



**Statement of H.E. Archbishop Ettore Balestrero, Apostolic Nuncio
and Permanent Representative of the Holy See to the United Nations
and Other International Organizations in Geneva
at the Closing Session of the WIPO Diplomatic Conference which adopted the new
WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge
Associated with Genetic Resources
Geneva, 24 May 2024**

Mr. President,

The Holy See wishes to express its deep gratitude to you, Ambassador Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota, and to WIPO Director General Daren Tang, for your remarkable leadership throughout the entire process of this Diplomatic Conference. My Delegation also extends its thanks to the Presidents of the Committees, Ms. Jodie McAlister (Australia) and Ms. Vivienne Katjuongua (Namibia), for their skillful handling of the procedure toward a successful outcome. We also express our appreciation to the WIPO Secretariat for their unwavering efforts and tireless support over the past few days.

The Holy See sincerely welcomes the adoption of this Treaty that establishes an international mechanism, marking a significant step forward in our collective dedication to safeguarding invaluable genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

My Delegation particularly commends the constructive approach taken by all the parties involved in the negotiation process. This approach reflects a profound commitment to fostering multilateral cooperation, achieving compromise, and advancing a dynamic, inclusive, and forward-looking IP system that benefits everyone.

The Holy See appreciates with satisfaction the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the process, as well as the incorporation of a language that accommodates their needs within different national contexts and constitutional arrangements.

Finally, the Holy See reaffirms the importance of excluding human genetic resources from the scope of this Treaty, as set forth in Article 2 and agreed upon throughout the preparatory works. This underscores that respect for human dignity remains the foremost shared principle that underpins our coexistence, the sanctity of human life, and the common good.

I thank you, Mr. President.