

# IOD GRC Opinion, Building Blocks: Governance

Internal Oversight Division

IA-2025-06.A1

January 30, 2026



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# 1

## Executive Summary

Expected Results – as set out in the WIPO Program of Work and Budget for 2024/25. [Link](#).

As part of forming an annual opinion on WIPO’s **Governance**, Risk Management and Internal Controls for the year ended December 31, 2025, the Internal Oversight Division (IOD) sought to understand the governance structure as determined by WIPO Member states, from the role of the General Assembly through to the Independent Advisory and Oversight Committee.

### Conclusion

The governance structures and procedures and their alignment with the Governance Design per the WIPO Convention have been understood by IOD and are summarized in the following pages of this report.

Understanding obtained

# 2

## Background:

### Governance – What is it, and what components did we look at?

**Governance** - The combination of processes and structures implemented by the board to inform, direct, manage, and monitor the activities of the organization toward the achievement of its objectives. Source: [Global Internal Audit Standards](#)

The current report covers only **Governance structure at WIPO** (Assemblies; Committees; Oversight). The report does not cover governance at WIPO Operational level which is covered in a separate report [IA 2025-06.A2](#).

**Governance Elements** were synthesized from the following frameworks:

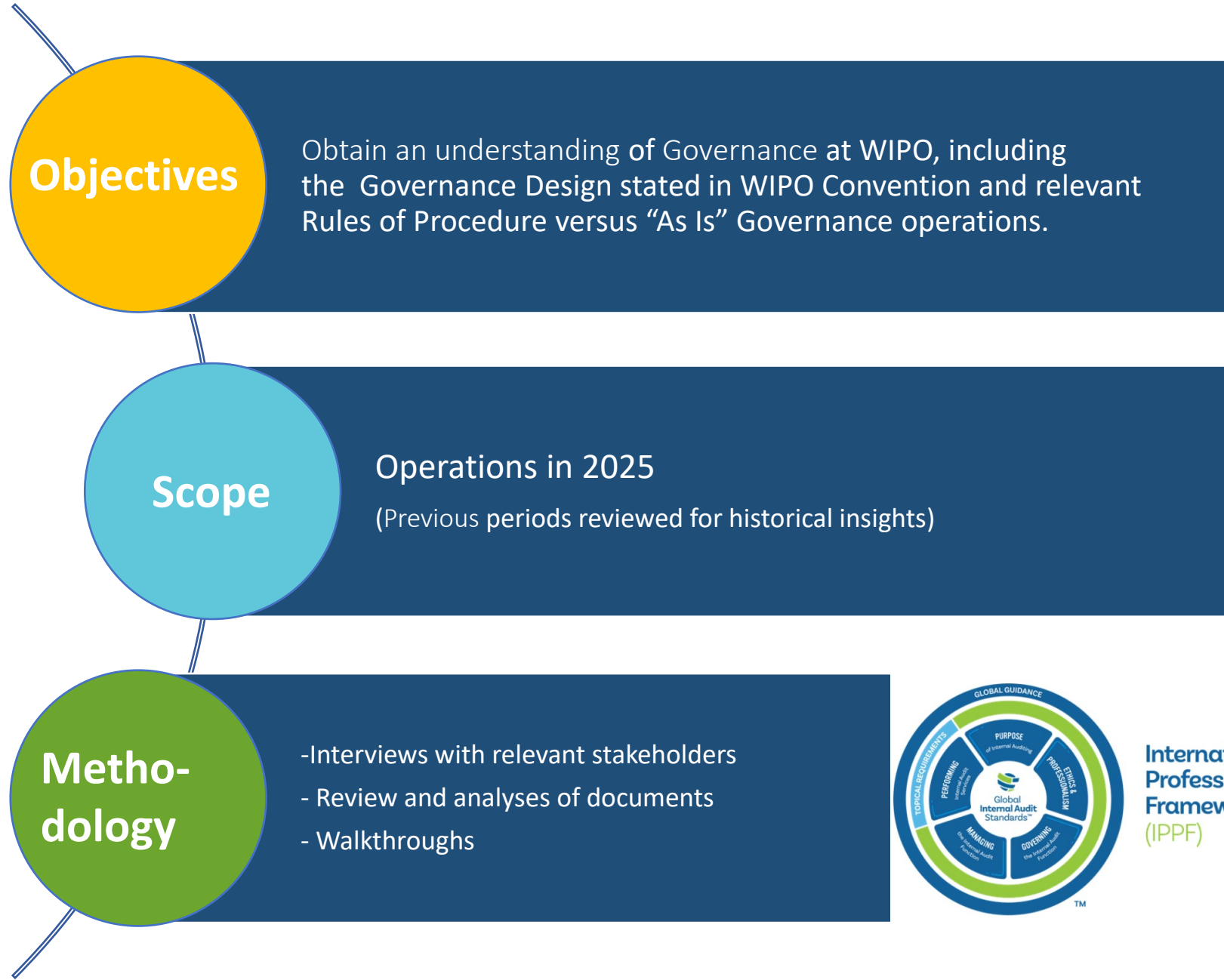
- [The OECD Principles of Corporate Governance](#)
- [The UK Corporate Governance Code](#)
- [ACCA: Corporate governance and its impact on audit practice](#)
- Different guidance from the [Institute of Internal Auditors](#)

## Elements of Governance understood by IOD



# 3

## Objectives, Scope, Methodology



International Professional Practices Framework® (IPPF)

# 4

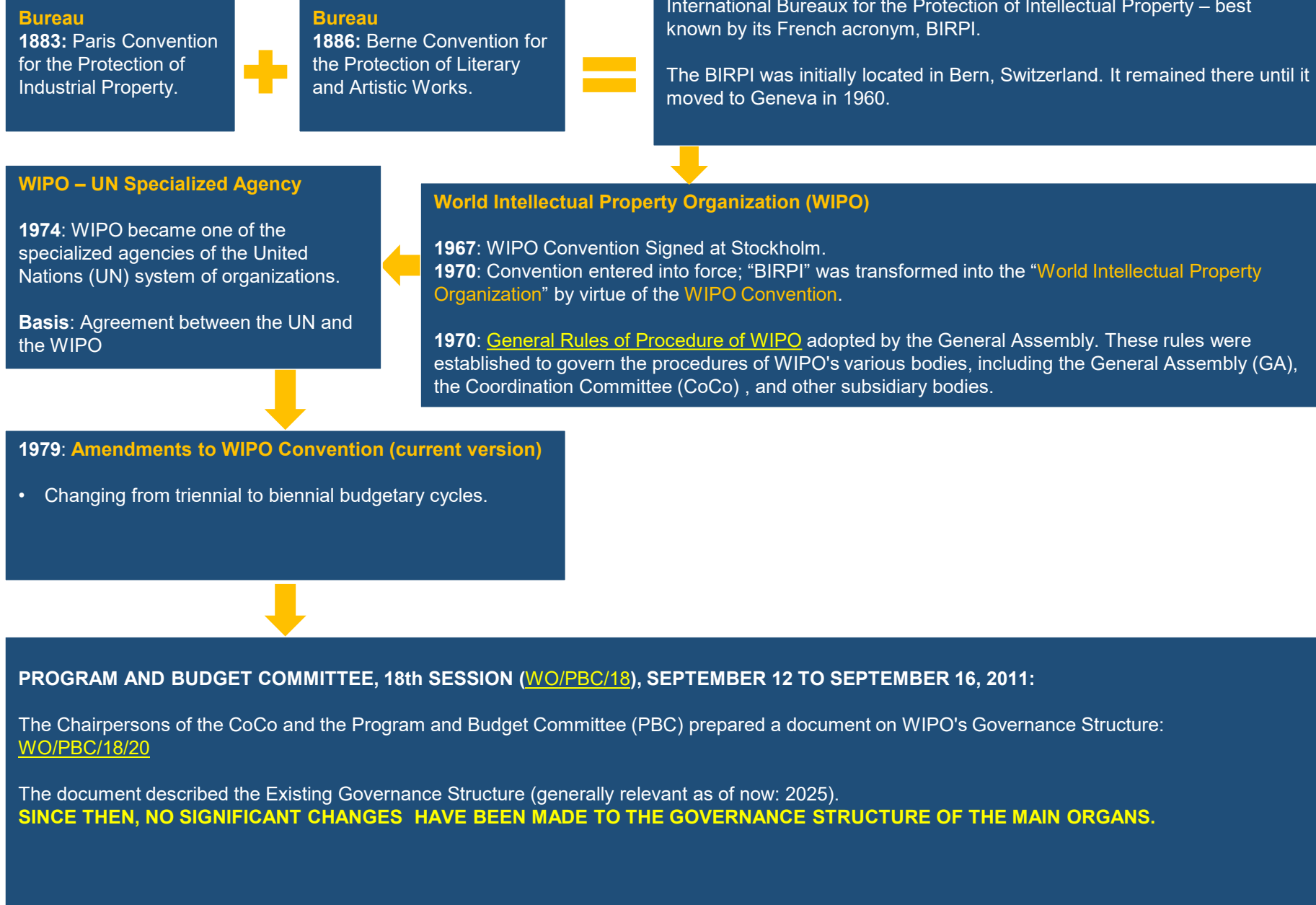
## Governance – Structure of the main Bodies: History

WIPO is a constitutionally complex organization. Its complexity results from the relatively long history of the Organization and from the fact that, since its origins in the late 19th century, new treaties have been progressively concluded, of which many establishing a legally separate **Union of States**, usually with its own administrative organ of Member States and budget. These separate unions are linked by the common subject matter of the **Treaties** establishing them (intellectual property) and by a common secretariat (the **International Bureau (IB)**).

