

Malaysia's Intervention on IGC

Thank you Chair.

Malaysia aligns itself with the statements delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group and the LMCs. We thank ADG Minalek Getahun and the Secretariat for the excellent work carried out by them and for the Report as contained in document WO/GA/50/8. Our thanks also go to Mr. Ian Goss, Chair of the IGC for his firm, fair and friendly manner in the steering the work of the Committee in the last and current biennium.

My delegation acknowledges the significant progress made in the draft articles on the Protection of Genetic Resources at the 35th and 36th Sessions of the IGC. However, we regret the lack of consensus on moving forward with the Rev.2 document on Protection of Genetic Resources at the close of the 36th Session, as a basis for further work at IGC-40.

We also share the view that we are at a juncture where we need to make a decision on the GR text. In this regard, my delegation believes it is timely we bring the text to the finish line and to a Diplomatic Conference.

On the issues of Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions, we note the ongoing work undertaken by the IGC at the 37th Session and call on the Committee to make progress and arrive at a common understanding on core issues, including definitions, beneficiaries, subject matter, objectives, scope of protection as well as exception and limitations and relationship with the public domain.

Malaysia wishes to recall the 2017 General Assembly decision which clearly mandated the IGC to continue to expedite its work with the objective of reaching an agreement on an international legal instrument. To reach this goal, the decision further gave guidance on text-based negotiations, with a primary focus on narrowing existing gaps and reaching a common understanding on core issues.

We are halfway through our 2018/2019 biennium. Let us not unravel the progress made thus far but to move ahead with our work, keeping in mind the current mandate of the IGC and WIPO Development Agenda Recommendation 18 which urges the IGC to accelerate the process on the protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore. We look forward to engaging with all delegates in this important Committee and hope that all sides adopt a constructive approach with good faith and trust.

Thank you Chair.