



Opening Statement WIPO IGC 49

Geneva, December 2024

The decision to divide our Knowledge Systems in WIPO, separating Genetic Resources on one side and Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions on the other side, persists. Today, there remains a separate process regarding Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions, following the success of the Diplomatic Conference on Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge associated with Genetic Resources.

At the WIPO Diplomatic Conference in Riyadh, once again Genetic Resources were separated from our Knowledge Systems, and Traditional knowledge and Cultural Expressions were the only element to receive legal protection.

We insist that Indigenous Peoples have a holistic vision, and as we have consistently reiterated in WIPO, this segmentation into three parts of our Knowledge Systems is colonial.

In Riyad, countries as Nigeria and Samoa proposed the protection of Genetic Resources, however, the proposition was rejected without it being possible for Indigenous Peoples to defend our Knowledge Systems.

As expressed by the Indigenous caucus, our vision may differ from the Western vision and is sui generis, so our participation and/or absence directly impacts the legitimacy of the process, and their legality, if we really care about international law.

We advise WIPO to introduce genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions as a transversal subject in the whole WIPO system, in order to overcome the current colonialism of IP law and system.

Thank you.