WIPO's Governance Structure of its main Organs is determined by the **Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO Convention)**.

The **Contracting Parties** to the WIPO Convention have the authority to change the governance structure of the main Organs.

## Evolution of WIPO's Setup



# 4

## Governance – Structure of the main Bodies: Legal Basis

### Legal Basis: Main Rules on WIPO Governance Structure

**Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization (last amended: 1979)** This established WIPO as an international organization. It defines the roles of its governing bodies and administrative structure.

**The General Rules of Procedure of WIPO (last amended: 2023)**

These serve as a framework for conducting meetings, decision-making, and administrative processes within WIPO.

These Rules apply to:

- the bodies of WIPO
- the bodies of the various international Unions whose administrative tasks WIPO performs
- the bodies established under international agreements whose administration WIPO assumes
- the subsidiary bodies of any of the said bodies, and to the ad hoc committees of experts convened by the Director General of WIPO, to the extent that these rules are not in conflict with the international treaties having created such bodies or the special rules of procedure of such bodies, subsidiary bodies or committees.

The Rules cover:

- Preparation of Sessions and Agenda
- Election of Officers and Secretariat
- Subsidiary Bodies
- Conduct of Business
- Voting process
- Other provisions

**Special Rules of Procedure of the Governing Bodies of WIPO and of the Unions Administered by WIPO (last amended: 2023)**

There are distinct sets of rules for each Governing Body at WIPO. It is a compilation of the Special Rules of Procedure of the 22 Governing Bodies that typically meet around July each year in the framework of the Assemblies and other bodies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by WIPO:

1. WIPO General Assembly
2. WIPO Conference
3. WIPO Coordination Committee
4. Paris Union Assembly
5. Paris Union Executive Committee
6. Berne Union Assembly
7. Berne Union Executive Committee
8. Madrid Union Assembly
9. Hague Union Assembly
10. Nice Union Assembly
11. Lisbon Union Assembly
12. Locarno Union Assembly
13. International Patent Classification(IPC) Union Assembly
14. Patent Cooperation Treaty(PCT) Union Assembly
15. Budapest Union Assembly
16. Vienna Union Assembly
17. WIPO Copyright Treaty Assembly
18. WIPO Performances And Phonograms Treaty Assembly
19. Patent Law Treaty Assembly
20. Singapore Treaty Assembly
21. Marrakesh Treaty Assembly
22. Beijing Treaty Assembly

**Special Rules of Procedure of WIPO Standing Committees**

As a default rule, the General Rules of Procedure of WIPO apply, as far as possible, to the subsidiary bodies of the parent bodies which include the WIPO Committees. However, the subsidiary bodies may create their own Special Rules of Procedure, as provided by Rules 1.1 and 45.2 of the General Rules of Procedure of WIPO.

# 4

## Governance – Structure of the main Bodies

**IPC** - International Patent Classification

**PBC** – Program and Budget Committee.

**CDIP** – Committee on Development and Intellectual Property.

**IGC** – Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore.

**ACE** – Advisory Committee on Enforcement

**SCP** – Standing Committee on the Law of Patents

**SCT** – Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications

**SCCR** – Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights

**CWS** – Committee on WIPO Standards

### Annex I

Provides a comprehensive listing of the main WIPO Bodies.

## Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization

(as amended on September 28, 1979) [Link](#)

<p><b>The Main Organs</b></p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 22%; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>WIPO General Assembly (GA)</b> consists of the States party to the WIPO Convention which are also party to the Paris or Berne Conventions.</p> </div> <div style="width: 22%; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>WIPO Conference</b> made up of all States party to the WIPO Convention, whether or not they are also party to the Paris Convention or the Berne Convention.</p> </div> <div style="width: 22%; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>WIPO Coordination Committee (CoCo)</b> Made up of Members of the Executive Committee of the Paris and Berne Unions; ad hoc members (¼ of the States party to the WIPO Convention not members of any of the Unions, as designated by the Conference); Switzerland.</p> </div> <div style="width: 22%; padding: 5px; background-color: #4CAF50; color: white;"> <p><b>WIPO Assemblies</b> Main Organs of WIPO and Assemblies constituted by certain treaties meet at meetings of the Assemblies of Member States.  This includes Executive Committees of the Unions.</p> </div> </div>
<p><b>Committees Established by Treaty Provisions</b></p>	<p>Permanent <b>COMMITTEES OF EXPERTS</b> established directly by the treaty with a mandate to revise and update the classification systems.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 22%; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #FFD700; border-radius: 10px;"> <p><b>IPC Union</b> (Strasbourg Agreement) Patents</p> </div> <div style="width: 22%; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #FFD700; border-radius: 10px;"> <p><b>Locarno Union</b> (Locarno Agreement) Industrial Designs</p> </div> <div style="width: 22%; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #FFD700; border-radius: 10px;"> <p><b>Nice Union</b> (Nice Agreement) Registration of Marks</p> </div> <div style="width: 22%; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #FFD700; border-radius: 10px;"> <p><b>Vienna Union</b> (Vienna Agreement) figurative elements of marks</p> </div> </div>
<p><b>Committees Constituted Under One or More of the Main Organs</b></p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 22%; padding: 5px;"> <p><a href="#"><u>PBC</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>IGC</u></a></p> </div> <div style="width: 22%; padding: 5px;"> <p><a href="#"><u>CDIP</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>ACE</u></a></p> </div> <div style="width: 22%; padding: 5px;"> <p><a href="#"><u>SCP</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>SCCR</u></a></p> </div> <div style="width: 22%; padding: 5px;"> <p><a href="#"><u>SCT</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>CWS</u></a></p> </div> </div>
<p><b>Working Groups (WG)</b></p>	<p>Working groups are established by a Committee, a Committee of Experts or by one of the main organs in line with WIPO <a href="#">General Rules of Procedure</a>, Rule 12.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 75%; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #FFD700; border-radius: 10px;"> <p><b>Main Working Groups</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>PCT Working Group</u></a>      <a href="#"><u>IPC Revision Working Group</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Working Groups of the Madrid Union</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System (Appellations of Origin)</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Working Groups of the Hague Union</u></a></p> </div> <div style="width: 20%; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #FFD700; border-radius: 10px;"> <p><b>Other Working Groups</b></p> </div> </div>
<p><b>Others</b></p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 60%; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #FFD700; border-radius: 10px;"> <p><b>Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC)</b> The IAOC's terms of reference are reviewed by the PBC and approved by the General Assembly.</p> </div> <div style="width: 35%; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #FFD700; border-radius: 10px;"> <p><b>External Auditor (EA)</b> Designated by the General Assembly.</p> </div> </div>

# 4

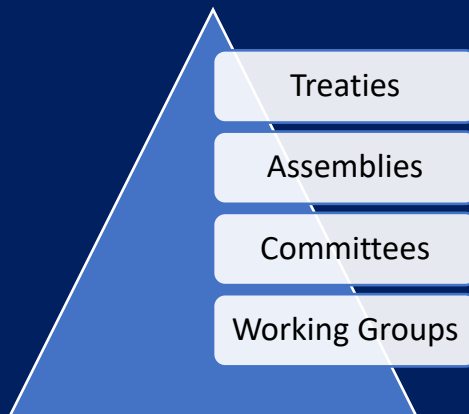
## Governance – WIPO Treaties

**WIPO treaties** are international agreements administered by WIPO. These treaties establish standards and frameworks for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property (IP) rights.

