



**AFRICAN REGIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION (ARIPO)**

ARIPO STATEMENT

**IGC SPECIAL SESSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES and
TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE**

Sept 4, 2023

Geneva, Switzerland

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STATEMENT

As we now take on the home stretch of this important process, we take this time to appreciate the work of the Secretariat in preparing the thorough documents and the associated logistics. ARIPO recognizes the good work of ADG Kwakwa, Director Wendland and your sterling stewardship Madam Chair, in all this excellent and impactful work.

ARIPO appreciates the invitation of WIPO to the Special Session to conclude an International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources.

As an Observer, ARIPO is particularly interested in the process because, with its Membership, it has led the way in coming up with the first regional instrument in 2010, known as the Swakopmund Protocol for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Folklore.

On that basis, this is an important and beneficial process in that it will inform how to potentially enhance coherence and coexistence with the Swakopmund Protocol when it becomes necessary, considering that more needs to be covered to include all related areas of traditional knowledge.

Of particular interest is how the Draft Text would establish a mandatory patent disclosure requirements that would require patent applicants to disclose the origin of the Genetic Resources and the indigenous peoples or local community providing the associated traditional knowledge as well as the role of patent offices (Article 3) and relationship with other already existing instruments such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Nagoya Protocol (Article 8).

We conclude by recognizing and appreciating Australia, Mexico, and Germany for the contribution of the Voluntary Fund as it facilitates the participation of local indigenous communities whom these issues directly affect.

Thank you Chair.

