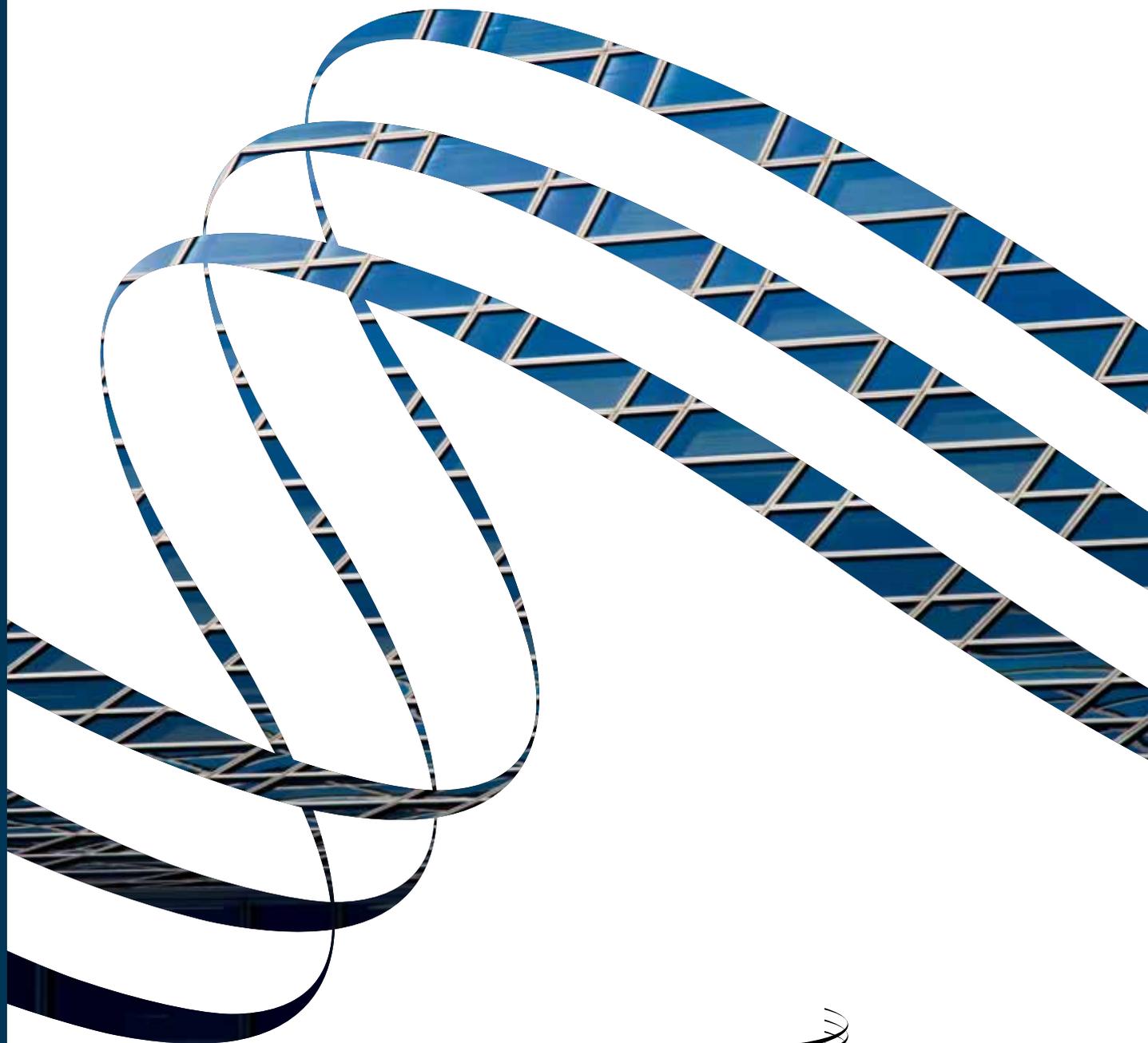


Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

List of Decisions

56th Series of Meetings



2016

PREFACE

The Fifty-Sixth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies and other Bodies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and of the Unions administered by WIPO, hereinafter “the 56th Assemblies”, was held in Geneva, from October 3 to 11, 2016.¹

The present document² contains the list of the decisions adopted at those meetings, together with additional information, as appropriate. Questions, comments or suggestions on this document can be addressed to assemblies@wipo.int.

About the WIPO Assemblies

WIPO is a UN specialized agency composed of 189 Member States, serving as the global forum for intellectual property (IP) services, policy, information and cooperation. WIPO’s mandate is set out in the WIPO Convention pursuant to which WIPO was established in 1970.

As established by the Convention, the main policy and decision making bodies of WIPO are the General Assembly and the Coordination Committee.

In addition to the WIPO Convention, WIPO administers another 25 IP treaties³, most with their own decision making bodies, such as the Paris Union Assembly, the Berne Union Assembly and the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Union Assembly.

The decision making bodies of the WIPO Convention and of the treaties administered by WIPO traditionally meet in joint sessions in autumn on the basis of a consolidated agenda. These meetings bring together WIPO’s Member States, allowing them to take stock of the progress in the Organization’s work and to discuss future policy directions.

Those are the “Meetings of the Assemblies and other Bodies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and of the Unions administered by WIPO”, also known as the “WIPO Assemblies”.

At the 56th WIPO Assemblies, 21 bodies met in joint sessions. The list of those bodies appears in document A/56/INF/1 Rev.2 (General Information).

¹ The home page of the 56th Assemblies: <http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/> <http://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/>

² The document is available in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish: http://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/2016/a_56/

³ The list of WIPO-administered treaties: <http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/>

ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE SESSIONS

Ambassador Jānis Kārklīš (Mr.) (Latvia), Vice-Chair of the General Assembly, opened the 56th Assemblies on October 3, 2016, and conducted the sessions as Acting Chair in accordance with Rule 10 of the WIPO General Rules of Procedure.

