

## **Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore**

**Forty-Fourth Session**  
**Geneva, September 12 to 16, 2022**

### **ACCREDITATION OF CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS**

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. The Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (“the Committee”), at its first session, held in Geneva, from April 30 to May 3, 2001, approved certain organizational and procedural matters, including according *ad hoc* observer status to a number of organizations that had expressed their wish to have a role in the work of the Committee (see the Report adopted by the Committee, WIPO/GRKTF/IC/1/13, paragraph 18).
2. Since then, an additional number of organizations have expressed to the Secretariat their wish to obtain the same status for the subsequent sessions of the Committee. The applications containing the names and other biographical details of the organizations which, before July 13, 2022, requested accreditation at the Forty-Fourth Session of the Committee are annexed to this document, as received from each organization.
3. *The Committee is invited to consider and decide upon the accreditation requests as ad hoc observers submitted by the organizations referred to in the Annex to this document.*

[Annex follows]

ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE REQUESTED ACCREDITATION AS OBSERVERS  
IN SESSIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

*Action Communautaire des Femmes Autochtones du Congo (ACFAC)* (received in French)

*Asociación de Indígenas Saraguros* (received in Spanish)

Garifuna Nation

Action Communautaire des Femmes Autochtones du Congo (ACFAC)

Headquarters: 175, Rue Soweto, Downtown  
BRAZZAVILLE (behind the D.E.C-Générale).

Contact: (+242) 06 996 36 58

Email: [acfacbrazzaville@gmail.com](mailto:acfacbrazzaville@gmail.com),  
[marleinesaranguie@gmail.com](mailto:marleinesaranguie@gmail.com)

Brazzaville, May 3, 2022

Subject: Request for accreditation as an observer in future sessions of the WIPO  
Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional  
Knowledge and Folklore

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have the honor to inform you that my organization wishes to participate as an ad hoc observer in the sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. Please find attached the biographical details of my organization required by the Committee to consider this request for accreditation.

We remain at your disposal for any further information you may require.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Name and signature of representative)

(Signed) Marleine Saïra Flora NGUIE

Application form for accreditation as ad hoc observer to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore.<sup>1,2</sup>

## BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

### **Full name of the Organization:**

Action Communautaire des Femmes Autochtones du Congo (ACFAC)

### **Description of the Organization:** (maximum 150 words)

Action Communautaire des Femmes Autochtones du Congo (ACFAC) is an organization founded by indigenous women in the Congo to address issues of vulnerability and exclusion facing them in society. Increasingly aware of their situation, indigenous women leaders decided to set up the organization in March 2016 as a platform for exchange and reflection on the challenges faced by indigenous women and to look for solutions.

In 2011, the Government of the Congo passed an Act on the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples. Indigenous women believe that they have the responsibility and community role to ensure that the Act, unique in Africa, is put into practice. Our organization fills a gap in the Congo, where before there was no such association of indigenous women and none working specifically to defend their rights, as called for under legal instruments and by international mechanisms working to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples.

Since its establishment, the organization has achieved tangible results on the ground through its initiatives. We have helped to seek ways of having the rights of indigenous women in the Congo recognized and mainstreamed, and to combat exploitation and unpaid forced labor, exclusion and discrimination. Our organization is helping indigenous women to have their voices heard at home and abroad.

### **Main aims and objectives of the Organization:**

- (1) To fight against social inequalities and new forms of slavery arising from discrimination against indigenous women and their marginalization;
- (2) To facilitate access to basic social infrastructure such as health care, education, housing, markets, drinking water and information for the well-being of indigenous women and children;
- (3) To promote the right of access to land and enforce the land rights of indigenous women;
- (4) To help to preserve the environment and natural resources while respecting the culture and traditions of the indigenous peoples of the Congo;
- (5) To combat ignorance, disease and poverty;

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#### **Please do not enclose any attachment with your application.**

<sup>1</sup> Please note that the decision on accreditation will not be made by the Secretariat, but by the Member States at the beginning of the session of the Intergovernmental Committee. It is therefore possible that certain organizations may not receive accreditation. Therefore, if the requesting organization is not based in Geneva, it might not be advisable to travel to Geneva for the sole purpose of participating in the session of the Committee until accreditation has been granted.

