

Thank you Mr Chair –

I make this statement on behalf of the Indigenous Caucus, who endorse it by consensus. We support many of the goals of the WIPO Development Agenda, but want to emphasize that these have been developed in the context of the global intellectual property system. [added text: not made to plenary: Many goals relate to innovation and the need for their wide dissemination. Indigenous peoples may choose to promote the dissemination of some of their traditional knowledge, but this is rarely an aim of the majority of holders of traditional knowledge.] The sustainable development principles developed only in regards to intellectual property are not by themselves able to respect the rights and meet the needs and aspirations of indigenous peoples.

Last year, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aims to eliminate extreme poverty by 2030, and to leave no one behind in achieving sustainable development. We draw attention to the SDG target under the goal to end extreme poverty, which requires States to ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property. For indigenous peoples, ownership over "other forms of property" includes ownership of traditional knowledge traditional cultural expressions and other community intellectual creations. We recommend that Member States of the IGC take cognizance of this SDG target in the course of the negotiations.

In order to comply with the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations adopted last year the System-Wide Action Plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (SWAP). The SWAP ultimately aims at contributing to the realization of indigenous peoples' rights at the country level through reinforced support by the UN system to Member States in this regard. We urge Member States of the IGC to ensure coherence between the instruments being negotiated and other international legal instruments on the rights of indigenous peoples. Any instrument developed by the IGC should not diminish the rights of indigenous peoples under other international legal instruments.