**Assemblies** - oversee the implementation of the treaties administered by WIPO.

**Committees** - coordinate the implementation of the treaties. PBC was created to manage WIPO's budget and resources.

**Working Groups** - examine specific issues in detail.



## WIPO Treaties – Status as of December 2025

# 27

### Treaties

For the latest status of Treaties refer to the document prepared by the Secretariat [A/65/INF/3](#)

# 1

### WIPO Convention

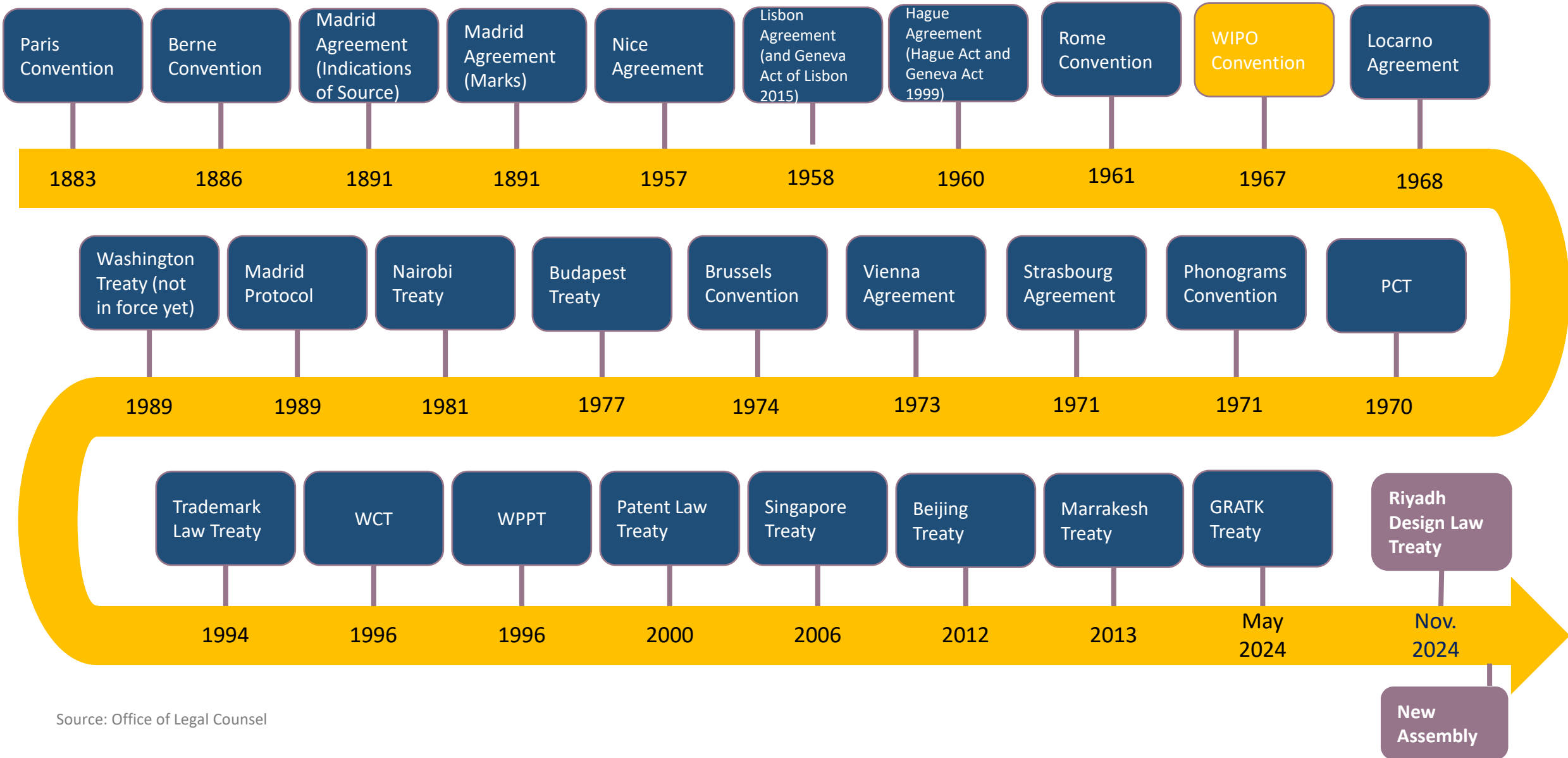
# 22

### Assemblies and other bodies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions

### Other Committees and Working Groups

[ANNEX II](#) Provides details on Treaties, Related Assemblies, Committees and Groups

# 4 WIPO Administered Treaties and the WIPO Convention



Source: Office of Legal Counsel

# 4

## Governance – Functions of the Main Bodies: General Assembly

DG – Director General  
CoCo – Coordination Committee  
GA – General Assembly  
UN – United Nations

The [Next Slide](#) provides IOD's analysis of the operations of WIPO General Assembly “As Is” versus its [Intended Design](#) as per relevant regulations.

### WIPO General Assembly

#### Shall:

- (i) appoint the DG upon nomination by the **CoCo**;
- (ii) review and approve reports of the **DG** concerning the Organization and give him all necessary instructions;
- (iii) review and approve the reports and activities of the **CoCo** and give instructions to such Committee;
- (iv) adopt the biennial budget of expenses common to the Unions;
- (v) approve the measures proposed by the **DG** concerning the administration of the international agreements;
- (vi) adopt the financial regulations of the Organization;
- (vii) determine the working languages of the Secretariat, taking into consideration the practice of the **UN**;
- (viii) invite States to become party to WIPO Convention;
- (ix) determine which States not Members of the Organization and which intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations shall be admitted to its meetings as observers;
- (x) exercise such other functions as are appropriate under the WIPO Convention.

Source: [WIPO Convention](#)

### General Details

#### Composition and Representation:

- The GA consists of states party to the WIPO Convention which are members of any of the Unions.
- Each state is represented by one delegate, with possible alternate delegates, advisors, and experts.
- Delegation expenses are borne by the appointing government.

#### Voting and Decision-Making:

- Each state has one vote.
- A quorum is constituted by half the member states.
- Decisions require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, with specific measures needing higher majorities.
- Abstentions are not considered as votes.

#### Meetings:

- The General Assembly meets biennially in ordinary sessions and extraordinary sessions every other year.
- Meetings are held at the headquarters of WIPO.

#### Observers:

- States party to the WIPO Convention but not members of any Unions can attend meetings as observers.

#### Rules of Procedure:

The General Rules of Procedure apply, supplemented and amended by the provision found in the Special Rules of Procedure of the GA.

For full details refer to the [WIPO Convention](#)

# 4 WIPO General Assembly “As Is” vs. Intended Design as per Regulations

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO  
Sixty-Sixth Series of Meetings  
Geneva, July 8 to 17, 2025

## [CONSOLIDATED AGENDA](#)

Items concerning the **General Assembly**:

- Bodies concerned: All bodies convened (22), as listed in document A/66/INF/1  
Presiding officer: The Chair of the WIPO General Assembly  
Agenda items: 1 to 7, 10(ii), 11, 20, 23 and 24
- Bodies concerned: WIPO General Assembly  
Presiding officer: The Chair of the WIPO General Assembly  
Agenda items: 9, 10(i), 10(iii), 12, 16, 17 and 19

## IOD's Analysis

- **GA Agenda items are in line with the GA mandate.** Consolidated Agenda Items, concerning the General Assembly (**Marked in green** in the table to the right), were within GA competence, in line with the [GA mandate](#).
- **GA decisions are in line with the GA mandate.** GA Decisions, related to the GA Agenda Items were within the remit of the General Assembly and in line with the [GA mandate](#). Refer to the [List of 2025 Decisions](#).
- **Communication with Stakeholders.** WIPO General Assembly documents are made [publicly available](#). Meetings are also broadcasted. Link to the Public Website: [Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO: Sixty-Sixth Series of Meetings](#)

## WIPO ASSEMBLIES 66TH SERIES OF MEETINGS - CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

### OPENING OF THE SESSIONS

1. Opening of the Sessions
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Address of the Director General to the Assemblies of WIPO
4. General Statements
5. Election of Officers

### GOVERNING BODIES AND INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

6. Admission of Observers
7. Appointment of the Director General in 2026
8. Composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee, and of the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions
9. Composition of the Program and Budget Committee

### PROGRAM, BUDGET AND OVERSIGHT MATTERS

10. Reports on Audit and Oversight
  - (i) Report by the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC)
  - (ii) Report by the External Auditor
  - (iii) Report by the Director of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD)
11. Report on the Program and Budget Committee (PBC)

### WIPO COMMITTEES AND INTERNATIONAL NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK

12. Reports from WIPO Committees:
  - (i) The Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR)
  - (ii) The Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP)
  - (iii) The Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)
  - (iv) The Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) and Review of the Implementation of the Development Agenda Recommendations
  - (v) The Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)
  - (vi) The Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)
  - (vii) The Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE)

### GLOBAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SERVICES

13. Madrid System
14. Hague System
15. Lisbon System
16. WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, including Domain Names

### OTHER ASSEMBLIES AND TREATIES

17. Patent Law Treaty (PLT)
18. Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (STLT)

### OTHER MATTERS

19. Report on the Outcome of the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude and Adopt a Design Law Treaty (DLT)
20. Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and Intellectual Property System

### STAFF MATTERS

21. Reports on Staff Matters
  - (i) Report on Human Resources
  - (ii) Report by the Ethics Office
22. Renewal of the Terms of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the WIPO Appeal Board

### CLOSING OF THE SESSIONS

23. Adoption of the Reports
24. Closing of the Sessions

# 4

## Governance – Functions of the Main Bodies: WIPO Conference

### WIPO Conference

#### Shall:

- (i) discuss matters of general interest in the field of intellectual property and may adopt recommendations relating to such matters, having regard for the competence and autonomy of the Unions;
- (ii) adopt the biennial budget of the Conference;
- (iii) within the limits of the budget of the Conference, establish the biennial program of legal-technical assistance;
- (iv) adopt amendments to WIPO Convention;
- (v) determine which States not Members of the Organization and which intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations shall be admitted to its meetings as observers;
- (vi) exercise such other functions as are appropriate under WIPO Convention.

