

Intervention of the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organizations (IFFRO) - Veronica Williams (Secretary General) on the occasion of the IGC on IP and genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore, 15-19, 2004

On behalf of IFFRO, I would like to start by congratulating the Secretariat for the excellent quality of the documents prepared and for the proposals included especially in document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/6/3. We have followed for several years the debates within this committee and we noted the increased value and clarification of concepts under the traditional cultural expressions and folklore.

We have also found particularly enriching the interventions from the participants of both yesterday and today.

IFFRO, representing the collective management sector in the field of reprography, strongly welcomes the current work of the Committee on defining relevant policies and legal instruments in the TCE domain.

Our interest raised, as a consequence of the ever-increasing developing work that our organization undertakes in all regions of the world. In this work, TCE and their possible administration through collective management organizations are recurrent topics on our dialogue with local rights owners.

Secondly, since the signature in October 2003 of a Co-operation Agreement between WIPO and IFFRO - Agreement that foresees multiple types of assistance and collaboration between our 2 Organizations - it was considered that IFFRO's expertise in the field of management of rights could also be relevant once the TCE policies and legal instruments are further crystallized.

Therefore, we would like to restate the availability of IFFRO to provide assistance to either WIPO or national structures on all relevant management issues, if this would be considered necessary. We would also be available to look into new forms of technical assistance and dialogue in this domain, in parallel with the development of the conceptual.