

## WIPO Dialogue

I would like to thank WIPO for their presentation.

It is very interesting that you started by stating that “WIPO is not well known” and so it fit to generally introduce WIPO’s work at this Forum. This is clearly an indication that the activities you have outlined as geared towards capacity building or awareness raising are either not working or too little. It would be interesting to know how WIPO is rolling out a strategy of creating awareness at the local levels and what budget has been allocated for this critical exercise.

Indigenous communities from Africa have a wealth of knowledge, innovation and practices that are part of our every day life and form the very basis of us as Peoples. It is therefore of critical importance that Indigenous peoples from Africa participate fully and effectively in WIPO processes. I therefore call upon the Secretariat to increase its efforts to bring representatives of indigenous peoples from Africa to the WIPO Assembly and also undertake Africa focused studies.

But merely coming to Geneva is not enough. As part of effective participation, Indigenous peoples should have the ability to make submissions without needing the sponsorship of member states. I therefore call on the Secretariat to table this issue at the next IGC as well as coming WIPO General Assembly.

Indigenous peoples require mandatory disclosure when it comes to patent applications based on genetic resources, their derivatives and associated traditional knowledge in all of WIPO's relevant fora, including IGC, PCT, Standing Committee on the Law of Patents. It is therefore of utmost importance that the WIPO IGC agrees on the subject matter, nature of disclosure, information to be disclosed, trigger for disclosure and consequences of noncompliance.

I would also like to know whether there has been any consideration given to having indigenous peoples as Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, considering the fact that these issues apply to indigenous peoples' lands, territories and resources and (indigenous) knowledge systems?

It would also be interesting to understand the inter agency cooperation between WIPO and other UN agencies that are discussing issues of traditional knowledge especially the CBD and other agencies dealing with environmental issues and indigenous rights.

And how WIPO is enabling cooperation with Indigenous peoples and governments to protect traditional knowledge and genetic resources in Indigenous peoples territories.

Thank you!