Source: [WIPO Convention](#)

### General Details

#### Composition and Representation:

- The Conference consists of states party to the Convention, regardless of Union membership.
- Each state is represented by one delegate, with possible alternate delegates, advisors, and experts.
- Delegation expenses are borne by the appointing government.

#### Voting and Decision-Making:

- Each member state has one vote.
- A quorum is constituted by one-third of the member states.
- Decisions require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, with specific provisions for contributions.
- Abstentions are not considered as votes.

#### Meetings:

- The Conference meets in ordinary sessions during the same period and place as the General Assembly.
- Extraordinary sessions can be convened by the Director General at the request of the majority of member states.

#### Rules of Procedure:

The General Rules of Procedure apply, supplemented, and amended by the provision found in the Special Rules of Procedure of the Conference.

For full details refer to the [WIPO Convention](#)

# 4

## Governance – Functions of the Main Bodies: Coordination Committee

The [Next Slide](#) provides IOD's analysis of the operations of WIPO Coordination Committee "As Is" versus its [Intended Design](#) as per relevant regulations.

### WIPO Coordination Committee

#### Shall:

- (i) give advice to the organs of the Unions, the General Assembly, the Conference, and the Director General, on all administrative, financial and other matters of common interest either to two or more of the Unions, or to one or more of the Unions and the Organization, and in particular on the budget of expenses common to the Unions;
- (ii) prepare the draft agenda of the General Assembly;
- (iii) prepare the draft agenda and the draft program and budget of the Conference;
- (iv) [deleted]
- (v) when the term of office of the Director General is about to expire, or when there is a vacancy in the post of the Director General, nominate a candidate for appointment to such position by the General Assembly; if the General Assembly does not appoint its nominee, the Coordination Committee shall nominate another candidate; this procedure shall be repeated until the latest nominee is appointed by the General Assembly;
- (vi) if the post of the Director General becomes vacant between two sessions of the General Assembly, appoint an Acting Director General for the term preceding the assuming of office by the new Director General;
- (vii) perform such other functions as are allocated to it under this Convention.

Source: [WIPO Convention](#)

### General Details

#### Composition and Representation:

- The Coordination Committee consists of states party to the Convention that are members of the Executive Committees of the Paris or Berne Unions, or both, ad hoc member(s) and ex officio member.
- Each state is represented by one delegate, with possible alternate delegates, advisors, and experts.
- Delegation expenses are borne by the appointing government.

#### Voting and Decision-Making:

- Each member state has one vote.
- A quorum is constituted by half the members.
- Decisions are made by a simple majority of votes cast, with special recount procedures if requested.
- Abstentions are not considered as votes.

#### Meetings:

- The Coordination Committee meets annually in ordinary sessions and can meet in extraordinary sessions upon request.
- Meetings are normally held at the headquarters of the Organization.

#### Observers:

- States not members of the Coordination Committee may attend meetings as observers with the right to participate in debates but without voting rights.

#### Rules of Procedure:

The General Rules of Procedure apply, supplemented, and amended by the provision found in the Special Rules of Procedure of the WIPO CoCo.

For full details, refer to the [WIPO Convention](#)

# 4 WIPO Coordination Committee “As Is” vs. Intended Design as per Regulations

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO  
Sixty-Fifth Series of Meetings  
Geneva, July 8 to 17, 2025

## [CONSOLIDATED AGENDA](#)

Items concerning the **Coordination Committee**:

– Bodies concerned: All bodies convened (22), as listed in document A/66/INF/1  
Presiding officer: The Chair of the WIPO General Assembly  
Agenda items: 1 to 7, 10(ii), 11, 20, 23 and 24

– Bodies concerned: WIPO Coordination Committee  
Presiding officer: The Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee  
Agenda items: 21 and 22

## IOD's Analysis

- **CoCo Agenda items are in line with the CoCo mandate.** Consolidated Agenda Items, concerning the CoCo (Marked with green in the table to the right), were within CoCo's competence, in line with the [CoCO mandate](#).
- **CoCo decisions are in line with the CoCO mandate.** CoCo Decisions, related to the CoCo Agenda Items were within the remit of the CoCo and in line with the [CoCO mandate](#). Refer to the [List of 2025 Decisions](#).
- **Communication with Stakeholders.** WIPO Coordination Committee documents are made [publicly available](#).

Link to Meeting Documents:

[https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=86332](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=86332)

## WIPO ASSEMBLIES 66TH SERIES OF MEETINGS - CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

### OPENING OF THE SESSIONS

1. Opening of the Sessions
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Address of the Director General to the Assemblies of WIPO
4. General Statements
5. Election of Officers

### GOVERNING BODIES AND INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

6. Admission of Observers
7. Appointment of the Director General in 2026 [Go to slide](#)
8. Composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee, and of the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions
9. Composition of the Program and Budget Committee

### PROGRAM, BUDGET AND OVERSIGHT MATTERS

10. Reports on Audit and Oversight
  - (i) Report by the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC)
  - (ii) Report by the External Auditor
  - (iii) Report by the Director of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD)
11. Report on the Program and Budget Committee (PBC)

### WIPO COMMITTEES AND INTERNATIONAL NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK

#### 12. Reports from WIPO Committees:

- (i) The Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR)
- (ii) The Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP)
- (iii) The Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)
- (iv) The Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) and Review of the Implementation of the Development Agenda Recommendations
- (v) The Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)
- (vi) The Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)
- (vii) The Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE)

### GLOBAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SERVICES

13. Madrid System
14. Hague System
15. Lisbon System
16. WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, including Domain Names

### OTHER ASSEMBLIES AND TREATIES

17. Patent Law Treaty (PLT)
18. Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (STLT)

### OTHER MATTERS

19. Report on the Outcome of the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude and Adopt a Design Law Treaty (DLT)
20. Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and Intellectual Property System

### STAFF MATTERS

21. Reports on Staff Matters
  - (i) Report on Human Resources
  - (ii) Report by the Ethics Office
22. Renewal of the Terms of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the WIPO Appeal Board

### CLOSING OF THE SESSIONS

23. Adoption of the Reports
24. Closing of the Sessions

# 4 Election of the Director General in 2026

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO  
Sixty-Sixth Series of Meetings  
Geneva, July 8 to 17, 2025  
[CONSOLIDATED AGENDA](#)  
Item Nr.7: Appointment of the Director General in 2026

A/66/4  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH  
DATE: MAY 7, 2025  
[Memorandum prepared by the Secretariat](#)

## Election of the Director General in 2026 (source: <https://www.wipo.int/en/web/about-wipo/dg-elections/2026> )

The term of office of the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) will expire on September 30, 2026. Consequently, on July 24, 2025, in accordance with the [constitutional provisions](#) and the [procedures governing the nomination and appointment of Directors General of WIPO](#), Ambassador James Baxter, Permanent Representative of Australia to WIPO, in his capacity as Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee, issued [Circular Note 4222](#) inviting the Government of every State member of WIPO, if it so desires, to propose the name of one of its nationals as candidate for nomination by the WIPO Coordination Committee.

Proposals submitted for candidates for nomination to the post of Director General were notified to all Member States by the Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee immediately upon receipt.

**Proposals must have been submitted to WIPO before 5 p.m. on Friday, October 24, 2025.**

During the 66th Series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, which were held from July 8 to 17, 2025, the WIPO General Assembly, the WIPO Coordination Committee and the Paris and Berne Union Assemblies approved the timeline of procedural steps for the election of the Director General in 2026, including the convening of the extraordinary sessions of the relevant bodies, as follows:

### Timeline for the nomination and appointment of the Director General

- Extraordinary Session of the Coordination Committee to nominate a candidate for appointment to the post of Director General (February 12 and 13, 2026);
- Extraordinary Sessions of the General Assembly, the Paris Union Assembly, and the Berne Union Assembly to appoint the Director General (April 21, 2026).

