

## Statement

of the delegation of Ukraine at the Special Session of WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)  
(4 – 8 September 2023)

Madam Chair,

The delegation of Ukraine would like to express sincere gratitude to the Madam Chair, the Vice-Chairs, and the WIPO Secretariat for preparation for the work of this Committee session.

We would like to align ourselves with the statement made by Poland on behalf of the CEBS group and look forward to a swift clarification of all issues related to the Methodology of Work. We strongly endorse the importance of adhering to the Member-Driven principle and ensuring complete transparency and clarity throughout the negotiation process.

As we anticipate engaging in discussions this week regarding Genetic Resources and associated Traditional Knowledge, we feel compelled once more to draw the attention of distinguished delegates and the Secretariat to the deliberate actions of the Russian Federation concerning the history and culture of the Ukrainian nation, as well as the indigenous peoples and local communities within its borders.

It has now been 558 days since the Russian Federation initiated a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, and over 9 years since the illegal occupation of the Crimean peninsula began. The tragic chain of events set in motion by the annexation in 2014 has had a profound impact on the history and culture of the indigenous Crimean Tatar people.

According to reports from the UN, over 10,000 people, predominantly Crimean Tatars, left Crimea after the annexation, and Tatar leaders have faced systematic intimidation, harassment and imprisonment.

In direct violation of international humanitarian law, Russia as the occupying power conducts the forced conscription of Ukrainian citizens in the temporarily occupied parts of Ukraine. The mobilization campaign in Crimea targets specifically Crimean Tatars, indigenous people of Crimea non-loyal towards the occupying administration.

Since the start of the full-scale invasion, Russia has deployed more than 6,500 missiles and over 3,500 attack drones, resulting in the damage of 1,582 cultural heritage sites and cultural infrastructure in Ukraine, with 585 of them being completely destroyed.

Russian war of aggression against Ukraine undermines the efforts of WIPO and other UN agencies on protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions worldwide, while simultaneously taking advantage of all privileges and abusing IP law. This harms not only the global community but also indigenous people and local communities.

It is imperative that Russia is denied any privileges or honors within WIPO.

In closing, we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Secretariat and all WIPO members who continue to offer unwavering support and solidarity to Ukraine and its people.

Thank you, Madam Chair.