


[Breakthrough development for ICIP — WIPO approves conference for international agreement](#)

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Source: [World Intellectual Property Organization](#) 

Abstract:

In a breakthrough development for the protection of Indigenous Cultural IP (ICIP) at the international level, on 21 July 2022, the [World Intellectual Property Organization](#)  (WIPO) has approved the convening of a diplomatic conference for a proposed international agreement related to IP, genetic resources and traditional knowledge (TK) associated with genetic resources.

WIPO holds diplomatic conferences to negotiate and adopt or revise multilateral treaties. It also approved a diplomatic conference relating to the protection of designs to ease cross border trade.

Draft International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources

The ICIP-related conference will address the Draft International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources, a new international legal instrument developed within WIPO. The instrument addresses certain IP questions related to access to, use of and benefit-sharing in these resources and knowledge systems, eg for a proposed new “patent disclosure requirement”. Supported by many countries, this proposal would require applicants for patents whose inventions use genetic resources and associated TK to disclose that fact and other related information in their patent applications.

TK associated with genetic resources, eg plants, animals and microorganisms, is valuable both scientifically and is integral to the economic and cultural well-being of indigenous and local communities all over the world.

Other ideas include more extensive use of databases of information about genetic resources and TK that would be useful for patent examiners in avoiding the grant of erroneous patents.

Proposed Design Law Treaty

This treaty aims to help designers obtain design protection in the local and overseas markets faster, cheaper and more easily, by streamlining the global system. The treaty intends to eliminate red tape and accelerate protection procedures, which would particularly be of benefit to smaller-scale designers and SME's in low-medium income countries.

See the WIPO's Press release: [WIPO Member States Approve Diplomatic Conferences for Two Proposed Accords](#) .

See also our guidance [International developments in ICIP](#)  and [Reforms to the Patents system to address ICIP issues](#) .

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