

**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION**  
**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON**  
**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES,**  
**TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE**

Eleventh Session  
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Opening Statement by Jebra Ram Muchahary, ICITP

Mr. Chairman,

Greetings! Gwjwnthwng! Nomoskar!

I would like to join in congratulating you for your re-election as the Chair for this 11<sup>th</sup> session of IGC on IPGRTKF.

I also would like to thank the WIPO secretariat for providing me Voluntary Fund to participate in this session and there by facilitating my organization to participate in the deliberation.

My name is Jebra Ram Muchahary and I belong to Boro Indigenous People of Assam in India. I represent Indian Confederation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in the capacity of the Chief President.

Mr. Chair, we are over 100 millions of people commonly described as Scheduled Tribes in India. Official census of 2001 indicates that we are 8.2% of the total population of the country. Indian Confederation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ICITP) is the national apex body of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples that work for the total welfare and other concerned issues of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in the country.

Mr. Chair, we have heard the opening statements made by the representatives of many Governments including India. I do appreciate the efforts and concerns expressed by the various government delegations including India in protecting and promoting the INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, TRADITIONAL CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS AND FOLKLORES.

While appreciating the tremendous work and contribution by India in these processes to push forward for the concrete result, however, through this august forum I would like to take this opportunity to urge the Government of India to make the ongoing efforts to be more collaborative and inclusive in order to collectively work out more effective and practical approaches on the ground for the mutual benefits, particularly for the benefit of the right holders (IPs) and the state.

I also would like to take this opportunity to urge the Government of India to recognise the very fundamental issue of "Indigenous status" of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the country by ratifying the ILO convention-169 in order to respect the presence of IPs in the country and to strengthen the national position in safeguarding the Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions and Expression of Folklore of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.

Finally, I also would like to appeal the Asian Governments, particularly India, who abstained in the last UN General Assembly not to abstain in the ensuing UN General Assembly but to support the UN Declaration of Indigenous Peoples which will demonstrate strengthened mutual understanding and cooperation between IPs and the state towards finding PEACEFUL SOLUTION in all matters that effect directly or indirectly in Indigenous Peoples' affairs and to push further for positive outcome to address the issues of GR, TK, TCEs and EoF.

I thank you Mr. Chair for your kind attention.

(Jebra Ram Muchahary)  
Chief President, ICITP