



SIXTY-FIFTH SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO  
(July 9 to 17, 2024)

AGENDA ITEM 10 (Report on the IGC)

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the floor. I make this statement on behalf of the Native American Rights Fund and its client the National Congress of American Indians.

After over two decades of work within the IGC, WIPO Member States demonstrated to the World that this is a forum that has the potential to achieve progress towards justice for Indigenous Peoples. Nevertheless, much work remains. As many Member States have expressed, it is now imperative that WIPO Member States build on the momentum from the recent Diplomatic Conference and conclude negotiations within the IGC on one or more legal instruments for the protection of Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. We urge Member States to accelerate these negotiations, while ensuring the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples -- to establish binding, enforceable legal protections consistent with Member States' commitments under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Thank you.