



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA**

**NATIONAL STATEMENT OF FIJI TO BE DELIVERED AT THE 64TH SERIES OF
MEETINGS OF THE WIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLIES**

Madam Chair¹ , Director General, Honourable Ministers and Excellencies.

Fiji commends your leadership of this Assembly Madam Chair and assures you of our full support. We join the Pacific Group statement and the statement of the APG, ably led and coordinated by Indonesia.

Fiji values intellectual property (IP) as a key driver of innovation, creativity, and sustainable growth. We believe that IP rights are essential for a knowledge-based society and the achievement of the SDGs, especially in the Pacific where we face unique challenges due to our vulnerability and limited resources. It is thus essential that dedicated programs for small island developing states in WIPO are increased.

Fiji's identity, diversity, and sustainability are rooted in our traditional knowledge and cultural expressions. To protect and promote them, the Fijian Government has initiated the development of a national legal framework for TK and TCEs since April this year. We aim to prevent the loss of our cultural heritage and its misuse.

Therefore, we welcome the Diplomatic Conference on GR and related TK to be convened in 2024. We look forward to continuing the discussions in the IGC, with a view to reaching a common understanding on all outstanding elements and urge all member states to show flexibility and compromise in order to achieve a positive outcome.

Fiji is proud of its recent recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples through a statement made here in Geneva last month by our President and Head of State (HE Ratu Wiliame Katonivere), declaring Fiji's full endorsement of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). We believe that respecting and protecting their traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions is essential for preserving their cultural diversity and vitality.

Madam Chair, we acknowledge WIPO's vital role in strengthening IP protection at national and international levels through effective cooperation, including the use of geographical indicators to safeguard our legitimate resources.

¹ **Ambassador Ms.Tatiana Molcean – Moldova**



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We commend the visionary leadership of DG Daren Tang and appreciate WIPO's financial and technical assistance to our countries.

You can be assured of Fiji's continuing cooperation for a successful outcome at this Assembly.

Vinaka Vakalevu, Thank you.

A 2-minute version is below:

Madam Chair, Director General, Honourable Ministers and Excellencies,

Fiji supports your leadership of this Assembly and the statements of the Pacific Group and the APG.

Fiji values IP as a key driver of innovation, creativity, and sustainable growth. We believe that IP rights are essential for a knowledge-based society and the achievement of the SDGs, especially in the Pacific where we face unique challenges. We urge WIPO to increase its programs for small island developing states.

Fiji's identity, diversity, and sustainability are rooted in our traditional knowledge and cultural expressions. To protect and promote them, we have initiated the development of a national legal framework for TK and TCEs. We aim to prevent the loss of our cultural heritage and its misuse.

We welcome the Diplomatic Conference on GR and related TK in 2024. We look forward to continuing the discussions in the IGC, with a view to reaching a common understanding on all outstanding elements.

Fiji is proud of its recent recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples through our President's endorsement of the UNDRIP last month in Geneva. We believe that respecting and protecting the traditional knowledge and cultural expressions of our people is essential for preserving their cultural diversity and vitality.

We acknowledge WIPO's vital role in strengthening IP protection at national and international levels through effective cooperation, including the use of geographical indicators to safeguard our legitimate resources.



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