Following the closure of the deadline for submissions, a formal [document consolidating all proposed candidates](#) was prepared for consideration by the WIPO Coordination Committee.

# 4

## Governance – Functions of the Main Bodies: Program and Budget Committee (PBC)

### WIPO Program and Budget Committee

The Committee was constituted by the WIPO General Assembly to deal with program, budget, premises, and finance. The PBC holds annual sessions in off-budget years and bi-annual sessions in budget years.

The PBC considers matters relating to the:

- Biennial Program of Work and Budget,
- WIPO Performance Report,
- Financial Statements,
- Reports of the External Auditor and
- Other related topics at its sessions.

Recommendations of the PBC are submitted to the General Assembly and other bodies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions Administered by WIPO.

The [Next Slide](#) provides IOD's analysis of the operations of WIPO PBC "As Is" versus its [Intended Design](#) as per relevant regulations.

### General Details

#### Composition and Representation:

- The WIPO General Assembly elects the members of the PBC for a period of two years during the ordinary session.

#### Meetings:

- The PBC meets once a year and twice on the second budgetary year of the biennium.

[The General Rules of Procedure of WIPO](#) apply to PBC.

[No treaty or other legal provision governs the PBC's precise composition.](#) Membership is established once every two years during the ordinary session of the WIPO General Assembly. The PBC consists of members elected by the General Assembly following informal consultations among WIPO Groups, upon which the Groups transmit to the Secretariat the list of countries within their Group to be elected as members of the PBC.

The WIPO General Assembly may decide to change the number of members in the PBC or allocate seats among WIPO Groups.

WIPO Member States that are not members of the PBC may participate in the PBC meetings in an observer capacity. They may take part in debates at the Chair's invitation, but they do not have the right to vote.

# 4 WIPO Program and Budget Committee “As Is” vs. Intended Design as per Regulations

## Program and Budget Committee Sessions 38 and 39

[38 – AGENDA](#)    [39 – AGENDA](#)

At WIPO, during the second year of each biennium, two sessions of the Program and Budget Committee (PBC) are typically held in the summer. These sessions allow Member States to review program performance, financial updates, and other governance matters before the end of the biennium.

## IOD Analysis

- **PBC Agenda items are in line with the PBC mandate.** The Agenda Items, Concerning the PBC (the table to the right), were within PBC's competence, in line with the [PBC mandate](#). The Coordination Committee (CoCo) is the governing body responsible for human resource matters; however, the Annual Report on Human Resources is presented to the PBC as an Information document, for its advance information prior to consideration by the CoCo.
- **PBC decisions are in line with the PBC mandate.** PBC Decisions, related to the PBC Agenda Items were within the remit of the PBC and in line with the [PBC mandate](#). Refer to the [List of Decisions \(PBC38\)](#) , [List of Decisions \(PBC39\)](#).
- **Communication with Stakeholders.** WIPO Program and Budget Committee documents are made [publicly available](#). Meetings are also broadcasted.

### Program and Budget Committee Thirty-Eighth Session Geneva, May 19 to 23, 2025

#### AGENDA

##### Adopted by the Program and Budget Committee

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda

##### Audit and Oversight

3. Progress Report on the Implementation of the Joint Inspection Unit's (JIU) Recommendations, See document WO/PBC/38/2. Performance and Financial Review
4. WIPO Performance Report 2024, See document WO/PBC/38/3 Rev.

##### Planning and Budgeting

5. Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27, See documents: WO/PBC/38/4 (Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27), WO/PBC/38/INF/1 (WIPO Estate Strategy)

##### Items following decisions of 2024 PBC session and Assemblies of WIPO Member States

6. Draft Terms of Reference of the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices, See document WO/PBC/38/5.
7. Methodology for Allocation of Income and Expenditure by Union, See documents A/59/10, A/59/11 and A/59/INF/6.

##### Closing of the Session

8. Closing of the Session

### Program and Budget Committee Thirty-Ninth Session

Geneva, June 16 to 20, 2025

#### AGENDA

##### Adopted by the Program and Budget Committee

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda

##### Audit and Oversight

3. Report by the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC), See document WO/PBC/39/2.
4. Report of the WIPO Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC) Selection Panel, See document WO/PBC/39/3.
5. Report by the External Auditor, See document WO/PBC/39/4.
6. Annual Report by the Director of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD), See document WO/PBC/39/5.

##### Performance and Financial Review

##### 7. Financial Review:

- (a) Annual Financial Report and Financial Statements 2024, See document WO/PBC/39/6.
  - (b) Update on the multi-employer plan for the financing of employee benefit liabilities, See document WO/PBC/39/7.
  - (c) Update on Investments
  - (d) Status of the Payment of Contributions as at April 30, 2025, See document WO/PBC/39/INF/1 Rev.
8. Annual Report on Human Resources, See document WO/PBC/39/INF/2.-INFORMATION DOCUMENT

##### Planning and Budgeting

9. Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2026/27, See document WO/PBC/39/8.

##### Proposal

10. Financing Plan to Restore the Coverage of Long-Term Employee Benefits at WIPO, See document WO/PBC/39/9.

##### Election of Officers

11. Election of the Chair and two Vice-Chairs of the Program and Budget Committee (PBC)

##### Closing of the Session

12. Closing of the Session

# 4

## Governance – Functions of the Main Bodies: Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC)

GA – General Assembly

PBC – Program and Budget Committee

IAOC report to PBC in 2025:  
June 16 to June 20, 2025 (Geneva,  
Switzerland) Hybrid  
[WO/PBC/39/2](#)

IAOC report to GA in 2025:  
July 8 to July 17, 2025 (Geneva,  
Switzerland) Hybrid  
[WO/GA/58/2](#)

### Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC)

The IAOC is a subsidiary body of the WIPO GA and of the PBC. It serves in an independent expert advisory capacity and assists the WIPO GA and the PBC in fulfilling their oversight responsibilities. These oversight responsibilities include the following areas:

- Financial Reporting
- Risk Management and Internal Controls
- External Audit
- Internal Oversight
- Ethics
- Other (e.g., advise on proposed policies, activities, projects).

IAOC responsibilities are detailed in the **part B** of [Terms of Reference of the WIPO IAOC](#).

### General Details

**Composition:** Seven members from each of the seven WIPO Regional Groups.

**Term:** Three years, renewable once, with a maximum of six years.

**Qualifications:** Senior-level experience in areas like audit, finance, risk management, and legal affairs. Members must be independent, objective, and possess strong ethical values. Experience must be “recent”.

**Chairpersonship:** The IAOC elects a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson annually.

**Reimbursement and Indemnity:** Members are not remunerated but are reimbursed for travel and subsistence costs. IAOC members will be indemnified from actions taken against them as a result of activities performed in the course of exercising their responsibilities “as long as such activities are performed in good faith and with due diligence”.

**Meetings and Quorum:** The IAOC meets quarterly at WIPO headquarters. A quorum requires four members.

**Reporting and Review:** The IAOC reports to Member States after each session and submits an annual report to the Program and Budget Committee and the WIPO General Assembly.

**Self-Assessment and External Evaluation:** The IAOC performs an annual self-assessment and an independent evaluation every three years.

**Secretary and Budget:** A Secretary, designated by the WIPO Secretariat, assists the IAOC. The IAOC's activities are funded through WIPO's biennial budget.

**Information Requirements:** The WIPO Secretariat provides necessary documents and information to the IAOC in advance of each session.

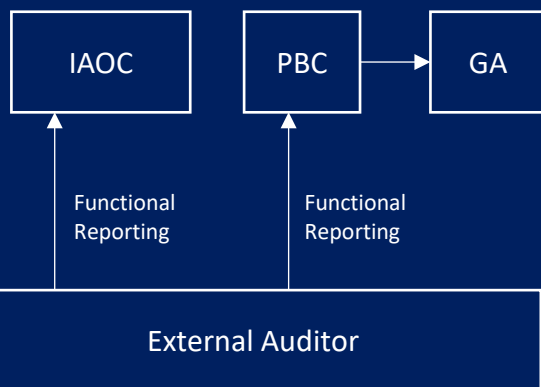
**Amendments:** The Terms of Reference are reviewed and amended periodically, with the latest revision approved in October 2021.

**Selection Procedure for IAOC Members:** A Selection Panel administers a competitive recruitment process for IAOC members, ensuring gender balance and representation from all Regional Groups. Refer to the [Selection Procedure](#).

For full details refer to the [Terms of Reference of the WIPO IAOC](#).

