

WIPO



WIPO/GRTKF/IC/15/6

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: December 11, 2009

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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE

Fifteenth Session

Geneva, December 7 to 11, 2009

PROPOSAL OF GROUP B AND GROUP OF CENTRAL EUROPEAN AND BALTIC
STATES FOR INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS FOR THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. On December 11, 2009, the Delegation of Switzerland submitted, on behalf of Group B and the Group of Central European and Baltic States, a document entitled "Group B and Group of Central European and Baltic States Proposal for Intersessional Working Groups for the WIPO IGC" and requested that it be made available as a working document for the fifteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore.

2. *The document is contained in the Annex to this document.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

GROUP B AND GROUP OF CENTRAL EUROPEAN AND BALTIC STATES
PROPOSAL
FOR INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS FOR THE WIPO IGC

Bearing in mind the decision of General Assembly at its session of September 2009,

Recognising the need for intersessional work as highlighted at the 12th Session of the IGC and in view of the mandate for the General Assembly in 2011 which will decide on convening a Diplomatic Conference,

Recognising that the Intersessional Working Group is a technical space and not a negotiating or decision-making body, the following three (3) Intersessional Working Groups are proposed:

All three Intersessional Working Groups will deal on an equal footing with TCEs, TK and GR, without prejudice to the work in other international fora.

The first Intersessional Working Group in February/March 2010 shall focus on Traditional Knowledge (TK), Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs) and Genetic Resources (GR) and shall develop a range of options for

- definitions and
- objectives of protection.

The second and third Intersessional Working Group will consider further questions or issues on TCEs, TK and GR identified by the IGC in the course of its discussion.

Composition:

- The composition of the Intersessional Working Groups is guided by the principles of efficiency, transparency and inclusive representation. The IGC may review the format of the Intersessional Working Groups in the light of these principles if needed.
- Each Intersessional Working Group will be composed of technical experts nominated by Member States.
- Any Member State may nominate [1, 2 ...] technical expert[s] on each topic area, TCEs, TK and GR.

- Representatives from indigenous and local communities and other observers accredited to the IGC are invited to attend the Intersessional Working Groups as observers.
- The participation of representatives from developing countries and LDCs shall be funded by WIPO according to the formula generally used in the IGC.
- The funding of participation by representatives of indigenous and local communities may be decided by the Advisory Board of the WIPO Voluntary Fund.

Methods of work:

- The Intersessional Working Groups shall provide legal and technical analysis including, where appropriate, options and scenarios for consideration of the Committee. Each Intersessional Working Group shall report to the IGC on the outcomes of its work, taking care to highlight areas where technical experts agree and/or disagree.
- The Chair of the three Intersessional Working Groups will be determined by the IGC Chair in consultations with regional coordinators and will be an IGC member with relevant technical expertise.
- Bearing in mind the principle of efficiency, the Chair may extend the hours of the meeting each day, as needed, to maximize the work of the Intersessional Working Groups.
- Participating technical experts will not deliver opening statements.
- The working languages of the Intersessional Working Groups are the six official UN languages.
- For its work, the Intersessional Working Groups will consider all WIPO working documents, including WIPO/GRTKF/IC/9/5, WIPO/GRTKF/IC/9/4, WIPO/GRTKF/IC/11/8(a) and any other relevant information.

Frequency and venue of the meetings:

- The three Intersessional Working Groups shall meet according to the Work plan annexed to the General Assembly 2009 decision.
- The duration of each meeting shall be 5 days.
- The meetings shall take place in Geneva at WIPO Headquarters.

[End of Annex and document]