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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	46th session of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) (Geneva, 27 February - 3 March 2023) - Final EU/Member States statements

Delegations will find attached the final EU/Member States statements delivered at the above-mentioned WIPO meeting.

46th session of WIPO's Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)

(27 February – 3 March 2023)

Opening Statement

Madam Chair,

1. On behalf of the European Union and its Member States, let me first thank you and your Vice Chairs for your efforts to facilitate ongoing work in the IGC on Traditional Knowledge/Traditional Cultural Expressions. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for preparing this session, including the organisation of the ad hoc Expert Group that took place yesterday. We appreciated the substantive background note giving core guidance for us to discuss topics in the focus of IGC 46. As regards potential outcomes of the negotiations, we stress our view that any international instrument on TK or TCE should be non-binding.
2. Two experts from the EU participated in discussions at the Expert Group and we look forward to the report by the Co-Chairs.
3. Madam Chair, prior to this IGC session two experts from the EU submitted comments to the Zero Draft of a Chair's text of a draft instrument on TK/TCEs in the Advisory Group. We would like to thank you for publishing a First Draft after considering comments to the Zero Draft received in the dedicated Wiki space. The experts representing the EU in the Advisory Group will study the First Draft and provide further comments in due course.
4. We have studied the REV documents prepared by the facilitators at IGC 45 and prepared for sharing our comments under agenda item 6.

5. Madam Chair, the EU and its Member States look forward to participating constructively in substantive discussions throughout this week. In particular, at the last session we welcomed the establishment of a Drafting group on Article 4 (Beneficiaries). We appreciate progress that could be achieved in that format in narrowing gaps and identifying key points for continued discussions. We look forward to continued discussions in the Drafting group on Article 4 at this session, and we encourage the extension of such focused drafting group format to other provisions of crucial importance as well.

Thank you.

Closing statement

Madam Chair,

1. The EU and its Member States would like to thank you, your Vice-Chairs and the Secretariat for guiding us through this session.
2. We would also like to thank the Facilitators for preparing and introducing revised versions of the negotiating texts on TK/TCEs to capture comments made during this session. We look forward to studying these new documents and to providing substantive comments at the next IGC session.
3. Madam Chair, the EU and its Member States stay committed to engaging constructively in further work on TK/TCEs.

Thank you.
