

## **DG Closing Remarks – GR ATK Dip Con – As Delivered**

Excellencies,  
Delegates,  
Colleagues, Friends,

We made history today.

For the first time in over a decade we have a new WIPO Treaty, the 27<sup>th</sup> WIPO Treaty. And for the first time ever we have a Treaty that connects the global IP system with the wisdom, heritage and richness offered by Indigenous Peoples as well as Local Communities in the form of their genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

When I opened this conference, I said that negotiations will not be easy but that if we marry passion with pragmatism, and summon the spirit of flexibility, accommodation and consensus that has brought us to the threshold, we will cross it together.

Indeed, negotiations were intense and difficult, but throughout I witnessed a clear and shared purpose that what we were doing was meaningful, anchored by the long experience of many who had been involved in these discussions and negotiations for decades, driven by the energy of those who understood that this would be a once in a generation opportunity, inspired by the inclusion and presence of the representatives of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and suffused with a spirit of friendship, camaraderie and mutual respect. We transcended the categories of North

and South with many bridge builders amongst the delegates, and this is how we crossed the finishing line together, by consensus, as one WIPO family.

Two weeks ago, I asked all of us to show that the global IP system, which has always been evolving since its inception 550 years ago, remains capable of careful and considered evolution. I asked that we show that IP works for everyone, everywhere.

You delivered this. And you delivered this in the form of a landmark agreement.

that is inclusive, balanced, practical and impactful.

For the first time, systems of knowledge and wisdom that have supported economies, societies and cultures for centuries are now inscribed into the global IP system. For the first time, the connection between Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and their genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge is recognized by the global IP community.

These are historic achievements – long championed by many Member States – and that will safeguard wisdom, protect biodiversity, while at the same time increasing transparency in the patent system and strengthening innovation.

In the lead up to these negotiations, we have been reminded that the purpose of WIPO is to protect IP. Indeed, that is our role at WIPO and that is my responsibility as the Director General.

But to truly protect IP, we must make IP protection available to all, and make it part of their lives. We cannot claim to have successfully discharged our duty to protect IP and yet have people tell us that they feel excluded or alienated from it.

This is why this agreement, groundbreaking as it is, with the first ever disclosure requirements in an international IP treaty connected to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, is not just about IP law.

It is about people and communities who felt excluded but are now able to see themselves included.

It is about seeing that what is ancient wisdom and cultural heritage can also be a source of modern ingenuity, creativity and innovation.

It is about making IP a bridge that connects people together in a world that is ever more divided.

And it is about showing that multilateralism, imperfect as it is, is still the most important platform for us, as a global community, to change the world together.

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Friends and Colleagues,

This moment in time would not be possible without the many generations who came before us, and I would like to take a moment to honor and

respect them. Some of them are in this room like Ian Goss the former Chair of the IGC, but many others are not. We thank, acknowledge, and appreciate all of you.

I would also like to take this chance to thank the many other people who have made today possible – the culmination of a 25-year journey.

First, the delegates and the Group Coordinators. We have seen how hard you have worked over the course of the last two weeks – the late nights, the early mornings – the frantic running around, the huddling and intensity. We thank you for that. And we thank the Group Coordinators for doing the unenviable task of shepherding many multiple of you in the in the same direction. I really appreciate that.

I also need to mention the Ambassadors and Ministers who are here, and who provided the leadership, together with those from capitals, for us to find the political compromises that needed to be made in order for us to land at this final stage.

Of course, my gratitude to the Chairs of Main Committees One and Two, Vivian and Jodie – the foster parents of this wonderful result – the members of the steering Committee, and all office holders. And then, invisibly, there was Erica and Christina who supported the President, very much behind the scenes, but who helped to make this happen as well.

Ambassador, Dear Chair, it was my honor to work alongside you, to see your leadership, your wisdom, your energy, your purpose, in action and to

know of your long, history with WIPO. Your wisdom, your experience, your breadth, and your personal commitment to these negotiations made this all happen. Please join me in a round of applause.

I also would like to thank my many colleagues who helped to make this happen. It is not common that WIPO hosts a Diplomatic Conference. In fact, the last time this happened was in the late 1990s. It was a much smaller affair than, but, now, to have 1200 of you here on this premises, to take care of you and to provide the best environment is something that required a lot of work, and I want to thank different colleagues who make that happen.

Let me start by thanking the Sector Leads, my dear ADGs and DDGs. I need to mention Edward Kwakwa who has long been the person taking care of the Traditional Knowledge Division and I can think of no better Sector Lead to witness this and be on the podium with us as we mark this magnificent occasion.

Of course, I have to mention Wend Wendland, who many of you know and who has been involved in this since day one. I take my hat off to you and your team and express our deep appreciation to all of you on behalf of everyone here in the room. And it is really about teamwork. Wend was supported by a very able group of colleagues, Martine Coppola, Sara Fuentes, Fei Jiao, Mara Moreno, Tana McCauley and Cynthia Poullain.

I also wish to acknowledge, Anna Morawiec Mansfield. Thank you so much Anna, as our Legal Counsel for helping us navigate the legal ins and outs.

As you know, when it comes to a Diplomatic Conference, the legalities become very important, the procedures become very important, and Anna and her team were instrumental in helping us land where we are today. Again, this was down to teamwork and Anna's colleagues Christine Castro Hublin, Alexandra Lamothe, Max Wallot, Malwina Kopytek, Juliet Dumas, Raquel Mallo Alvarez and Lucie Princic.

What you see are the people sitting at the podium, but I think as many of you have observed making this a great delegate experience, giving you the right environment, involved a lot of people behind the scenes and I think I need to pay special tribute to them.

So let me thank all the teams that are involved in the delegates' experience under directors Berenice Bessiere, Richard Lane and Anil Murthy. I also want to mention the 32 WIPO volunteers who put up their hands, and all the people who work behind the scenes.

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In closing, let me urge that the historic promises of today become the reality of tomorrow as soon as possible.

As the depository, I look forward to receiving your instruments and supporting you as you work towards translating text into action. And I promised a partner of all you to build a global IP ecosystem that supports innovators and creators everywhere and to build a better world for all of us.

Thank you very much.