

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

First week:

**Agenda Item 8 (Comprehensive dialogue with United Nations
agencies and funds)**

Thursday, 15 May, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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

May 2014

Thank you, Madame Chair, and I am taking the floor on behalf of the Secretariat of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

We would like, first, to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the Forum for this session, as well as welcome and congratulate the newly-elected and re-elected members of the Forum. We wish you all a successful and constructive session.

We also wish to acknowledge the hard work of the Secretariat of the Forum in organising this session.

In order to keep this intervention focused, we will only mention some of the main points and 'highlights' of WIPO's recent activities; however, we invite you to consult the WIPO Information Note that was prepared for this session; it is available on the Forum's website.

Let us begin informing you as to the negotiations underway at WIPO in the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore.

These text-based negotiations are aimed at the development of an international legal instrument or instruments which will provide for the effective protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.

Incremental but steady progress is being made in all three areas, and in September 2014, the WIPO General Assembly will take stock of the progress made, decide on convening a diplomatic conference and consider the need for additional meetings. The negotiating texts and all relevant documentation are on our website.

Let us also recall the various mechanisms there are to ensure and enhance the participation of indigenous peoples in these negotiations.

- (i) A fast-track accreditation procedure;
- (ii) The WIPO Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities;
- (iii) Indigenous experts, selected by the indigenous caucus at the IGC, participate fully in expert drafting groups and in “informals”;
- (iv) An “indigenous consultative forum” is organized by the WIPO Secretariat in advance of each IGC session;
- (v) Each session is preceded by panel presentations chaired by a representative of an indigenous people or local community;
- (vi) During the IGC, WIPO finances the logistical, secretarial, interpretation and translation support that is provided by the Indigenous Peoples' Center for Documentation, Research and Information (DoCip) for the meetings of the indigenous and local communities' representatives;
- (vii) WIPO offers the opportunity for an Indigenous Fellow to work at WIPO Secretariat. Following an open and competitive selection process, so far four successive Indigenous Fellows have worked at WIPO for a period of between six and 24 months. Mr. Q'apaj Conde from the Plurinational State of Bolivia was appointed as WIPO Indigenous Fellow for 2013 and 2014. Mr. Conde will join the WIPO delegation in the second week of this Forum Session.

Madame Chair, we would like to recall that the WIPO Secretariat participated in a Comprehensive Dialogue with the Forum at its Eleventh Session in 2012.

From that Dialogue, helpful information was gathered, particularly on the aspirations from indigenous peoples related to the negotiations

underway at WIPO. For the WIPO Secretariat, this was an important opportunity to inform the Permanent Forum and indigenous representatives as to the WIPO negotiations, as well as to listen to and learn from the Dialogue.

As a result of this Comprehensive Dialogue, WIPO immediately took concrete and meaningful actions to respond to the Forum's recommendations.

The first of these were reported on at the Twelfth Session of the Forum. These included indigenous panels at IGC sessions that specifically included indigenous experts on international human rights law, and the holding, together with the Forum Secretariat, of an Indigenous Expert Workshop on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions in April 2013. The report of this Workshop was made available to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee.

Now, we would like to report on the actions taken since the Twelfth Session:

- i) We recall that the Permanent Forum appointed Mr. Kanyinke Sena to undertake a "study to examine challenges in the African region to protecting traditional knowledge, genetic resources and folklore". We are pleased to inform you that the WIPO Secretariat provided financial and technical assistance to Mr. Sena, and that it was a pleasure for us to assist and work with Mr. Sena. Mr. Sena has submitted his study to this session of the Forum, under Agenda Item 9 "Further work of the Permanent Forum, including emerging issues";
- ii) We are pleased to report that a Practical Workshop for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore took place in Geneva, from December 4 to 6, 2013. The Workshop included thirteen participants from the seven geo-cultural regions recognized by the Permanent Forum. Participants were selected following a public call for expressions of interest. Given the success of this inaugural

4.

Workshop, we plan to organize a similar workshop in the second half of the year.

Side Event: Finally, we would like to warmly invite you all to the WIPO side-event: "Indigenous Perspectives on Recent Developments in the WIPO Negotiations on Intellectual Property and Traditional Knowledge".

It will take place on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 from 6.15pm to 8pm in Conference Room 7, North Lawn Building. Interpretation will be available in English and Spanish, and refreshments will be provided.

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