



**CET WORKING DOCUMENT
EXCO/AU08/CET/1801**

SUBJECT:	Report of WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and folklore (IGC) – 12 th Session	DATE:	March 25, 2008
PURPOSE:	Information	REFERENCE:	EXCO/AU08/CET/1801
AUTHOR:	Bastiaan Koster	MEETING:	Exco Meeting Sydney
		MEETING DATE:	April 13-17, 2008
		DISTRIBUTION:	All attendees

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In view of the lack in progress made at the last few IGC meetings, FICPI decided not to attend the Twelfth Session of the IGC which took place from 25 to 29 February 2008.

Apparently, the mood was lighter and more relaxed than previously and, notwithstanding the uncertainties in WIPO, the discussions were more action-orientated and productive than expected.

The Secretariat will prepare a working document in respect of both Traditional Cultural Expressions and Traditional Knowledge relating to the obligations, provisions and possibilities that already exist at the international level to provide protection in these areas. The document will also look at gaps that exist at the international level and how these gaps can be bridged. This is a positive development and the first "new" document that will be prepared by the secretariat of the IGC and Group 8 will study that document when it becomes available.

There are countries (Brazil and others) which want to downgrade the IGC's role on Genetic Resources. Other countries, however, want to inflate it. The main reason for this is that Genetic Resources is also discussed in other fora, like World Trade Organisation and the Convention on Bio Diversity, and Brazil and other countries believe that Genetic Resources

should rather be discussed in those fora. The IGC could not reach a conclusion on this issue.

It would appear that, although no real progress has been made, there is at least positive progress in the new working documents the Secretariat will now prepare in respect of Traditional Cultural Expressions and Traditional Knowledge.

[End of report]