing sessions proved highly useful and productive, and we welcome that the next IGC session will include additional sharing sessions. Dedicating at least two days to these exchanges strikes an appropriate balance, and we believe this format should be maintained in future IGC sessions.
3. We would like to thank all the speakers who contributed to the information-sharing sessions. The information, experiences, and examples they provided enabled a deeper understanding and offered a concrete illustration of the issues under discussion in this Committee. The open format of these sessions also allowed for dynamic exchanges, which we very much welcome.
4. Importantly, these sharing sessions informed our text-based discussions on traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, allowing discussions to evolve at both conceptual and textual levels—an approach we consider sound.
5. We stand ready to engage with the Secretariat and other delegations to determine the topics for the upcoming sharing sessions, and we will continue to participate constructively.
6. Finally, we thank all delegations for their constructive engagement throughout this IGC session.

Thank you.
