

**Thirteenth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
New York, May 12 to 23, 2014**

**Second week:**

**Agenda Item 9 (Future work of the permanent forum, including  
emerging issues)**

Thursday, 22 May, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Intervention by the Secretariat of  
the World Intellectual Property Organization**

**May 2014**

**DRAFT**

Thank you Madame Chair for giving us the floor.

Before I begin, we would like to pay our respects to the traditional owners of this land where we are holding this meeting.

We would like to congratulate Mr. Sena on his study on challenges in the African region to protecting traditional knowledge, genetic resources and folklore. This study contributes helpfully to the negotiations ongoing at WIPO, on which the WIPO Secretariat reported last week.

It was a great pleasure for the WIPO Secretariat to assist and support Mr. Sena.

Further to the intervention made last week, let us just recall that Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions embody significant innovation and creativity and contribute to the diversity and richness of the planet's civilizations and cultures. Many WIPO Member States, indigenous organizations and local communities argue that the misappropriation and misuse of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions should be prevented by intellectual property-like rights and tools.

To this end, the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee is a forum for negotiations on an international legal instrument or instruments, which will ensure the effective protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.

Steady progress is being made in all three areas, and in September 2014, the WIPO General Assembly will take stock of the progress made and decide on convening a diplomatic conference, and will consider the need for additional meetings.

The Member States of WIPO have repeatedly stressed the importance attached to facilitating and enhancing the participation of observers in the work of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee.

Madame Chair, we reported on these last week and I won't take time to list again to various mechanisms that the Committee has established to ensure and enhance the participation of indigenous peoples in these negotiations.

Let me conclude by reporting that in July, 2013, the Director General of WIPO, Dr. Francis Gurry, was pleased to meet with two members of the Permanent Forum, namely Mr. Kanyine Sena, then the Chair of the Forum, and Ms. Valmaine Toki. This was a very interesting and productive meeting.

We thank you for your attention and are available to answer questions or provide further information at any time.

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