Documents: A/56/INF/1 Rev.2 (General Information), A/56/INF/2 (List of Documents), A/56/INF/3 (List of Participants).

ITEM 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Document: A/56/INF/4 (Election of Officers)

Decision: The following officers were elected:

General Assembly

Acting Vice-Chair: Juan Raúl Heredia Acosta (Mexico)

Coordination Committee

Chair: Luis Enrique Chávez Basagoitia (Peru)

Vice-Chair: Pamela Wille (Ms.) (Germany)

Vice-Chair: Christopher Onyanga Aparr (Uganda)

Paris Union Executive Committee

Chair: Magui Angèle Koubitobo Batisseck Nnoko (Ms.) (Cameroon)

Vice-Chair: R.M. Michael Tene (Indonesia)

Vice-Chair: Emil Hasanov (Azerbaijan)

Berne Union Executive Committee

Chair: Fayssal Allek (Algeria)

Vice-Chair: Sumit Seth (India)

Vice-Chair: Manuel Guerra Zamarro (Mexico)

Lisbon Union Assembly

Acting Chair: João Pina De Morais (Portugal)

Marrakesh Treaty Assembly

Chair: Marcelo Calero Faria García (Brazil)

Vice-Chair: Sumit Seth (India)

Vice-Chair: Mark Schaan (Canada)

The consolidated list of all officers of the WIPO Assemblies appears in document A/56/INF/4.

Additional Information: According to the relevant rules of procedure, the officers of the WIPO Assemblies (i.e. the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of each WIPO body that meets at the WIPO Assemblies) are elected once every two years during ordinary sessions, and therefore serve a two-year mandate. Officers were elected at the October 2015 Assemblies and the next elections will take place at the October 2017 Assemblies. This is with the exception of the officers of the Coordination Committee, as well as the officers of the Paris Union and Berne Union Executive Committees, respectively, whose mandates are limited to one year, as these bodies meet every year in ordinary sessions. An election for these three bodies therefore takes place every year. At the 56th Assemblies, Officers were elected, exceptionally, for the Marrakesh Treaty Assembly for a term of one year, following the entry into force of this Treaty on September 30, 2016.

ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Document: A/56/1 (Consolidated and Annotated Agenda).

Decision: The 56th Assemblies adopted the proposed agenda.

ITEM 4: REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO THE WIPO ASSEMBLIES

Document: Report of the Director General to the WIPO Assemblies⁴.

Mr. Francis Gurry, Director General, introduced his annual report to the 56th Assemblies.

ITEM 5: GENERAL STATEMENTS

At the 56th Assemblies, general statements were made by 114 States (9 on behalf of groups of States), 6 intergovernmental organizations, and 10 non-governmental organizations.

ITEM 6: ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

Document: A/56/2 (Admission of Observers).

Decision: The 56th Assemblies decided to grant observer status to five Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) as follows:

- International NGOs: (i) African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA); (ii) Centre international d'investissement (CII Suisse); and (iii) Medicines for Africa.
- National NGOs: (i) Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA); and (ii) Karisma Foundation

Additional Information: WIPO welcomes the participation of observers at the Assemblies and at other formal meetings of Member States, effectively contributing to open, transparent and responsive interaction with this observer community. Following this decision, the Member States of WIPO have granted permanent observer status to 258 international NGOs and 82 national NGOs to attend the meetings of the Assemblies; these observers are also invited to attend, in the same capacity, meetings of committees, working groups, or other bodies subsidiary to the Assemblies. More information to obtain observer status is available at <http://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/observers/index.html>.

ITEM 7: DRAFT AGENDAS FOR 2017 ORDINARY SESSIONS

Document: A/56/3 (Draft Agendas for the 2017 Ordinary Sessions of the WIPO General Assembly, the WIPO Conference, the Paris Union Assembly and the Berne Union Assembly).

Decision: "The WIPO Coordination Committee adopted Annexes I and II, the Paris Union Executive Committee adopted Annex III, and the Berne Union Executive Committee adopted Annex IV of document A/56/3."

Additional Information: According to WIPO provisions, the Coordination Committee formally prepares the draft agenda of the ordinary sessions of the WIPO General Assembly and of the WIPO Conference. Similarly, the Paris Union and the Berne Union Executive Committees prepare the draft agendas for their respective Assemblies. Ordinary sessions of these bodies

⁴ The report is available at: http://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_1050_2016.pdf

take place every two years (the next in 2017) and a standard item has to be taken up the previous year to complete the prescribed formalities. The annexes referred in the decision of the 56th Assemblies include draft agendas for the 2017 sessions of the above-mentioned bodies.

ITEM 8: NEW ELECTORAL CYCLE OF THE WIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLY OFFICERS

Document: WO/GA/48/14 Rev. (Election Cycle for the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly).

Decision: “In order to enhance the intergovernmental process and improve preparation of the WIPO General Assembly meetings, the General Assembly decided:

“(i) to modify the election cycle of the WIPO General Assembly officers (the Chair and two Vice-Chairs) such that their term of office begins at the end of the WIPO ordinary General Assembly session.

“(ii) to adopt the following WIPO General Assembly Special Rule of Procedure:

“Rule 6: *Officers*

(1) The Chair of the General Assembly and its two Vice-Chairs will be elected at the first meeting of the Assembly considering approval of the biennium program and budget, for the period of two years, and their term of office will begin following the final meeting of the said Assembly.

(2) Incumbent General Assembly officers will remain in office through the final meeting of the subsequent General Assembly session considering approval of the biennium program and budget.

(3) The outgoing Chair and Vice-Chairs shall not be immediately eligible for re-election to the office which they have held.”

“(iii) in order to facilitate the transition to the new electoral cycle, the current officers of the 2016 WIPO General Assembly will preside over the 2017 WIPO General Assembly meeting.”

Additional information: According to the proposal, this new electoral cycle could allow the Chair of the General Assembly more time to prepare, as the term would begin at the end of the previous session instead of at the start of the next one.

