

OPENING STATEMENT

of the delegation of Ukraine at the 49th Session of WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)
(2 - 9 November 2024)

Dear Assistant Director General, dear Madam Chair,

The Delegation of Ukraine aligns itself with the statement delivered by Distinguished Delegation of Moldova on behalf of the CEBS Group.

Ukraine would like to express our sincere gratitude to you, the Vice-Chairs, and the WIPO Secretariat for the excellent preparation for this Committee session.

As discussions on the protection of genetic resources and traditional knowledge continue to be a relevant topic, we highlight the historic adoption of the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources, and Associated Traditional Knowledge, and would like to commend the efforts of the International Bureau and the distinguished Member States who contributed to this important achievement.

Ukraine remains committed to advancing the goals of protecting the rights and dignity of indigenous peoples and local communities.

In the context of continued efforts to protect genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions, we must once again bring to the attention of this Committee the ongoing and deliberate destruction, which caused by the Russian Federation war of aggression against Ukraine. Russia continues to target the history, culture, and IP system of Ukraine and its people.

Following the illegal occupation and annexation of Crimea peninsula, Crimean Tatars, indigenous people of Ukraine, faced systematic persecution, including intimidation, imprisonment, and political prosecution. Since 2015, around 44,500 people have been conscripted for military service in occupied Crimea, while those rejecting Russian citizenship face threats, restrictions, and potential deportation.

On 15 November, Russia launched a missile and drone attack on the city center of Odesa, causing significant damage and loss of life. Among the damaged buildings were a church, residential structures, and cultural institutions, including the Paleontological Museum of the Mechnikov Odesa National University.

The Russian aggression against Ukraine has resulted in the destruction of more than 2,100 cultural sites, including libraries, museums, theatres and monuments. Historic centres such as those in Lviv and Odesa have also been severely damaged. These attacks target Ukraine's cultural identity and heritage, and aim to erase the unique heritage and culture of its indigenous peoples and local communities.

We reiterate that the Russian Federation must bear the legal consequences of all its internationally wrongful acts and harassment against indigenous people and IP communities. Russian war of aggression undermines the efforts of WIPO, UN agencies and contradicts UN Charter. Russia should be denied in any privileges or honours within WIPO.

Finally, we express our gratitude to the Secretariat and all WIPO members who continue to provide unwavering support and solidarity to Ukraine and our people.

Thank you, Madam Chair.