



**Statement by the South Centre to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge**

Good morning to you all.

Chair, we congratulate you and the Vice Chairs for the election and are confident on your leadership for the good steering of this session.

The South Centre fully supports the work of this committee to continue to fulfil its mandate. This committee has shown that it can work constructively, having delivered on the textual negotiations of the now concluded WIPO treaty on GR and ATK. On options for an instrument relating to IP for the protection of TK and TCEs, significant work has already been done towards building a common understanding of the gaps and narrowing the issues.

The Committee in this session will benefit from further openness to understanding what are the boundaries that are acceptable in the negotiations to all delegations, as it relates to the IP system, and that can adequately fulfil the expectations of the future beneficiaries of the next IGC instrument or instruments. We echo the call from ADG Kwawa for their successful conclusion.

Each of the IGC meetings involves significant preparations and resources from the WIPO Secretariat, the delegations and representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities. Time is of the essence.

We note that all delegations support the active participation of indigenous and local communities in the IGC. However, the establishment of a voluntary fund has not secured participation, the fund is depleted. We call on delegations and the WIPO Secretariat to urgently find new solutions, such as through the WIPO Program and Budget, to ensure funding for the effective engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in the IGC.

Madam Chair, Vice Chairs, distinguished delegates, The South Centre looks forward to constructively participating in this session.