ITEM 9: AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT MATTERS

(i) WIPO Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC)

(a) Report by the WIPO Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC)

Documents: WO/GA/48/1 (Report by the WIPO IAOC), A/56/12 (Decisions taken by the Program and Budget Committee).⁵

Decision: “The WIPO General Assembly took note of the “Report by the WIPO Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC)” (document WO/GA/48/1).”

Additional Information: In the document, the IAOC reported on the quarterly sessions it held during this period. Specific matters addressed relate, amongst other, to Internal Oversight (draft internal work plan for 2016); status of recruitment of a new Director, IOD; review of the Audited Financial Statements for 2015 and the Report of the External Auditor; monitoring the Implementation of Oversight Recommendations; review and provide advice on the work plan of the Ethics Office; discussions with the Ombudsperson; and the status of various matters in the area of Administration and Management.

⁵ Hereinafter “the PBC”

(b) Proposals for Amendments to the Internal Oversight Charter by the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC)

Documents: WO/GA/48/16, WO/GA/48/16 Corr. (Proposals for Amendments to the Internal Oversight Charter by the IAOC), A/56/12 (Decisions taken by the PBC).

Decision: “The General Assembly decided to:

- “(i) adopt the revised Internal Oversight Charter (IOC) enclosed in the Annex; and
- “(ii) request the Independent Advisory and Oversight Committee, to prepare, with technical assistance from the Secretariat and after consultation with Member States, for consideration and adoption by the Coordination Committee at its next session, appropriate modalities and procedures (including any necessary proposed amendments to the Staff regulations) pursuant to the revision of the Internal Oversight Charter, including those applicable to processes undertaken by the Coordination Committee.”

Additional Information: This IOC constitutes the framework for the IOD of WIPO and establishes its mission: to examine and evaluate, in an independent manner, WIPO’s control and business systems and processes in order to identify good practices and to provide recommendations for improvement. IOD thus provides assurance as well as assistance to Management in the effective discharge of their responsibilities and the achievement of WIPO’s mission, goals and objectives. The purpose of this Charter is also to help strengthen accountability, value for money, stewardship, internal control and corporate governance in WIPO.

(ii) Report by the External Auditor

Documents: A/56/4 (Report by the External Auditor), A/56/12 (Decisions taken by the PBC).

Decision: “The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions, each as far as it is concerned, took note of the “Report by the External Auditor” (document A/56/4)”.

Additional Information: WIPO received an unqualified audit opinion on its financial statements from the External Auditor. Furthermore, the External Auditor provided a long form Report on the audit of WIPO, in accordance with Regulation 8.10 of the WIPO Financial Regulations and Rules.

(iii) Report by the Director of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD)

Documents: WO/GA/48/2 (Annual Report by the Director of the IOD), A/56/12 (Decisions taken by the PBC).

Decision: “The WIPO General Assembly took note of the “Annual Report by the Director of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD)” (document WO/GA/48/2).”

Additional Information: The Report contains information on, amongst other, significant internal oversight findings and recommendations, investigative activities, status of implementation of oversight recommendations, consultative and advisory oversight work, as well as IOD’s cooperation with the Ombudsman, the Ethics Office and with external oversight bodies.

ITEM 10: REPORT ON THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Documents: A/56/5 (Program Performance Report 2014/15), A/56/6 (IOD Validation Report for the Program Performance Report (PPR) for 2014/15), A/56/7 (Annual Financial Report and Financial Statements 2015), A/56/8 (Financial Management Report for the 2014/15 Biennium), A/56/9 (Review of Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2010-2015), A/56/10, A/56/10 Add. (Medium-Term Strategic Plan for the WIPO for 2016-2021), A/56/11 (Status of Contributions as at September 1, 2016), A/56/12 (Decisions taken by the PBC).

Decision: “The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each as far as it is concerned:

“(i) took note of the “List of Decisions” (document WO/PBC/25/21);

“(ii) with respect to all issues under this Agenda Item, except for PBC Agenda Item 16 “Review of Allocation Methodology for the Income and Budget by Union” and PBC Agenda Item 13 “Opening of New WIPO External Offices”, approved the recommendations made by the PBC as contained in document WO/PBC/25/21;

“(iii) with respect to PBC Agenda Item 16 “Review of Allocation Methodology for the Income and Budget by Union”, having discussed document A/56/14, took note of the work of the PBC and stressed the importance of efficient management and transparency in the presentation of proposed WIPO Program and Budget documents so that informed decisions may be taken by the relevant WIPO Assemblies; and

“(iv) with respect to PBC Agenda Item 13 “Opening of new WIPO External Offices”, having examined document A/56/15, and in accordance with the decision of the 2015 General Assembly (document A/55/13), the General Assembly decided:

1. to open WIPO External Offices in Algeria and Nigeria; and
2. to continue consultations on the opening of one External Office in the current biennium and three External Offices in the 2018-2019 biennium based on a relevant call for proposals made by the Secretariat with a view to making a decision on the above during the 2017 General Assembly based on the Guiding Principles.”

Additional Information: The List of Decisions adopted by the PBC covered, amongst other, the following issues: Report by the WIPO IAOC, Report of the selection Panel for the Appointment of the New Members of the WIPO IAOC, Report by the External Auditor, Annual Report by the Director of the IOD, Progress Report on the Implementation of the Joint Inspection Unit’s (JIU) Recommendations, Program Performance Report for 2014/15, Annual Financial Statements 2015; Status of the Payment of Contributions as at June 30, 2016, Financial Management Report (FMR) for the 2014/15 biennium, Annual Report on Human Resources, Opening of New WIPO External Offices, Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2010-2015 and 2016-2021, Proposals on After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI), Review of Allocation Methodology for the Income and Budget by Union, Further Update on Proposal Concerning Hedging Strategy For PCT Income, Governance Issues, Final Report on the Construction Projects and Progress Report on the Implementation of an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System in WIPO. The PBC is tentatively scheduled to meet from July 10 to 14, 2017 and from September 11 to 15, 2017.

