

INDIA'S OPENING STATEMENT

Thank You Mr. Chair

1. The delegation of India commends DG, WIPO; Chair and Vice-Chairs of IGC for organizing the 42nd meeting of the IGC. We hope under the Chair's guidance we will definitely be able reach the core objectives of IGC. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent preparations and arrangements leading up to IGC 42.

Mr. Chair

2. We would like to place on record India's appreciation for the efforts of the Chair in moving forward the IGC's work, and also the Chair's text on GR. In this regard, the IGCs renewed mandate for the 2022/23 biennium is a welcome development and we are hopeful that the meeting will have fruitful discussions and move the committee closer towards finalization of an agreement on an international legal instrument, or instruments, for a balanced and effective protection of genetic resources (GRs), traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs).

3. India is among the countries which are affected by misappropriation and bio-piracy of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and therefore, we support an early finalization of international legal instruments on all the three matters being dealt by this committee. The absence of such legally binding instruments have allowed continued misappropriation and bio-piracy of genetic resources and traditional knowledge thereby resulting in an imbalance in the global intellectual property system.

Mr. Chair

4. The delegation of India would like to reiterate that discussions in IGC 42 should focus on the core and unresolved issues in respect to protection of Genetic Resources, their derivatives and associated traditional knowledge, through a mandatory disclosure requirement and also work towards establishing an international databases and other information systems as a complementary to the mandatory disclosure requirements. In

this regard, considering India's experience in establishing its indigenous Traditional knowledge database, India would be keen to engage constructively in the IGC's work on international database on TK.

Mr. Chair

5. We would once again like to reiterate our support to the the statement delivered by the representatives of the Asia-Pacific group and the Like Minded Countries and favor discussions which are based on the core issues including objectives, subject matter, disclosure requirement, as well as defensive measures in order to narrow existing gaps and reach a common understanding.

6. We are hopeful that the discussions in this session would lead to visible progress in the work of this committee. We hope that this IGC-42 will be successful for achieving key deliverables and which will open the possibility for convening a diplomatic conference. We would like to emphasize that flexibility and political will is critically important for engagement to make the IGC a success.

The delegation of India will actively and constructively participate in the deliberations of this committee and make constructive interventions as warranted. We are looking forward to a fruitful meeting during this week.

Thank you. Mr. Chair.