

Statement of Like-Minded Group of Countries (LMCs)

General Statement

43rd Session of the IGC-GRTKF

30 May 2022

Thank you Madame Chair

1. Indonesia has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Like-Minded Group of Countries (LMCs).

Madame Chair,

2. Let me begin by congratulating you for assuming the role of Chair in this important committee. We are delighted and are confident that your experience and able leadership will guide this meeting towards a successful outcome.
3. In this opportunity, we would like to convey our thanks to the outgoing Chair, Mr. Ian Goss, not only for his guidance and leadership but also for all his contributions and efforts to narrow gaps and further progress our work.
4. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent preparations and arrangements leading up to this meeting.

Madame Chair,

5. The LMCs are hopeful that this second and last session on Genetic Resources under the 2022-2023 mandate can provide positive momentum towards finalizing an agreement on an international legal instrument, or instruments, for a balanced and effective protection of genetic resources (GRs) and associated TK with a positive recommendation to the General Assembly on progress made thus far and the last few steps that need to be prioritized.
6. While we are pleased for the resumption of text-based negotiations, we believe that there is ample room for progress and particularly for certain member states to show further flexibility and constructive spirit towards achieving the objectives of the mandate within the session of the IGC and subsequent sessions.
7. In this regard, the LMCs underline the importance for continuity of work, by building on previous progress achieved. We would like to once again welcome the decision of the 40th Session of the IGC in agreeing to make the Chair's text as one of the Committee's formal documents and are heartened to know that you, Madame Chair, will continue to use the Chair's Text as contained in document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/43/5 and intend to "hold the pen" to move and transform the document from the status quo to a concrete progress.
8. The LMCs thank Mr. Ian Goss for the non-paper on the amendment of the Chair's Text and is ready to consider it, within this session of the IGC. The LMCs look forward to engaging constructively within the text-based negotiation process this week, based on document IC/43/4, along with IC/43/5, and

IC/43/NON-PAPER.

9. It is our hope that the progress achieved from the past bienniums in our effort to narrow gaps, which are in most parts reflected in these documents, would guide our deliberations to advance our work in this committee, not just for advancement's sake but taking concrete steps beyond the status quo toward a diplomatic conference.

Madame Chair,

10. The LMCs would like to reiterate its strong belief that the main objective of the draft instrument is to prevent the misappropriation of genetic resources and their derivatives, through the IP system in general and the patent system, by applying a disclosure requirement. Utmost efforts need to be delivered to protect genetic resources, which include the derivatives of genetic resources, as well as associated traditional knowledge.
11. In line with the objective to prevent misappropriation, it is imperative for this committee to continue to explore ways in which an effective mandatory disclosure requirement could be established, while also recognizing the value addition of establishing databases and other information systems as a complementary to the mandatory disclosure requirements.

Madame Chair,

12. In terms of working methodology, the LMCs support that at this session, the IGC will follow similar working methodology of the previous IGC sessions. The LMCs further support your intention to conduct an open, transparent, and inclusive discussion on future working methodology.
13. Underlining the importance of this session before the upcoming 2022 General Assembly, the LMCs believe that good faith, flexibility, and political will are of critical importance in our engagements and deliberations. We are optimistic that under your able leadership, progress and common understanding would be achieved, to attain an effective and balanced protection of Genetic Resources.
14. Please be assured of our group's full support and cooperation in rendering this session of IGC a success. The LMCs remain committed to engage constructively in negotiating a mutually acceptable outcome for a balanced and effective protection of genetic resources (GRs), traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs).

I thank you.