

Agenda item 19: Report on the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) WO/GA/50/8 Prov.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Although we have been making progress based on the outstanding efforts by all Member States at IGC35 and IGC36 sessions for Genetic Resources and IGC37 session for Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions, it is true that no consensus has been reached on the fundamental issues such as the objectives, subject matter and disclosure requirement in all three texts. At the same time, huge differences in positions among Member States exist in regard to the main articles of the texts.

To fill in those gaps, this delegation believes that the Committee should not focus only on the text, but place more emphasis on the Member States' talking about their respective national experiences and practices and conducting factual studies more than ever. Some study proposals have been submitted to the committee and this delegation supports the proposals since they should be key materials establishing evidence-based discussions.

Given the current circumstances, this delegation firmly believes that it is inappropriate to hold a Diplomatic Conference unless all Member States have exhaustive discussions about major provisions and reach an agreement. In other words, it is inappropriate to set a certain time-limit to end the discussion, before the texts have been completed. Japan believes that we should continue negotiations without prejudging their outcome in order to ensure thorough discussion on all technical matters.

This delegation would like to actively contribute to forthcoming discussions to be held in the coming 3 sessions before the next General Assemblies, in a constructive manner.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.