<sup>2</sup> Please note that this application form may be presented to the Committee exactly in the form received. Please therefore, as far as possible, complete the form using a typewriter or word processor. The completed form should preferably be emailed to [grtkf@wipo.int](mailto:grtkf@wipo.int).

- (6) To foster innovation, value creation and entrepreneurship.

**Main activities of the Organization:**

- (1) Promoting the rights of local and indigenous communities;
- (2) Helping women to engage in revenue-generating activities;
- (3) Securing a micro-credit fund for vulnerable women and their partners;
- (4) Boosting indigenous women's education;
- (5) Building women's capacity with regard to their rights;
- (6) Raising women's awareness of basic social services;
- (7) Staging traditional medicine open days.

**Relationship of the Organization with intellectual property matters, including a full explanation of why you are interested in the issues under discussion by the Committee:**

(maximum 150 words)

It is important that we, as an organization for indigenous women, be aware of intellectual property issues. ACFAC plans to conduct projects on the ground with a view to supporting indigenous women in their pursuit of activities based on traditional knowledge and helping them to be part of the global society in the Congo. The following activities are thus planned:

ACFAC runs awareness-raising campaigns and training workshops for indigenous women in a variety of areas so as to boost their ability to assert their rights. In 2016, a series of training and awareness-raising sessions is being planned on such subjects as women's leadership, environmental entrepreneurship in rural areas, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, the rights of women and children, and the management and treatment of rain and river water.

ACFAC also campaigns to have indigenous women's rights respected and taken into account in the law, on the use of local development funds for forest management units, and for involvement in the sustainable and participatory management of forests, protected areas and natural resources. It is active in advocacy relating to voluntary partnership agreements (VPA) on Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) and REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries) processes and is fighting to have the land rights of indigenous women in the Congo recognized and enforced.

**Country in which the Organization is primarily active:**

The organization operates in the Plateaux Department of the Republic of the Congo.

**Additional information:** Please provide any additional information **that** you feel may be relevant (maximum 150 words)

**Full contact details of the organization:**

Headquarters postal address: 175, Rue Soweto, Downtown  
BRAZZAVILLE (behind the D.E.C-Générale).  
Telephone number: (+242) 06 996 36 58  
Fax number: N/A  
Email address: [acfacbrazzaville@gmail.com](mailto:acfacbrazzaville@gmail.com)  
Website: N/A

**Name and title of the Organization's representative:**

NGUIE, Marleine Saïra Flora  
Coordinator of ACFAC

Asociación de Indígenas Saraguros

To: Traditional Knowledge Division  
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland

Fax.: +41 (0) 22 338 81 20  
Email: [grtkf@wipo.int](mailto:grtkf@wipo.int)

Dear Traditional Knowledge Division,

Re: Request for accreditation as an observer in future sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee

I am writing to express the wish of my organization to participate in the sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore as an *ad hoc* observer. Please find our application attached for the Committee's consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Daniel Guamán

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(Name and Signature of Representative)

Application Form for Accreditation as *Ad Hoc* Observer to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore<sup>1,2</sup>

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

**Full name of the Organization:**

Association of Indigenous Saraguro People (Asociación de Indígenas Saraguros)

**Description of the Organization:** (maximum 150 words)

The organization was created in 2000 through the obtaining of legal status from the Council for the Development of the Nationalities and Peoples of Ecuador (CODENPE). It was established with the aim of organizing the peoples of southern Ecuador in order to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants of that region through the management and implementation of community development projects.

From the start, the organization has worked with indigenous communities in southern Ecuador, specifically the Saraguro peoples. One of the projects it implemented was to recover Andean knowledge and practices through the use of native plants.

Since its establishment, it has worked in collaboration with other local and national institutions so as to jointly contribute to the development of this people.

**Main aims and objectives of the Organization:** (Please use a bulleted list)

- Promote industrial action and training
- Carry out joint and united actions to achieve social justice and improve the general well-being of all members of the organization
- Support grass-roots organizations in developing and implementing community development projects
- Fight for the fulfilment of the rights of the indigenous peoples of Ecuador.