ITEM 11: REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS (SCCR)

Document: WO/GA/48/3 (Report on the SCCR).

Decision: “The WIPO General Assembly:

“(i) took note of the “Report on the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights” (document WO/GA/48/3); and

“(ii) directed the SCCR to continue its work regarding the issues reported on in document WO/GA/48/3.”

Additional Information: The report indicates that the SCCR addressed the following matters over the past year: (i) protection of broadcasting organizations, (ii) limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives, and (iii) limitations and exceptions for educational and research institutions and persons with other disabilities. The SCCR met from November 14 to 18, 2016, and is tentatively scheduled to meet from May 1 to 5, 2017 and from November 13 to 17, 2017.

ITEM 12: REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF PATENTS (SCP)

Document: WO/GA/48/4 (Report on the Standing Committee on the SCP).

Decision: “The WIPO General Assembly took note of the “Report on the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents” (document WO/GA/48/4).”

Additional Information: The report indicates that the SCP addressed the following matters over the past year: (i) exceptions and limitations to patent rights, (ii) quality of patents, including opposition systems, (iii) patents and health, (iv) the confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors, and (v) transfer of technology. The SCP met from December 12 to 15, 2016, and is tentatively scheduled to meet from June 27 to 30, 2017 and from December 11 to 14, 2017.

ITEM 13: REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF TRADEMARKS, INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (SCT)

Document: WO/GA/48/5 (Report on the SCT).

Decision: “The WIPO General Assembly took note of the “Report on the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications” (document WO/GA/48/5).”

Additional Information: Apart from the Design Law Treaty (see also Agenda Item 14 below), the main points reflected in the report concerned the following: (i) the adoption by the SCT of a reference document on the Protection of Country Names Against Registration and Use as Trademarks, as well as the production, by the Secretariat, of a document reflecting possible areas of convergence on the subject; (ii) a request by the SCT for the Secretariat to issue a questionnaire on similarities and differences in the protection of new technological designs, and to produce a compilation of the replies; and (iii) the holding of an exchange of views at the SCT regarding several proposals concerning the protection of geographical indications in national systems, and the protection of geographical indications and country names in the Domain Name System. The SCT met from October 17 to 19, 2016, and is tentatively scheduled to meet from March 27 to 31, 2017 and from October 30 to November 3, 2017.

ITEM 14: MATTERS CONCERNING THE CONVENING OF A DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE FOR THE ADOPTION OF A DESIGN LAW TREATY (DLT)

Document: WO/GA/48/6 (Matters Concerning the Convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a DLT).

Decision: “The WIPO General Assembly decided that, at its next session in October 2017, it will continue considering the convening of a diplomatic conference on the Design Law Treaty, to take place at the end of the first half of 2018.”

ITEM 15: REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (CDIP) AND REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA RECOMMENDATIONS

Documents: WO/GA/48/7 (Report on the CDIP and Review of the Implementation of the Development Agenda Recommendations), WO/GA/48/8 (Decision on the CDIP Related Matters), WO/GA/48/13 (Description of the Contribution of the Relevant WIPO Bodies to the Implementation of the Respective Development Agenda Recommendations).

Decision: “The WIPO General Assembly:

- (a) took note of the “Report on the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) and Review of the Implementation of the Development Agenda Recommendations” (document WO/GA/48/7);
- (b) with respect to document WO/GA/48/8 entitled “Decision on the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) Related Matters”, allowed the CDIP to continue, during its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions, the discussion on the decision on CDIP related matters adopted at the forty-third session of the WIPO General Assembly, and to report back and make recommendations on the two matters to the WIPO General Assembly in 2017;
- (c) took note of the information contained in the “Description of the Contribution of the Relevant WIPO Bodies to the Implementation of the Respective Development Agenda Recommendations” (document WO/GA/48/13), and forwarded to the CDIP the reports referred in that document.”

Additional Information: Document WO/GA/48/7 contains the Summary by the Chair of the last two CDIP sessions and the Director General’s Report on Implementation of the Development Agenda, presented at the April 2016 CDIP session. Document WO/GA/48/8 refers to the discussions concerning the implementation of the CDIP mandate and of the Coordination Mechanisms. Document WO/GA/48/13 refers to the report by relevant WIPO Bodies and their implementation of the respective Development Agenda Recommendations. The CDIP met from October 31 to November 4, 2016, and is tentatively scheduled to meet from May 15 to 19, 2017 and from November 27 to December 1, 2017.

ITEM 16: REPORT ON THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE (IGC)

Documents: WO/GA/48/9 (Report on the IGC).

Decision: “The WIPO General Assembly took note of the “Report on the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)” (document WO/GA/48/9) in accordance with the IGC’s mandate for the 2016/2017 biennium and the IGC’s work program for 2016.”

Additional Information: The IGC met from November 28 to December 2, 2016, and is tentatively scheduled to meet from February 27 to March 3, 2017 and from June 12 to 16, 2017. A Seminar on Intellectual Property and Traditional Knowledge was held on November 24 and 25, 2016, and a Seminar on Intellectual Property and Traditional Cultural Expressions will be held tentatively on June 8 and 9, 2017.

ITEM 17: REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON WIPO STANDARDS (CWS)

Document: WO/GA/48/10 (Report on the CWS).

Decision: “The WIPO General Assembly took note of the “Report on the Committee on WIPO Standards” (document WO/GA/48/10).”

Additional Information: The report indicates that the CWS addressed the following matters over the past year: (i) WIPO Standards – revision and development, and (ii) other matters relating to industrial property information and documentation. The CWS is tentatively scheduled to meet from May 29 to June 2, 2017.

ITEM 18: REPORT ON THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENFORCEMENT (ACE)

Document: WO/GA/48/11 (Report on the ACE).

Decision: “The WIPO General Assembly took note of the “Report on the Advisory Committee on Enforcement” (document WO/GA/48/11).”

