



**GEED
FOUNDATION**

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**The Director General
World Intellectual Property
Organization (WIPO)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Resolutions of GEED-FOUNDATION to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore

The Global Education and Environment Development Foundation (GEED), which is a national development organization striving to foster WIPO objectives in Cameroon, has the honor to present to the **WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore** the following resolutions after consultation with our national collaborators and structures on the current trends on the Committee's objectives here in Cameroon:

- The GEED-FOUNDATION would like WIPO to provide capacity building for its staff at national level on current working trends, policies and operational structures on intellectual property rights and other WIPO objectives.
- The GEED-Foundation would be pleased to see WIPO structures and policies implemented in Cameroon either on its own or by a joint collaboration body made up of stakeholders such as the Cameroon Government, NGOs and other persons working for Intellectual Property Rights at the National and or International Level.
- That participation in WIPO Committee meetings in Geneva is presently very difficult for GEED staff or its grassroots member organizations as the visa processing procedures are very expensive, time wasting, and not straight forward here in Cameroon. This leads to the organization spending unnecessarily on unplanned activities that are not by any means meaning the actual participation in the Committee Sessions.
- That it would be very good if WIPO should organize regional meetings in the African sub-region to address matters affecting WIPO objectives in Africa directly since most African Institutions do not presently have the privilege and means to participate in the general sessions.
- That Cameroon needs a care taker institution where Intellectual matters could be redressed at national level before being forwarded to WIPO head office when appropriate. In the light of this, it would be of interest if National structures presently in place or are to be put in place have its staff trained to meet up with the objectives of WIPO. Such structures should be empowered to give adequate protection to intellectual matters at national level and equally be able to control a database and or registry where data on individuals or institutions' creative works could be stored and protected. That the above structure should have sub-structures closer to the people, leading to access to protect or protected data with adequate technology and manpower at the convenience of its beneficiaries in its registry.

- That WIPO make available public awareness structures that would make it possible for its members and common man at the grassroots to see the need and impact of WIPO objectives down to the National Level given the present difficulties for intended session participants getting up to Geneva.
- That there exist in all local communities of Cameroon, a lot of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Folklore that are undocumented and at present, many national and international intruders are exploiting these resources at the detriment of their authors and custodians. That the Northwest Province of Cameroon could serve as a starting site for the identification, collection and documentation of the above resources as the GEED-FOUNDATION and its collaborating structures hold valuable experience with working with this highly traditional part of Cameroon.
- That there exist no comprehensive registry or directory run or coordinated by the government or civil society where the above resources could be referred or is register(ed). That capacity-building and technical logistics would be needed with appropriate technology to come out with a sampling of this data in the Northwest Province of Cameroon. Our pre-feasibility studies have shown that these local communities and the international community would benefit a lot from the rich historic resources (cultural expressions, traditional medicine, stable traditional crops, and sculptures, etc) of these people if documented in an accessible dada base.
- Finally, that the GEED Foundation on its own part has mobilized other Civil Society Institutions to join heads together to see that Intellectual Property rights in all its dimensions are protected and benefits reap by their authors and custodians at the grassroots level here in Cameroon. However, GEED-FOUNDATION would need the assistance of WIPO to be able to attract the attention of the Cameroon Government to give it the mandate (or get in partnership) with administrative power to adequately effect activities leading to this objective. Equally, WIPO should share its experience and procedure in such matters with the GEED-Foundation and equally advise her on what to do at this kick off stage.

It may be of interest to know that the GEED Foundation is a recognized national development foundation with legal area of jurisdiction covering the national territories of Cameroon. The GEED-Foundation collaborates in all its activities with local governmental administrative structures. GEED has community representatives and resource persons ranging from Development Consultants, Conflict Mediators, Legal Practitioners, Gender Trainers/Advocates, Computer operators, Local Development/cultural Associations and Common Initiative Group leaders. The GEED Foundation is recognized and registered by the Minister of State in Charge of External Relations in the NGOs directory of the Cameroon Ministry of External Relations, MINREX in 2003.

While waiting for your kindest considerations, accept Sir/Madam our warmest regards.

Sincerely,

MUMA Joseph Azeh (Mr.)
Delegate General, Board of Directors
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