**Main activities of the Organization:** (Please use a bulleted list)

- Training workshops on collective rights
- Active participation to defend natural resources, especially water
- Observation tours

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**Please do not enclose any attachment with your application.**

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- Implementation of projects to preserve traditional knowledge of the uses of medicinal plants

**Relationship of the Organization with intellectual property matters, including a full explanation of why you are interested in the issues under discussion by the Committee**

(Maximum 150 words)

Intellectual property (IP) has an impact on our activities as YACHAK (wise people), artists, students, teachers and collaborators. Knowing how IP is regulated in different scenarios allows us to determine our rights and how we can benefit from our intellectual creations, be it an artistic work, a piece of software, a trademark, a patent, a graduate thesis or a presentation, among others.

At present, we are conducting tests on recipes that use native plants to cure maladies. For that reason, we are investigating the possibility of obtaining patents to identify our property.

**Country in which the Organization is primarily active:**

Ecuador

**Additional Information:**

Please provide any additional information which you feel may be relevant (maximum 150 words)

**Full contact details of the Organization:**

Postal address:

Telephone number: +593 994225886

Fax number:

Email address: campanasaraguro@gmail.com

Web site:

**Name of Organization Representative and Title:**

Daniel Guamán

PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZATION

Garifuna Nation

To: Traditional Knowledge Division  
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland  
Fax.: +41 (0) 22 338 81 20  
Email: [grtkf@wipo.int](mailto:grtkf@wipo.int)

Dear Traditional Knowledge Division,

Re: Request for accreditation as an observer in future sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee

I am writing to express the wish of my organization to participate in the sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore as an *ad hoc* observer. Please find our application attached for the Committee's consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name and Signature of Representative)

/...

Application Form for Accreditation as *Ad Hoc* Observer to the  
WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property  
and Genetic Resources,  
Traditional Knowledge and Folklore<sup>1, 2</sup>

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

**Full name of the Organization:**

Garifuna Nation

**Description of the Organization:** (maximum 150 words)

The organization was founded on March 24, 2014 in Bronx New York at a summit by Garifuna leaders who wanted to focus on indigenous rights. The organization is involved in advocacy, working to change social policy, and in popular education through grassroots literacy in promoting indigenous rights. The organization has an executive body that is elected every three years by its general assembly.

**Main aims and objectives of the Organization:** (Please use a bulleted list)

- to help preserve and promote the culture of the Garifuna people in all the territories where Garifuna people are found
- to deepen an understanding of the United Nation rights of man as declared in the UN charter.
- to organize seminars and conferences so as to disseminate information relevant to our indigenous people

**Main activities of the Organization:** (Please use a bulleted list)

- We initiated branches of the Garifuna Nation in other Central American countries.
- We hosted several 'radio shows' on the internet advocating for justice and human rights.
- We began to establish the Garifuna University and Garifuna Federal Credit Union as institutions to educate and teach our people about financial literacy, and on how to systematize preserving all aspects of Garifuna culture.

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**Relationship of the Organization with intellectual property matters, including a full explanation of why you are interested in the issues under discussion by the Committee**  
(Maximum 150 words)

We want to have a full understanding of “intellectual property” because we have observed that many of our sacred cultural items are being misrepresented for commercial purposes by other nationalities and corporations. For example many elders produce technical know-how in agriculture, food items, songs, medicine, art that tell stories of our history, ways of life and religion. These crafts and Garifuna phrases or ending up to become commercial property of individuals not belonging to nor profiting our culture. Quite recently a foreign artist sculptured a national item in our Garifuna community for our people. Now he wants to be paid in perpetuity for his artistic work, I think this is not right.

**Country in which the Organization is primarily active:**

We are active in Belize, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and the USA

**Additional Information:**

Please provide any additional information which you feel may be relevant (maximum 150 words)

I would like that a selected group of individuals from the Garifuna Nation be trained or have advanced knowledge in this area of “intellectual property so as to protect the most sacred elements of Garifuna culture from those who seek to exploit and profit for their own aggrandizement.

**Full contact details of the Organization:**

c/o  
Egbert R Higinio  
President  
Garifuna Nation  
4398 Kingspark Drive  
San Jose, CA 95136:

Telephone number: +1(408) 603-5681

Fax number:

Email address: garifunanationca@gmail.com, or ehiginio56@gmail.com

Web site: <https://www.facebook.com/thegarifunanation>; and [gariUWW.org](http://gariUWW.org)

**Name of Organization Representative and Title:**

Joseph Guerrero – Minister of Lands, Pablo Blanco – Director of Technology, Wellington Ramos – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President USA,

[End of Annex and of document]