

Japan's intervention at 59th WIPO Assemblies (Sep 30th-Oct 9th, 2019)

Agenda item 20: Report on the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) WO/GA/51/12

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

This delegation would like to extend its appreciation to the Chair of the IGC, Ian Goss, for his continued dedication and efforts for the work of this Committee. We would also like to extend its appreciation to the Vice-Chairs, the Friend of the Chair, and the facilitators for the contributions, as well as the Secretariat for its hard work.

We have been making progress based on the outstanding efforts by all Member States at IGC35 and IGC36 sessions for Genetic Resources and IGC37, 38, 39 and 40 session for Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions. Nevertheless, no consensus has been reached on the fundamental issues such as the objectives, subject matter, and disclosure requirement in all three texts. At the same time, huge differences in positions among Member States exist in regard to the main articles of the texts.

To fill in those gaps, this delegation believes that the Committee should not focus only on the text, but place more emphasis on the Member States' respective national experiences and practices as well as factual studies more than ever. Some study proposals have been submitted to the Committee and this delegation supports the proposals understanding that they could be key materials establishing evidence-based discussions.

Given the current circumstances, Mr. Chair, this delegation believes that it is mature enough appropriate to hold a diplomatic conference until all Member States have exhausted discussions about major provisions and reach an agreement. This delegation believes that we need to continue further discussions on all outstanding issues including technical matters without prejudging their outcome.

To this end, this delegation welcomes the IGC's recommendation to the General Assembly regarding the renewal of the IGC's mandate and work programs.

We remain committed to contribute constructively to the discussions at the ICG sessions under new next IGC mandate.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.