# 4

## Governance – Functions of the Main Bodies: External Auditor



EA report to PBC in 2025:  
June 16 to June 20, 2025 (Geneva,  
Switzerland) Hybrid  
[WO/PBC/39/4](#)

### External Auditor

The External Auditor (EA) shall perform such audit of the accounting records of WIPO and of the Unions administered by WIPO, including all trust funds and special accounts, as he/she deems necessary in order to assure himself:

- (a) that the annual financial statements are in accord with the books and records of WIPO;
- (b) that the financial transactions reflected in the annual financial statements have been in accordance with the rules and regulations, the budgetary provisions and other applicable directives;
- (c) that the securities and monies on deposit and on hand have been verified by certificate received direct from WIPO's depositories or by actual count;
- (d) that the internal controls are adequate in the light of the extent of reliance placed thereon;
- (e) that procedures satisfactory to him have been applied to the recording of all assets, liabilities, surpluses and deficits.

The External Auditor's mandate is detailed in the [WIPO Terms of Reference Governing External Audit](#).

### General Details

#### Authority and Access:

The External Auditor has full access to all necessary documents and information, including privileged and confidential data. He/she can independently verify financial records and question the Director General's certifications.

#### Audit Process:

The External Auditor cannot disallow items but must report any questionable transactions to the Director General. Immediate communication of audit objections is required.

#### Audit Opinion:

The External Auditor provides an opinion on the financial statements, covering their fairness, compliance with accounting policies, and consistency with previous years. This includes basic elements like identification of statements, responsibilities, standards followed, and work performed.

#### Audit Report:

The report details the examination scope, completeness, and accuracy of records. It highlights issues like fraud, improper expenditure, and deviations from accounting principles. It may include observations and comments on the Director General's financial report.

#### Restrictions and Criticism:

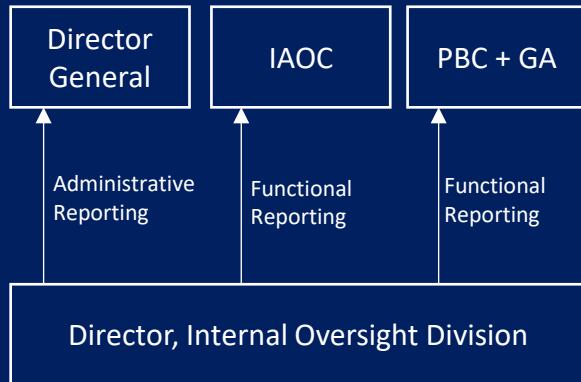
Any restrictions on the audit scope or insufficient evidence must be noted in the report. Criticism in the report requires prior opportunity for the Director General to explain.

For full details refer to the [WIPO Terms of Reference Governing External Audit](#).

The current external financial auditor of WIPO is the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia (BPK RI). The appointment covers the period 2024–2027.

# 4

## Governance – Functions of the Main Bodies: Internal Oversight Division



IOD report to PBC in 2025:  
June 16 to June 20, 2025  
(Geneva, Switzerland) Hybrid  
[WO/PBC/39/5](#)

IOD report to GA in 2025:  
July 8 to July 17, 2025  
(Geneva, Switzerland) Hybrid  
[WO/GA/58/3](#)

### Quality Assurance and Improvement Program

All sections of IOD are subject to regular Internal Quality Self-Assessments and External Quality Assessments.

## Internal Oversight Division (IOD)

The internal oversight function provides Management of WIPO with independent, objective assurance, analyses, appraisals, recommendations, lessons learned, advice, insights, and relevant information, through the undertaking of audits and advisory services, evaluations, and investigations. Its objectives include:

- Contributing to the Organization's successful achievement of its objectives, by enhancing its decision-making and oversight, its reputation and credibility with stakeholders, and its ability to serve the public interest;
- Assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of governance, risk management, and control processes;
- Identifying means for improving WIPO's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and economy of the internal procedures and use of resources;
- Assessing whether cost-effective controls are in place and operate effectively; and
- Assessing compliance with WIPO's Financial Regulations and Rules, Staff Regulations and Rules, relevant General Assembly decisions, the applicable accounting standards, the Standards of Conduct for the International Civil Service, and relevant policies and procedures.

IOD's mandate is detailed in **part C** of [WIPO Internal Oversight Charter](#).

## General Details

### Authority and Responsibility

The Director, IOD, reports administratively to the Director General but is not part of operational management. The Director has access to the Chairs of the GA, CoCo, PBC, and IAOC and unrestricted access to all WIPO records, personnel, and premises. The Director of IOD enjoys functional and operational independence from Management in the conduct of her/his duties.

### Scope of Work

IOD covers all WIPO systems, processes, operations, functions, and activities. This includes internal audit, evaluation, and investigation sections.

### Professional Standards

IOD adheres to standards set by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), and the Conference of International Investigators.

### Conflict of Interest

The Director, IOD, shall confirm to the IAOC, at least annually, the organizational independence of IOD. There are mechanisms to address a conflict of interest of the Director of IOD and its members.

### Reporting

The Director, IOD, shall submit, annually, a summary report to the WIPO General Assembly, through the Program and Budget Committee (Annual Report by the Director, IOD). The Director General and the IAOC shall be provided with a draft version of the Report for their comments, if any.

### Resources

The Director General ensures that the IOD has the necessary resources to fulfill its mandate.

### Appointment, Performance Appraisal, and Dismissal of Director, IOD

The Director, IOD, shall be appointed by the DG after endorsement by the IAOC and the CoCo. The Director, IOD, shall have a non-renewable fixed term of office of six years. The DG may dismiss the Director, IOD, only on specific and documented grounds and after endorsement by the IAOC and the CoCo. The performance appraisal of the Director, IOD, shall be conducted by the Director General after receiving input from and consulting with the IAOC.

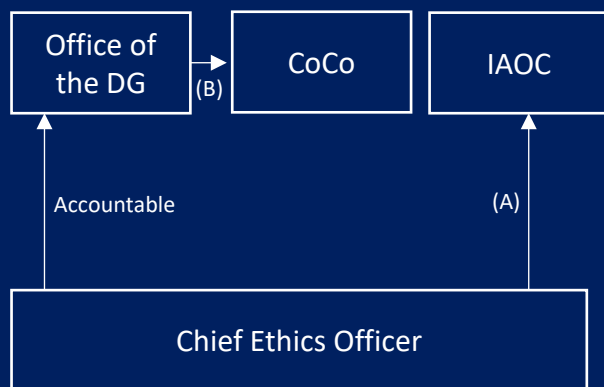
### Approval and Revision

The Charter is reviewed every three years or as necessary, with amendments approved by the Program and Budget Committee and the WIPO General Assembly.

For full details, refer to the [WIPO Internal Oversight Chapter](#).

# 4

## Governance – Functions of the Main Bodies: Ethics Function



(A) – As per [Office Instruction No. 03/2025](#), the relationship of the Ethics Office with the WIPO Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC) is governed by the paragraph 3(e) of the [IAOC terms of reference](#).

(B) - The Chief Ethics Officer is accountable to the Director General in the performance of her or his functions, and provides annual reports on the activities of the Ethics Office to the Director General and, through the Director General, to the WIPO Coordination Committee (CoCo).

## Ethics Function

The main responsibilities of the WIPO Ethics Office are as follows:

- (a) Ensuring the design, development, and implementation of effective WIPO ethics strategies, programs, and [policies](#) to enhance integrity, compliance with ethics rules, and the ethical conduct of the Organization's business;
- (b) Providing confidential advice and guidance to staff and other personnel on ethical issues;
- (c) Providing other authoritative advice, as well as leadership, to support the correct interpretation of, and compliance with, ethics rules and related strategies, programs and policies;
- (d) Providing input when consulted on policy issues where its expertise, views, and experience may be useful;
- (e) Administering the Organization's [financial disclosure and declaration of interests policy](#) and related programs;
- (f) Undertaking the responsibilities assigned to it under the [policy to protect against retaliation](#) for reporting misconduct and for cooperating with duly authorized audits or investigations;
- (g) Developing standards, [training](#), and education on ethics issues and, in cooperation with the Human Resources Management Department and other offices as appropriate, ensuring regular ethics training for all staff members, and other personnel as appropriate;
- (h) Providing standard-setting and policy support in respect of the development and interpretation of ethics related policies;
- (i) Developing internal and external partnerships, and participating in and contributing to activities of relevant ethics networks from multilateral organizations, in order to maintain required skills, and adapt best practices on raising ethics awareness, promoting ethical conduct, and complying with ethics rules for the Organization;
- (j) Ensuring accountability in the management of assigned WIPO resources (financial, human and material); and
- (k) Performing such other functions as the Director General considers appropriate for the Office.

