

Member States approve 8 percent growth in program and budget for 2000-2001

The member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) approved by consensus the program and budget for the 2000-2001 biennium presented by WIPO Director General, Dr. Kamil Idris.

The program and budget for the 2000-2001 biennium proposes a budget of 409.7 million Swiss Francs (CHF). This represents an increase of 8 percent over the 1998-1999 biennium (378.9 million CHF). Projected income for the same time period is 409.8 million CHF as compared to 391.8 million CHF in the previous financial period. The surplus in the 2000-2001 biennium is therefore expected to be negligible.

The program and budget proposes an increase of 11.2 percent in the program allocation for supporting developing countries and countries in transition. WIPO's activities in the development of intellectual property legal norms will increase by 11.3 percent as compared to the last biennium. The Organization's activities in global protection systems - namely, the Patent

PCT fees to be reduced once again

The WIPO Assemblies also approved a proposal to once again lower the fees of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) by an average of 13 percent effective January 1, 2000. The cumulative effect of this measure (including two earlier PCT fee reductions in 1998 and 1999) would mean a 29.2 percent reduction in the cost for an applicant using the PCT.

Cooperation Treaty (PCT), the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks, and the Hague System for the International Deposit of Industrial Designs - will increase by 10.1 percent.

Another feature is a reduction in the contributions by member States of 10 percent below the 1999 level, which is in itself 10 percent below the 1998 level. Unlike other specialized agencies of the United Nations, WIPO is mostly self-financed, expecting to generate some 91 percent of its income in 2000-2001 from international registration and other services it renders essentially to the private sector.

The program and budget for 2000-2001 seeks to ensure that WIPO continues as a modern, forward-looking organization that is efficient, transparent and accountable to its member States and the private sector that it services. Emphasis will continue to be placed on modernizing and strengthening the global intellectual property system, streamlining international cooperation in the field of intellectual property and increasing the participation of civil society in further developing the intellectual property system. WIPO will continue to offer strong technical cooperation programs for developing countries and countries in transition. Dr. Idris described the program and budget proposals as a "global intellectual property development strategy" taking a "do more with less" approach.

The program and budget document is available on the Internet at <http://www.wipo.int>.

Vision and strategic direction of WIPO

Every fourth year the Director General presents a medium-term plan for the future development of WIPO to the General Assemblies. Dr. Idris told WIPO staff "An institution without a vision and a strategy for realizing that vision is doomed to irrelevance. That will never be our fate, for we know what our goals are, what has to be done and how to go about it effectively and efficiently, in close partnership with our member States,



The Arpad Bogsch Building, overlooking the Place des Nations, Geneva, designed by Pierre Brillard and constructed between 1973 and 1978. It has 19 levels, five underground and 14 above ground.