Additional Information: The report indicates that the ACE addressed the following matters over the past year: (i) practices and operation of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) systems in IP areas, (ii) preventive actions, measures or successful experiences to complement ongoing enforcement measures, (iii) national experiences on awareness building activities and strategic campaigns as a means for building respect for IP among the general public, (iv) national experiences relating to institutional arrangements concerning IP enforcement policies and regimes; (v) national experiences in respect of WIPO’s legislative assistance, (vi) success stories on capacity building and support from WIPO. The ACE is tentatively scheduled to meet from September 4 to 6, 2017.

ITEM 19: PCT SYSTEM**(i) Report on the PCT Working Group**

Document: PCT/A/48/1 (Report on the PCT Working Group).

Decision: “The Assembly:

“(i) took note of the “Report on the PCT Working Group” (document PCT/A/48/1); and
(ii) approved the convening of a session of the PCT Working Group as set out in paragraph 6 of that document.”

Additional Information: The report indicates that, amongst others, the PCT Working Group addressed the following matters over the past year: PCT online services, a PCT user survey, PCT fee income and possible reductions for certain applicants, coordination of technical assistance, training of examiners, and extension of appointment of International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities. Paragraph 6 of document PCT/A/48/1 refers to the intention of the Working Group to hold one session over the next year and to provide financial assistance to enable the attendance of certain delegations, as in the past. The PCT Working Group is tentatively scheduled to meet from May 8 to 12, 2017.

(ii) Quality-Related Work by International Authorities

Document: PCT/A/48/2 (Quality-Related Work by International Authorities).

Decision: “The Assembly took note of the report “Quality-Related Work by International Authorities” contained in document PCT/A/48/2.”

Additional information: The quality-related work by the International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities under the PCT (“International Authorities”) is pursued mainly through the work of the Quality Subgroup set up by the Meeting of International Authorities at its seventeenth session in 2009.

(iii) Proposed Amendments to the PCT Regulations

Document: PCT/A/48/3 (Proposed Amendments to the PCT Regulations).

Decision: “The Assembly:

“(i) adopted the amendments to the Regulations under the PCT set out in Annex I to document PCT/A/48/3; and

“(ii) adopted the decisions set out in paragraph 7 of document PCT/A/48/3 relating to entry into force and transitional arrangements.”

Additional information: The Assembly adopted amendments to the PCT Regulations to extend the deadline for requesting supplementary international search from 19 to 22 months from the priority date, to clarify the relationship between certain provisions in relation to the transmittal by the receiving Office of earlier search and/or classification results to the International Searching Authority, and to delete two “incompatibility provisions” following withdrawal of the remaining notifications under these provisions. These amendments will enter into force on July 1, 2017.

(iv) Appointment of the Turkish Patent Institute as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority under the PCT

Document: PCT/A/48/4 (Appointment of the Turkish Patent Institute as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority under the PCT).

Decision: “The Assembly, in accordance with Articles 16(3) and 32(3) of the PCT, having heard the Representative of the Turkish Patent Institute and taking into account the advice of the PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation set out in paragraph 5 of document PCT/A/48/4, and noting the reservations expressed by the Delegation of Cyprus:

“(i) approved the text of the draft Agreement between the Turkish Patent Institute and the International Bureau set out in the Annex to document PCT/A/48/4; and

“(ii) appointed the Turkish Patent Institute as an International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority with effect from the entry into force of the Agreement until December 31, 2017.”

Additional information: The Turkish Patent Institute (TPI), established in 1994 in Ankara, serves as a public institution, responsible for administration of industrial property rights under the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology. The appointment of International Searching Authorities (ISAs) and International Preliminary Examining Authorities (IPEAs) under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) is a matter for the Assembly and is governed by Articles 16(3) and 32(3) of the PCT. It follows from Rules 36.1(iv) and 63.1(iv) of the Regulations under the PCT that any appointment will be as both an ISA and an IPEA.

ITEM 20: MADRID SYSTEM**(i) Progress Report on the Madrid Systems Goods and Services Database**

Document: MM/A/50/1 (Progress Report on the Madrid Systems Goods and Services Database).

Decision: “The Assembly:

“(i) took note of the “Progress Report on the Madrid System Goods and Services Database” (document MM/A/50/1), including its paragraph 33 related to the remaining project funds; and

“(ii) requested the International Bureau to submit to the Assembly in 2017 a new Progress Report on the Madrid System Goods and Services Database, including the use of remaining project funds.”

Additional information: At the meeting, the Secretariat stated that the focus had been on the operational support of the *Madrid System Goods and Services Database (MGS)*, that the database was available in 17 languages, that a total of 20 IP participating national or regional Offices provided acceptance information for display in MGS, that the MGS Database had been brought into line with the 2016 version of the tenth edition of the Nice Classification in January 2016, and that the remaining funds from the development project continued to be used for facilitating MGS translation activities.

(ii) Review of the Application of Article 9*sexies* of the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks

Document: MM/A/50/2 (Review of the Application of Article 9*sexies* of the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks)

Decision: “The Assembly:

“(i) took note of the “Review of the Application of Article 9*sexies* of the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks” (document MM/A/50/2); and

“(ii) adopted the recommendation made by the Working Group, as set forth in paragraph 2 of the “Review of the Application of Article 9*sexies* of the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks” (document MM/A/50/2).”

Additional Information: As a consequence of the Assembly’s decision, paragraph (1)(b) of Article 9*sexies* of the Protocol was neither repealed nor restricted in its scope. Furthermore, any further review of the application of the said Article should be undertaken by the Working Group at the express request of any member of the Madrid Union or the International Bureau.

(iii) Proposal Regarding Accessions to the Madrid Union Only

Document: MM/A/50/3 (Proposal Regarding Accessions to the Madrid Union Only)

Decision: “The Assembly:

“(i) considered the proposals made in the “Proposal Regarding Accessions to the Madrid Agreement Only” (document MM/A/50/3); and

“(ii) took the decision to freeze the application of Article 14(1) and (2)(a) of the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, with the effects specified in paragraph 10 of the “Proposal Regarding Accessions to the Madrid Agreement Only” (document MM/A/50/3), as from the date of such decision.”

