

**NIGERIA'S OPENING STATEMENT AT THE 41ST SESSION  
OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON  
GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND  
FOLKLORE (IGC), AUGUST 30<sup>TH</sup> – SEPT. 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2021**

Mr. Chair,

The delegation of Nigeria welcomes and congratulates you and the Vice Chairs on your elections to steer the work of IGC 41. We thank the Chair and the Secretariat, especially the WIPO Traditional Knowledge Division, for the preparatory works and informal consultations, not only in advance of this procedural session, but also for all the activities organized to sustain interest in the work of the Committee since the 40<sup>th</sup> WIPO-IGC in June 2019.

2. Nigeria aligns with the statement delivered by South Africa on behalf of the African Group. Our delegation is mindful of the limited scope of this session to procedural matters and as such will not be making substantial remarks on the substantive textual work of the Committee. Our delegation is fully aware that the task before this session is strictly to advance our collective determination to re-align the work of the Committee in light of the prevailing pandemic, starting with recommending to the 2021 WIPO General Assembly, a proposed mandate for 2022/2023 biennium which, for all practical purposes, does not

deviate from the extant and disrupted 2020-2021 biennium mandate.

3. We recognize that the next biennium of the Committee will need to constructively explore and agree on flexible, transparent, pragmatic and inclusive working methods to advance the Committee's work in general and to revive text-based negotiations in particular. Mindful of the time already lost, and cognizant of continued scientific and technological developments that increasingly render the Committee's work preeminent, Nigeria remains optimistic that progress is possible in the next biennium to close existing gaps, advance the Committee's work toward a Diplomatic Conference in realization of the ultimate goal of effective protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.

Mr. Chair,

4. Nigeria is committed to working together with all delegations and stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities to ensure that the Committee builds upon all its accomplishments pre-pandemic.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.