The Ethics Function's mandate is laid out in the Terms of Reference of the WIPO Ethics Office [Office Instruction No. 03/2025](#) of November 6, 2025.

## General Details

**Establishment and Purpose:** The WIPO Ethics Office was established in 2010 to uphold the highest standards of ethics and integrity, aligning with WIPO's core values and best practices of other UN organizations.

**Objective:** The office assists the Director General in ensuring staff and personnel maintain high standards of integrity, fostering a culture of ethics, transparency, and accountability.

**Leadership:** The office is headed by a Chief Ethics Officer, appointed by the Director General. The Chief Ethics Officer enjoys functional and operational independence from Management in the conduct of her or his duties. Even though the Chief Ethics Officer reports administratively to the Director General, she/he is not part of operational management.

**Reporting:** The office provides annual reports on its activities to the Coordination Committee.

**Confidentiality:** The office maintains confidential records and cannot disclose information without permission, except by order of a competent authority.

**Cooperation:** All organizational units and personnel must cooperate with the office, except for medical records, which require consent for access.

**Protection Against Retaliation:** The office undertakes the responsibilities assigned to it under the policy to protect against retaliation for reporting misconduct and for cooperating with duly authorized audits or investigations.

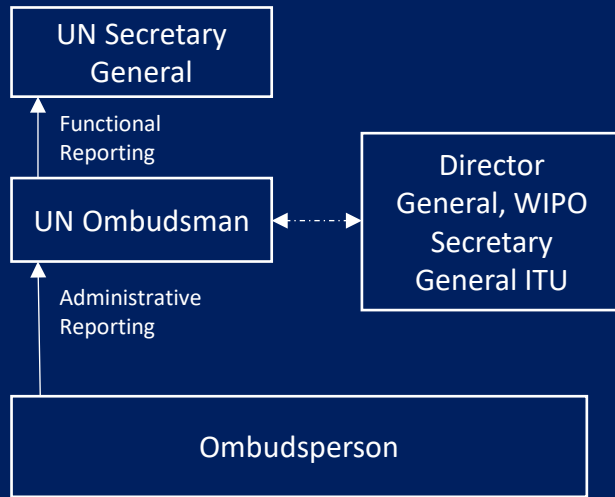
**Quality Assurance:** The Ethics Office shall ensure that external peer reviews and/or self-assessments are conducted regularly, with a view to ascertaining the quality and performance of the ethics function in accordance with applicable standards.

For full details, refer to the Terms of Reference of the WIPO Ethics Office: [Office Instruction No. 03/2025](#).

Ethics Office report to CoCo in 2025:  
July 8 to July 17, 2025  
(Geneva, Switzerland) Hybrid  
[WO/CC/84/INF/2](#)

# 4

## Governance – Functions of the Main Bodies: Ombudsperson



### Quality Assurance and Improvement Program

An external consultant performed the assessment of WIPO's Ombudsperson Function and Role and Benchmarking exercise in November 2023.

ITU - International Telecommunication Union

UNOMS - United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services

## Ombudsperson

Staff Rule 11.3.2 – Office of the Ombudsperson

- (a) The Ombudsperson shall assist with the fair resolution of workplace-related conflicts or grievances. He or she shall act as a neutral interlocutor, who mediates in conflicts between individual staff members or with management towards reaching amicable solutions to workplace-related difficulties. In all of his or her actions, the Ombudsperson shall act in an independent and impartial manner and shall in all instances uphold confidentiality in his or her dealings. All communications with the Ombudsperson shall be considered privileged.
- (b) Provisions concerning the mandate of the Ombudsperson, the applicable procedures and reporting shall be prescribed by the Director General.

### November 2024 MOU between the UN, ITU, and WIPO on the provision of informal conflict resolution services.

For the purpose of providing informal conflict resolution services to ITU and WIPO, UNOMS created a position of Ombudsman, at the P-5 level, based at the Headquarters of ITU and WIPO in Geneva, which will be cost-shared on a 50/50 basis by ITU and WIPO for an initial period of one year. UNOMS undertook the recruitment for the position, subject to the provisions of Article 3.1.

For more details refer to the MOU.

Terms of reference of the Ombudsman (P-5) For Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services For the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

#### General Summary:

##### Reporting Lines

- Functional Reporting: Directly to the Chief of Service and under the general supervision of the United Nations Ombudsman (UNOMS).
- Administrative Reporting: For leave and absences, the Ombudsperson consults the executive heads of ITU and WIPO and follows UNOMS procedures.

##### Responsibilities

- Address work-related concerns of staff through informal conflict resolution, mediation, and coaching.
- Guide individuals and managers in resolving workplace issues and improving communication.
- Conduct outreach and training to raise awareness of conflict resolution options.
- Analyze trends and provide feedback and recommendations to ITU and WIPO management.
- Prepare annual activity reports for the executive heads of ITU and WIPO.

##### Performance & Conditions

- Performance feedback is provided by ITU and WIPO to the United Nations Ombudsman. The Ombudsperson is subject to UN Staff Regulations and Rules, as well as ITU and WIPO provisions.
- The assignment is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and is time-limited. After the mandate ends, the Ombudsperson is not eligible for further employment in ITU or WIPO.

##### Administrative Details

- Leave requests and absences are managed in consultation with UNOMS and the executive heads of ITU and WIPO. Duty travel outside Geneva requires pre-approval from ITU and/or WIPO. ITU and WIPO provide necessary facilities and equipment for the Ombudsperson's work.

##### Qualifications

- Advanced university degree required; formal training in mediation/conflict resolution is expected. Minimum 10 years of relevant experience, including international work. Fluency in English and French is required.

##### Quality Assurance

- On the basis of inputs coming from independent quality assurance reviews, Ombudsperson must identify trends, problems and issues that tend to cause tension or conflict, identify opportunities for improvement and provide upward feedback to the management of ITU and WIPO, as appropriate.

For verbatim details refer to the original Terms of Reference

# 4 WIPO IAOC “As Is” vs. Intended Design as per Regulations

WIPO Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC)  
Seventy-ninth session

December 8 to December 12, 2025 (Geneva, Switzerland)

## IOD Analysis

- **IAOC Agenda items are in line with the IAOC mandate.** The Agenda Items, concerning the IAOC (the table to the right), were within IAOC competence, in line with the [IAOC mandate](#). IAOC's quarterly agenda may change, depending on emerging needs.
- **IAOC decisions are in line with the IAOC mandate.** PBC Decisions, related to the IAOC Agenda Items were within the remit of the IAOC and in line with the [IAOC mandate](#).
- **Communication with Stakeholders.** WIPO IAOC documents are made [publicly available](#).

### WIPO IAOC Seventy-ninth session Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Declaration of No Conflict of Interest
3. Matters arising from previous Session
4. Briefings on the Outcomes of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UN System Audit and Oversight Committees
5. Meeting with the Director General
6. Internal Oversight (including Input into the Review of the Revised Evaluation Policy and Manual, Input into the Preparation of the 2026 Annual Workplan, and Discussion on the Proposed 2026 Annual Workplan)
7. Update on Outstanding Recommendations from the External Auditor, the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) and the Internal Oversight Division (IOD)
8. Follow-up on the Fraud Risk Assessment
9. Financial Reporting: Changes in the Accounting Policies and Accounting Standards
10. External Audit: 2025 Interim Audit Outcomes and Update on Audit Strategy and Engagement Letter
11. Update on Investment Governance Framework and Performance
12. Monthly Investment Reports
13. Status and Update on the Enterprise Resource Plan (ERP) System
14. Update on Data Governance
15. a) Review of the Proposed 2026 InfoSec Annual Workplan  
b) Update on CyberSecurity
16. Review of the Ethics Office 2025 Activities, and Proposed 2026 Ethics Annual Workplan
17. a) Review of Ombuds 2025 Activities  
b) Meeting with the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services (UNOMS) Representatives
18. Update on the IAOC's Independent Performance Evaluation
19. IAOC's Self-Assessment of its 2025 Activities
20. Input into the Performance Evaluation of the Director, IOD, the Chief Ethics Officer, and the IAOC Secretary
21. Election of IAOC Chair and Vice-Chair for 2026
22. Information Meeting with Member States' Representatives
23. Other Matters
24. Debriefing with the Secretariat

# Acknowledgement

IOD wishes to thank all relevant colleagues for their assistance, cooperation, and interest during this assignment.

Consolidated by: Dainis Reinieks, Acting Head, Internal Audit Section.

Reviewed and approved by: Julie Nyang'aya, Director, IOD.