Additional Information: As a consequence of the Assembly’s decision, new Contracting Parties will not be able to ratify or accede to the Agreement alone but could ratify or accede simultaneously to the Agreement and the Protocol; countries that are Contracting Parties to the Protocol could accede to the Agreement; international applications may no longer be filed under the Agreement; no operations under the Agreement may be conducted, including the presentation of subsequent designations; Article 9*sexies*(1)(b) of the Protocol will still apply in the mutual relations between Contracting Parties bound by both the Agreement and the Protocol and the Assembly will still be able to deal with all matters concerning the implementation of the Agreement and can revert, at any time, to its decision to freeze the application of Articles 14(1) and (2)(a) of the Agreement.

(iv) Proposed Amendments to the Common Regulations under the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and the Protocol Relating to that Agreement

Document: MM/A/50/4 (Proposed Amendments to the Common Regulations under the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and the Protocol Relating to that Agreement).

Decision: “The Assembly:

“(i) adopted the amendments to Rules 12, 25, 26, 27 and 32 of the Common Regulations, to item 7.4 and to the title in French of item 7 of the Schedule of Fees, with a date of entry into force of July 1, 2017, as set out in Annex I to the “Proposed Amendments to the Common Regulations under the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and the Protocol Relating to that Agreement” (document MM/A/50/4);

“(ii) adopted the amendments to Rules 3, 18*ter*, 22, 25, 27 and 32, and the introduction of new Rule 23*bis* of the Common Regulations, with a date of entry into force of November 1, 2017, as set out in Annex II to the “Proposed Amendments to the Common Regulations under the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and the Protocol Relating to that Agreement” (document MM/A/50/4);

“(iii) adopted the amendments to Rules 22, 27, 32 and 40, the introduction of new Rules 27*bis* and 27*ter* of the Common Regulations and the introduction of item 7.7 in the Schedule of Fees, with a date of entry into force of February 1, 2019, as set out in Annex III to the “Proposed Amendments to the Common Regulations under the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and the Protocol Relating to that Agreement” (document MM/A/50/4); and

“(iv) suspended the entry into force of the amendments to Rule 24(5)(a) and (d) of the Common Regulations, which were adopted by the Assembly at its previous session until the Working Group had further reviewed the implications of their implementation.”

Additional Information: The decision introduces procedural changes intended to make the Madrid System more user-friendly. The Madrid Working Group is tentatively scheduled to meet from June 19 to 23, 2017.

(v) Madrid Union Surplus for the 2014/15 Biennium

Document: MM/A/50/INF/1 (Madrid Union Surplus for the 2014/15 Biennium).

Decision: No decision was required from the Assembly, as the document was merely informative.

ITEM 21: HAGUE SYSTEM

Document: H/A/36/1 (Proposed Amendments to the Common Regulations under the 1999 Act and the 1960 Act of the Hague Agreement).

Decision: “The Assembly adopted the amendments:

“(i) to Rule 5 of the Common Regulations, with a date of entry into force of January 1, 2017; and

“(ii) to Rules 14, 21 and 26, and to the Schedule of Fees of the Common Regulations with a date of entry into force to be decided by the International Bureau.

Additional Information: The report outlines the proposed amendments to the Common Regulations with respect to Rules 5, 14, 21, 26 and the Schedule of Fees.

ITEM 22: LISBON SYSTEM

Documents: LI/A/33/1 (Financial Matters Concerning the Lisbon Union) and LI/A/33/2 (Proposal on Financial Matters Concerning the Lisbon Union).

Decision: “The Assembly of the Lisbon Union:

“(i) took note of document LI/A/33/1 (Financial Matters Concerning the Lisbon Union) and document LI/A/33/2 (Proposal on Financial Matters Concerning the Lisbon Union)

“Concerning the Projected Deficit of the Lisbon Union for the 2016/17 Biennium

“(ii) took note of the statements made by Lisbon Union members and of the additional information regarding subventions under Article 11(3)(iii) of the Lisbon Agreement referred to in the Annex to document LI/A/33/2, as well as of the statements made by Delegations regarding such subventions at the present Lisbon Union Assembly noting that the subventions collected at this stage amount to over one million Swiss francs;

“(iii) agreed that the payment of subventions under Article 11(3)(iii) of the Lisbon Agreement referred to in paragraph (ii), above, would constitute measures to eliminate the projected biennial deficit of the Lisbon Union, in accordance with the decisions taken at the 2015 Assemblies (see documents LI/A/32/5, paragraphs 73(i) and (ii), and A/55/13, paragraphs 231(ii) and (iii), and 235); and

“(iv) requested the International Bureau to take the necessary administrative steps to receive subventions under Article 11(3)(iii) of the Lisbon Agreement to be made by Lisbon Union members;

“Concerning the Financial Sustainability of the Lisbon Union

“(v) decided to emphasize promotion activities of the Lisbon System including the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications;

“(vi) decided to continue consideration of the establishment of a contribution system in the framework of the unitary contribution system, as well as the methodology for calculating such contributions;

“(vii) decided to continue monitoring the Lisbon Fee Schedule with a view to reviewing it, for an eventual increase in the future; and

“(viii) decided to take advantage of the next meeting of the Lisbon Working Group, and informal meeting(s) that the Chair of the Working Group might request the Secretariat to organize, to further discuss the financial sustainability of the Lisbon Union, in particular items referred to in paragraphs (vi) and (vii), above.”

Additional Information: The Working Group for the Preparation of Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement is tentatively scheduled to meet from April 3 to 5, 2017.

ITEM 23: WIPO ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTER, INCLUDING DOMAIN NAMES

Document: WO/GA/48/12 Rev. (WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, Including Domain Names).

Decision: “The WIPO General Assembly took note of the document “WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, Including Domain Names” (document WO/GA/48/12 Rev.).”

