

General Statement of the delegation of the Republic of Korea for the Special Session of the WIPO IGC

September 4, 2023

Thank you, Madam Chair.

The Republic of Korea would like to express its gratitude to the Chair and the Secretariat for the preparation of the documents for this Special Session.

The Republic of Korea recognizes the efforts of the international community for the common prosperity and sustainable development of humankind, including the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Over the past 40 sessions, the IGC has exchanged various views on the disclosure of the source of genetic resources, but the differences in the opinion among countries have not yet narrowed.

The Republic of Korea takes note of the Chair's text as the basic text for the Special Session and Preparatory Committee designated by the 63rd WIPO General Assembly and finds merit in its balanced approach, which aimed at bridging the long-standing differences among the Member States on the issue of genetic resources under discussion at the IGC.

Notwithstanding the progress made so far, the Republic of Korea remains concerned that the basic principles and efficiency of the patent system could be undermined by the attempt not to focus on preventing erroneously granted patents by a patent disclosure requirement for genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge but to focus on the utilization of patent system for their protection.

The Republic of Korea believes that this Special Session should focus on a disclosure requirement for the patent system.

The Republic of Korea will actively contribute to the discussions of this meeting in a constructive manner.

Thank you.