



STATEMENT- option for opening statement

**WIPO Special Session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and
Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore**

4-8 September 2023

WIPO Headquarters

Thank you Madam/Mr. Chair,
Distinguished delegates,

- Israel aligns itself with the statement made by Group B. We hope to engage constructively in our discussions this week.
- Israel would like to thank you and the vice-chairs for leading this session and to thank the Secretariat for organizing this special session and preparing the documentation. We hope we will be able to make some progress in order to better prepare for the Diplomatic Conference.
- Conservation, protection and sustainable utilization of Genetic Resources and associated traditional knowledge as well as expressions of folklore assumed great significance in the international agenda over the past decades.
- Text-based negotiations, launched in 1990, did not lead to a consensus, we are of the opinion that we should work efficiently, in an inclusive manner and with transparency in order to achieve concrete results before the Diplomatic Conference. As this Special Session is the last official IGC Session, more work needs to be done in order to narrow existing gaps, with a view to reaching a common understanding.



- We wish that the proposed revisions to the text be presented and negotiated upon in the plenary.
- We reiterate our strong belief that protection relating to intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources should be shaped in a way that supports innovation and creativity.
- We also welcome an active participation of Indigenous people and local communities' representatives, as well as other stakeholders and we would like to thank Australia, Germany and Mexico for their contributions to the WIPO Voluntary Fund.
- Madam Chair, Israel looks forward to constructively engaging with all WIPO members to find consensus solutions to the issues facing the Organization now and in the future.