Additional Information: The document contains an activity report of the Center as an international resource for efficient alternatives to court litigation of IP disputes, including an update of the WIPO Rules, and assistance requested by certain IP Offices in offering alternative dispute resolution (ADR) options. The number of cases which the Center administered in 2015 on the basis of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) increased by 4.6 per cent over the previous year; as of August 2016, the Center had administered a total of over 35,000 cases covering more than 65,000 domain names. Some 15 per cent of the Center’s caseload over 2016 involves registrations in newly-introduced Top-Level Domains.

ITEM 24: MARRAKESH TREATY**(i) Rules of Procedure**

Document: MVT/A/1 (Rules of Procedure)

Decision: “The Assembly adopted, as its own Rules of Procedures, the WIPO General Rules of Procedure with Rules 7, 9, and 25 amended as provided in document MVT/A/1/1, paragraphs 8, 11, and 13, as well as with the two additional special Rules of Procedure as provided in paragraph 14 of the same document.”

Additional Information: The “Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled” (Marrakesh Treaty) entered into force on September 30, 2016.

(ii) Status of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled

Document: MVT/A/2 Rev. (Status of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled).

Decision: “The Assembly took note of the information provided in document MVT/A/1/2 Rev.”

Additional Information: According to this document, 80 States have signed the Treaty and 22 States have ratified it by September 20, 2016.

ITEM 25: APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR, INTERNAL OVERSIGHT DIVISION

Documents: WO/CC/73/6, WO/CC/73/6 Corr. (Appointment of the Director, Internal Oversight Division).

Decision: “The WIPO Coordination Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 1 to 8 of document WO/CC/73/6 and endorsed the appointment of Mr. Singh as Director, Internal Oversight Division (IOD) for a non-renewable period of six years.”

Additional Information: Mr. Rajesh Singh (India) will take up his functions on February 1, 2017.

ITEM 26: REPORTS ON STAFF MATTERS**(i) Report on Human Resources**

Documents: WO/CC/73/1, WO/CC/73/1 Corr. (Annual Report on Human Resources).

Decision: “The WIPO Coordination Committee:

“(i) took note of the information contained in paragraphs 87 to 91 of document WO/CC/73/1 and elected Mr. Philippe Favatier as alternate member of the WIPO Staff Pension Committee (WSPC) for the period up to the ordinary session in 2019 of the WIPO Coordination Committee; and

“(ii) took note of the information contained in paragraphs 93 and 94 of document WO/CC/73/1.”

Additional Information: The report indicates that the following matters were addressed over the past year: (i) implementation of the Human Resources (HR) Strategy 2013-2015 resulting in enhanced geographical diversity and gender balance in staff recruitment, a sound balance between stability and flexibility in WIPO’s workforce, the updating and modernization of HR

processes and solutions, and increased investment in staff training and development, as well as in facilities supporting staff well-being, (ii) participatory policy-making with active staff participation on issues relating to a respectful and harmonious workplace and occupational health and safety, (iii) amendments to the Staff Regulations and Rules to rationalize staff benefits and entitlements and to ensure alignment with best practices in the UN Common system, (iv) preparation for the forthcoming changes in the UN system in the compensation package for staff in the Professional and higher categories, (v) outlook for the second half of the current biennium, and (vi) items for reporting to the WIPO Coordination Committee, either for information or in compliance with statutory obligations under the SRR.

(ii) Report on Geographical Distribution

Documents: WO/CC/73/5, WO/CC/73/5 Corr. (Report on Geographical Distribution)

Decision: “The WIPO Coordination Committee:

“(i) took note of the “Report on Geographical Distribution” (document WO/CC/73/5); and
“(ii) endorsed the preliminary recommendations described under paragraphs 17 and 18 of the same document.”

Additional Information: The (outgoing) Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee prepared the “Report on Geographical Distribution” following consultations mandated by the Coordination Committee. The preliminary recommendations adopted are basically as follows (as described in more detail under paragraphs 17 and 18 of the Report): (i) the Secretariat should expand outreach activities to cover, as a priority, unrepresented Member States; (ii) the Secretariat should systematically include a section on “Diversity” in Vacancy Notices for positions subject of geographical distribution under which the Organization’s aims of gender balance and equitable geographical distribution are articulated; and (iii) the other observations and proposals articulated by regional groups should be further considered in subsequent consultation meetings.

(iii) Report by the Ethics Office

Document: WO/CC/73/2 (Report by the Ethics Office).

Decision: “The WIPO Coordination Committee took note of the “Annual Report by the Ethics Office” (document WO/CC/73/2).”

Additional Information: The report outlines the activities of the Ethics Office related to: (i) promotional activities, (ii) confidential advice to senior management, managers and all staff members, (iii) norm-setting and policy development and (iv) implementation of policies assigned to the Ethics Office.

ITEM 27: AMENDMENTS TO STAFF REGULATIONS AND RULES

(i) Amendments to Staff Regulations and Rules

Document: WO/CC/73/3 (Amendments to Staff Regulations and Rules).

Decision: “The WIPO Coordination Committee:

“(i) approved the amendments to the Staff Regulations as provided in Annexes II, VIII and X, including new Regulation 3.25 on the Special Salary Increment, to be effective as from January 1, 2017, as well as those in Annex IV, to be effective either as from January 1, 2017 or as from any new date decided by the General Assembly of the United Nations;

“(ii) requested the Secretariat to develop a comprehensive staff mobility policy by the 2017 ordinary session of the Coordination Committee, for the Committee to review the use of the Special Salary Increment and to decide on whether to maintain or delete new Regulation 3.25.

- “(iii) approved the amendments to the Staff Regulations as provided in Annex VI, to be effective as from school year 2017/2018 or school year 2018, as the case may be;
- “(iv) approved the amendment to Staff Rule 8.1.1 as provided in Annex XII;
- “(v) approved a derogation to the amended Staff Regulation 3.6 in order to allow the implementation of the one-time measure mentioned in paragraphs 14 and 15;
- “(vi) took note of the amendments to the Staff Rules and related annexes as provided in Annexes III, V, VII, IX, XII and XIII.
- “(vii) took note of the ‘Study on staff mobility’ in Annex XI, as well as the Director General’s decision to maintain at one year the period of time during which candidates recommended by an appointment board but not appointed may be placed on a reserve list, as provided in Staff Rule 4.9.4.”

