

ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION'S STATEMENT

Thank you Mr. President,

Ethiopia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Kenya on behalf of the African Group. Allow me to extend my congratulations to you, Mr. President, along with the vice president and other esteemed officers of this Diplomatic Conference, on your election to office. Rest assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation as you undertake your responsibilities.

Ethiopia, a nation renowned for its rich genetic diversity and abundance of traditional knowledge, takes pride in its commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Nagoya Protocol. These agreements reflect our dedication to conserving biodiversity and ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of Genetic Resources.

Ethiopia has made significant strides in establishing legal and institutional frameworks that promote access to and benefit-sharing of Genetic Resources and associated Traditional Knowledge by enacting proclamation and regulation to implement the convention and the protocol. These efforts underscore our unwavering commitment to preserving our natural heritage and ensuring that its benefits are shared justly and equitably.

However, there has been significant gap in integrating Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge into both the global and national Intellectual property systems. While this presents a challenge, it also presents an opportunity for collective action towards a solution that respects and safeguards the rights of our communities.

Our participation in this Diplomatic Conference is aimed at adopting a binding legal instrument, which, we hope, will include mandatory disclosure as one of its basic principles. We firmly believe that such an instrument will not only protect the rights of our communities but also promote fairness, equity, and sustainability in their global utilization.

We look forward to positively engage with all member states towards fruitful negotiations and conclusion of an international legal framework for GRs and TK Associated within the existing global IP system.

I Thank you.