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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	41st session of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) (Geneva, 30 August - 3 September 2021) - Final EU/MS statements

Delegations will find at annex, for information, the EU/Member States statements as delivered at the above-mentioned WIPO meeting.

41st session of WIPO's Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)

(30 August – 1 September 2021 – hybrid meeting)

Agenda item 1 – Opening statement

Chair,

1. The EU and its Member States welcome the convening of the 41st session of the IGC, rescheduled several times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We would like to thank you, Chair, your Vice-Chairs and the WIPO Secretariat for the informal consultations to prepare this first and only session under the current IGC mandate.
2. We also appreciate that despite difficulties in continuing negotiations according to the work program for the current biennium, the IGC Bureau facilitated the agreement of Member States to carry out several online commenting processes and other preparatory activities which commenced in 2020 and have continued into 2021. In the framework of these activities as proposed by you, Chair, and in response to your note circulated in May 2020, the EU and its Member States submitted comments to the Chair's Text of a Draft International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources.
3. We take positive note of the further work in the IGC in addition to the above mentioned activities, in particular, the organisation of a Virtual Seminar on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources held in January 2021, as well as the Briefings on the IGC, including on background, key issues, and status of the negotiations, which took place in June 2021.

4. We reiterate our commitment to engage constructively in the work of the IGC, the continuation of which can only take place under a renewed mandate for the biennium 2022/2023. Recalling the spirit of cooperation that prevailed at the last IGC session in June 2019, we support the renewal of the IGC mandate as it is.
5. Chair, the EU and its Member States are hopeful that this session will succeed in making a recommendation to the General Assembly on the renewal of the IGC's mandate for the next biennium.

Thank you.

Agenda item 7 – Making a recommendation to the General Assembly

Chair,

1. The EU and its Member States would like to thank the IGC Bureau for the informal consultations to prepare this session, also addressing issues concerning the renewal of the IGC's mandate for the biennium 2022/2023.
2. As contained in the Draft Annotated Agenda circulated before this session, the proposed renewal of the mandate is based on an exact replication of the mandate for 2020/2021, with one technical update related to document numbering and with the numbering and dates of sessions updated.
3. We support the renewal of the IGC mandate as proposed. We are hopeful that IGC 41 will succeed in making a recommendation to the General Assembly accordingly.
4. Chair, the EU and its Member States stand ready to continue substantive work in the IGC under its renewed mandate for 2022/2023. We reiterate our commitment to engage constructively in negotiations as soon as they can restart in the next biennium.

Thank you.