Additional Information: A number of amendments are required to implement the review of the UN common system compensation package for staff in the Professional and higher categories, as decided by the UN General Assembly in December 2015. Some other amendments result from an assessment of the practical and/or legal issues faced in applying the new provisions of the internal justice system, which entered into force on January 1, 2014. The remaining amendments are part of the ongoing review of the Staff Regulations and Rules in order to maintain a sound regulatory framework that adapts to, and supports, the changing needs and priorities of the Organization, while ensuring alignment with best practices in the UN common system.

(ii) Amendments to Staff Regulations on Education Grant for Staff Members Residing, but not Serving, in their Home Country

Documents: WO/CC/73/4 (Amendments to Staff Regulations on Education Grant for Staff Members Residing, but not Serving, in their Home Country) and WO/CC/73/INF/1 (Legal Opinion on the issue of Acquired Rights to Education Grant for Staff Members Residing, but not Serving, in their Home Country and Assessment of the Financial Impact of the Potential Introduction of a Limited Transitional Measure).

Decision: “The WIPO Coordination Committee approved, effective January 1, 2017:

- “(i) the deletion of WIPO Staff Regulation 3.14(f); and
- “(ii) the insertion of a transitional measure in Regulation 12.5, as stated in paragraph 2(ii) of “Amendments to Staff Regulations on Education Grant for Staff Members Residing, but not Serving, in their Home Country” (document WO/CC/73/4).”

Additional Information: The amendments adopted aim to discontinue the payment of an education grant under certain circumstances, while ensuring a limited transitional measure in order to encapsulate the requirement of notice.

ITEM 28: REVIEW OF THE OFFICE OF INTERNAL OVERSIGHT SERVICES (IOS) REPORT

Document: A/56/13 (Proposal for the Inclusion of a Supplementary Agenda Item entitled “Review of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (IOS) Report”)

Decision: “The 73rd (47th Ordinary) session of the WIPO Coordination Committee reaffirmed the decision of the 72nd (26th Extraordinary) session of the WIPO Coordination Committee and recommended to the WIPO General Assembly to:

- “(1) welcome the audit of the “Ethical Framework”, currently being conducted by the Internal Oversight Division (IOD);
- “(2) request the Secretariat to review the Whistleblower Protection Policy, taking into account lessons learned, recent developments in this area, and best practices from other organizations, and request the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC) to review and comment on the proposed revision;

“(3) request the Chief Ethics Officer to also include, in the annual report, information on any active cases of retaliation against witnesses who cooperate with an investigation of a report of wrongdoing, consistent with applicable WIPO procedures; and

“(4) request the Director, IOD to review the WIPO’s Procurement Policies and Procedures after the review currently being undertaken by the Director General, as recommended by the General Assembly and the Coordination Committee Chairs, to ensure clarity and transparency in WIPO’s procurement process, so that the conclusions and/or recommendations will be submitted to the Program and Budget Committee (PBC) for consideration by Member States.”

Additional Information: Under the next agenda item, the Chair of the Coordination Committee informed the General Assembly of the above decision.

ITEM 29: REVIEW OF THE OFFICE OF INTERNAL OVERSIGHT SERVICES (OIOS) REPORT

Documents: A/56/13 (Proposal for the Inclusion of a Supplementary Agenda Item entitled “Review of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) Report”) and WO/GA/48/15 (Decisions taken by the WIPO Coordination Committee).

Decision: “The WIPO General Assembly took note of the report by the Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee and approved the recommendations made by the seventy-second and seventy-third sessions of the WIPO Coordination Committee (documents WO/CC/72/4 and A/56/16).”

Additional Information: In addition to the decision adopted by the Coordination Committee under the previous item (corresponding to its 72nd session), the General Assembly also acted upon the decision of the 73rd session of the Coordination Committee, which took place on October 7, 2016.

ITEM 30: ADOPTION OF THE REPORTS

Documents: See Annex to the present document.

Decision: “The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each as far as it is concerned,

“(i) adopted the present Summary Report (document A/56/16); and

“(ii) requested the Secretariat to finalize the Extensive Reports, post them on the WIPO website and communicate them to Member States by October 31, 2016. Comments should be submitted to the Secretariat by November 30, 2016, after which the final reports will be deemed adopted by December 16, 2016.”

Additional Information: The Summary Report included the list of decisions adopted. The Extensive Reports, adopted on December 16, 2016, supersede the Summary Report with the inclusion of all statements made.

ITEM 31: CLOSING OF THE SESSIONS

The 56th Assemblies were closed by the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, Ambassador Jānis Kārklīņš, on October 11, 2016. The 57th session will take place at WIPO headquarters from October 2 to 11, 2017.

LIST OF REPORTS OF THE 56th ASSEMBLIES

A/56/17	General Report of the 56 th Assemblies (145 pg.)
WO/GA/48/17	Report of the 48 th General Assembly (68 pg.)
WO/CC/73/7	Report of the 73 rd WIPO Coordination Committee (40 pg.)
PCT/A/48/5	Report of the 48 th Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Union Assembly (17 pg.)
P/EC/56/1	Report of the 56 th Paris Union Executive Committee (1 pg.)
B/EC/62/1	Report of the 62 nd Berne Union Executive Committee (1 pg.)
MM/A/50/5	Report of the 50 th Madrid Union Assembly (6 pg.)
H/A/36/2	Report of the 36 th Hague Union Assembly (2 pg.)
LI/A/33/3	Report of the 33 rd Lisbon Union Assembly (8 pg.)
MVT/A/1/3	Report of the 1 st Marrakesh Treaty Assembly (15 pg.)
Total:	10 Reports containing 303 pages

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