# 5

## Annexes

ID	Description
Annex I	WIPO Governance – Listing of Main Bodies
Annex II	WIPO Governance – Treaties, Related assemblies, Committees and Groups

# ANNEX I: WIPO Governance – Listing of the Main Bodies and Subsidiary Bodies

#	Organ Name	Short Description of Main Functions	Year Established	Established By	Reports to (first reporting body)	Frequency of Reporting	Link
1	WIPO General Assembly (GA)	Supreme decision-making body, appoints the Director General, approves budget.	1967	Member States through WIPO Convention	Member States	Annually	<a href="#">Link</a>
2	WIPO Conference	Adopts amendments to WIPO Convention, discusses IP matters.	1967	Member States through WIPO Convention	Member States	Annually	<a href="#">Link</a>
3	WIPO Coordination Committee (CoCo)	Advises on administrative and financial matters, nominates candidates for Director General.	1967	Member States through WIPO Convention	General Assembly	Annually	<a href="#">Link</a>
4	WIPO Program and Budget Committee (PBC)	Oversees program and budget implementation.	1976	WIPO General Assembly	General Assembly	Annually / Biannually	<a href="#">Link</a>
5	Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)	Monitors implementation of the Development Agenda.	2007	WIPO General Assembly	General Assembly	Annually	<a href="#">Link</a>
6	Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore	Negotiates international legal instruments for genetic resources and Traditional Knowledge.	2000	WIPO General Assembly	General Assembly	Biannually	<a href="#">Link</a>
7	Advisory Committee on Enforcement	Discusses IP enforcement issues.	2002	WIPO General Assembly	General Assembly	Annually	<a href="#">Link</a>
8	Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP)	Discusses patent law development and harmonization.	1998	WIPO General Assembly	General Assembly	Annually	<a href="#">Link</a>
9	Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)	Addresses issues concerning trademarks, industrial designs, and Geographical Indications.	1998	WIPO General Assembly	General Assembly	Annually	<a href="#">Link</a>
10	Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR)	Develops copyright and related rights norms.	1998	WIPO General Assembly	General Assembly	Annually	<a href="#">Link</a>
11	The Committee of Experts of the Special Union for the International Patent Classification	Oversees the International Patent Classification system.	1971	Strasbourg Agreement	Not applicable (Treaty-established body)	As needed	<a href="#">Link</a>
12	The Committee of Experts of the Locarno Union for the International Classification of Industrial Designs	Manages Locarno Classification for industrial designs.	1968	Locarno Agreement	Not applicable (Treaty-established body)	As needed	<a href="#">Link</a>
13	The Committee of Experts of the Nice Union for the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks	Oversees Nice Classification for trademarks.	1957	Nice Agreement	Not applicable (Treaty-established body)	As needed	<a href="#">Link</a>
14	The Committee of Experts of the Vienna Union for the International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks	Manages Vienna Classification for figurative elements of marks.	1973	Vienna Agreement	Not applicable (Treaty-established body)	As needed	<a href="#">Link</a>
15	Committee on WIPO Standards	Develops WIPO standards for IP documentation.	2010	WIPO General Assembly	General Assembly	Annually	<a href="#">Link</a>
16	WIPO IPC Revision Working Group	Updates International Patent Classification.	no data	IPC Union	Committee of Experts of the IPC Union	As needed	<a href="#">Link</a>
17	WIPO PCT Working Group	Discusses issues related to PCT.	2007	PCT Union Assembly	PCT Union Assembly	Annually	<a href="#">Link</a>
18	Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System	Focuses on improving Lisbon System for appellations of origin.	2009	Lisbon Union Assembly	Lisbon Union Assembly	Annually	<a href="#">Link</a>
19	WIPO Working Groups of the Hague Union	Discusses Hague System for industrial designs.	no data	Hague Union	Hague Union Assembly	Annually	<a href="#">Link</a>
20	WIPO Working Groups of the Madrid Union	Addresses issues related to Madrid System for trademarks.	no data	Madrid Union	Madrid Union Assembly	Annually	<a href="#">Link</a>
21	Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC)	An external expert advisory body that assists member states with oversight of WIPO's operations.	2005	WIPO General Assembly	Program and Budget Committee (PBC)	Quarterly	<a href="#">Link</a>
22	External Auditor (EA)	The External Auditor provides an opinion on WIPO's financial statements and on the compliance of transactions with the Financial Regulations and Rules.	1977	WIPO General Assembly	Program and Budget Committee (PBC)	Annually	<a href="#">Link</a>

## ANNEX II: WIPO Governance – Treaties, Related Assemblies, Committees and Groups (1 of 2)

#	AREA	RELATED TREATY / CONVENTION	RELATED ASSEMBLY	RELATED COMMITTEE	RELATED WORKING GROUP
1	WIPO	<a href="#">WIPO Convention</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">WIPO General Assembly</a></li> <li><a href="#">WIPO Conference</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">WIPO Coordination Committee</a></li> <li><a href="#">Program and Budget Committee</a></li> <li><a href="#">Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)</a></li> <li><a href="#">Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)</a></li> <li><a href="#">Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)</a></li> <li><a href="#">Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE)</a></li> <li><a href="#">Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR)</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Working group of WO/GA on Constitutional Reform</a></li> </ul>
2	IP Protection	<a href="#">Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances</a>	<a href="#">Beijing Treaty – Assembly</a>		
3	IP Protection	<a href="#">Berne Convention</a>	<a href="#">Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (Berne Union)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">International Union for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (Berne Union): Executive Committee</a></li> </ul>	
4	IP Protection	<a href="#">Brussels Convention</a>			
5	IP Protection	<a href="#">Madrid Agreement (Indications of Source)</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)</a></li> </ul>	
6	IP Protection	<a href="#">Marrakesh VIP Treaty</a>	<a href="#">Marrakesh Treaty - Assembly</a>		
7	IP Protection	<a href="#">Nairobi Treaty</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)</a></li> <li><a href="#">Executive Committee (Paris Union)</a></li> </ul>	
8	IP Protection	<a href="#">Paris Convention</a>	<a href="#">Protection of Industrial Property (Paris Union)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)</a></li> </ul>	
9	IP Protection	<a href="#">Patent Law Treaty</a>	<a href="#">Patent Law Treaty (PLT): Assembly</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP)</a></li> </ul>	<a href="#">Working Group on Multiple Invention Disclosures and Complex Applications</a>
10	IP Protection	<a href="#">Phonograms Convention</a>			
11	IP Protection	<a href="#">Rome Convention</a>			
12	IP Protection	<a href="#">Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks</a>	<a href="#">Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (STLT) - Assembly</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)</a></li> </ul>	
13	IP Protection	<a href="#">Trademark Law Treaty</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)</a></li> </ul>	
14	IP Protection	<a href="#">Washington Treaty</a>			

## ANNEX II: WIPO Governance – Treaties, Related assemblies, Committees and Groups (2 of 2)

#	AREA	TREATY	ASSEMBLY	COMMITTEE	WG
15	IP Protection	<a href="#">WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT): Assembly</a></li> </ul>		
16	IP Protection	<a href="#">WIPO GRATK Treaty</a>	Future Assembly		
17	IP Protection	<a href="#">WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT): Assembly</a></li> </ul>		
18	IP Protection	<a href="#">Riyadh Design Law Treaty</a> <b>NEW 2024</b>	Future Assembly		
19	Global Protection System	<a href="#">Budapest Treaty</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Union for the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure (Budapest Union): Assembly</a></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Working Group on the Legal Development of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs</a></li> </ul>
20	Global Protection System	<a href="#">Hague Agreement</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Special Union for the International Deposit of Industrial Designs (Hague Union): Assembly</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System (Appellations of Origin)</a></li> </ul>
21	Global Protection System	<a href="#">Lisbon Agreement</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Special Union for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration (Lisbon Union): Assembly</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks</a></li> </ul>
22	Global Protection System	<a href="#">Madrid Agreement (Marks)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Special Union for the International Registration of Marks (Madrid Union): Assembly</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">PCT Working Group</a></li> </ul>
	Global Protection System	<a href="#">Madrid Protocol</a>			
	Global Protection System	<a href="#">Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">International Patent Cooperation Union (PCT Union): Assembly</a></li> </ul>		
25	Classification	<a href="#">Locarno Agreement</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Special Union for the International Classification for Industrial Designs (Locarno Union): Assembly</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Committee of Experts</a> of the Locarno Union.</li> </ul>	
26	Classification	<a href="#">Nice Agreement</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Special Union for the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks (Nice Union): Assembly</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Committee of Experts</a> of the Nice Union.</li> </ul>	
27	Classification	<a href="#">Strasbourg Agreement</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Special Union for the International Patent Classification (IPC Union): Assembly</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">IPC Committee of Experts</a></li> </ul>	
28	Classification	<a href="#">Vienna Agreement</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Special Union for the International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks (Vienna Union): Assembly</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Committee of Experts</a> of the Vienna Union.</li> </ul>	