

## **Special Union for the International Classification for Industrial Designs (Locarno Union)**

### **Committee of Experts**

**Seventeenth Session**  
**Geneva, October 20 to 22, 2025**

#### **REPORT**

*adopted by the Committee of Experts*

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Committee of Experts of the Locarno Union (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) held its seventeenth session in Geneva from October 20 to 22, 2025. The following members of the Committee were represented at the session: Armenia, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan (33). The following States were represented by observers: Algeria, Dominican Republic, Iraq, Uganda, United States of America and Viet Nam (6). Representatives of the following international intergovernmental organizations took part in the session in an observer capacity: Benelux Office for Intellectual Property (BOIP) and European Union (EU). A representative of the following national non-governmental organization attended the session in an observer capacity: Health and Environment Program (HEP). The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. Ken-Ichiro Natsume, Assistant Director General, Infrastructure and Platforms Sector of WIPO, who welcomed the participants.

## **OFFICERS**

3. The Committee unanimously elected Ms. Jayne Cocks (United Kingdom) as Chair for the seventeenth session. No nominations were received for the two positions of Vice-Chair.
4. Ms. Alison Züger (WIPO) acted as Secretary of the session.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

5. The Committee unanimously adopted the agenda, which appears as Annex II to this report.

## **DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS**

6. As decided by the Governing Bodies of WIPO at their tenth series of meetings held from September 24 to October 2, 1979 (see document AB/X/32, paragraphs 51 and 52), the report of this session reflects only the conclusions of the Committee (decisions, recommendations, opinions, etc.) and does not, in particular, reflect the statements made by any participant, except where a reservation in relation to any specific conclusion of the Committee was expressed or repeated after the conclusion was reached.

## **PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE FIFTEENTH EDITION OF THE LOCARNO CLASSIFICATION**

7. Discussions took place on the understanding that:
  - (i) for amendments and additions to the Locarno Classification (hereinafter referred to as the "Classification") not entailing a transfer of goods from one class to another, a simple majority of the countries of the Locarno Union was required under Article 3(4) of the Locarno Agreement;
  - (ii) for the transfer of goods from one class to another, unanimity among the countries of the Locarno Union was required under the same Article 3(4).
8. The Committee noted that countries of the Union not represented at the session or not having expressed their vote during the session or within the period prescribed by the Rules of Procedure of the Committee were considered to have accepted the decisions of the Committee, as set forth in Article 3(6) of the Locarno Agreement.
9. The Committee invited the International Bureau to take the opportunity of correcting any obvious typing or grammatical errors which it found in the text of the Classification and harmonizing, as far as possible, the use of punctuation.

## **CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS IN GROUP 1 (FOUR-FIFTHS MAJORITY APPROVAL) AFTER VOTE 1 IN LOCRMS**

10. Discussions were based on Group 1 in [LOCRMS](#), which contained proposals for changes to the current (fifteenth) edition of the Classification that had received four-fifths majority support at Vote 1.

11. The Committee agreed unanimously to adopt the 193 proposals in Group 1. The decisions of the Committee are available in [LOCRMS/Sessions/CE17](#).

## **CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS IN GROUP 2 AFTER VOTE 1 IN LOCRMS**

12. Discussions were based on Group 2 in [LOCRMS](#), which contained all remaining proposals for changes to the current (fifteenth) edition of the Classification after Vote 1. The Committee noted that any linked proposals that were split between the two groups after Vote 1 had been moved to Group 2. All proposals requiring unanimity were also placed in Group 2.

13. The Committee adopted 148 proposals in Group 2. The decisions of the Committee are available in [LOCRMS/Sessions/CE17](#).

## **CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS**

14. Discussions were based on project [LE172](#), Annex 1, relating to amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts of the Locarno Union.

15. One observer expressed the opinion that the Committee should not have separate Rules of Procedure, but should follow the WIPO General Rules of Procedure, and did not support Rules 7(1) and (2) relating to the Officers' terms of office. The International Bureau explained that some minor changes provided in the proposed Special Rules of Procedure were necessary given its technical nature and biennial revision cycle.

16. The Committee adopted amendments to its Rules of Procedure as contained in Annex III to this report.

## **DISCUSSION ABOUT THE LOCARNO CLASSIFICATION REVISION CYCLE**

17. The Committee was invited to share its views on the length of each phase in LOCRMS, which is still based on the general timeframe approved at [CEL12](#) in 2015.

18. Two Member States indicated support for the current timeframes, but were open to following the majority of the Committee which preferred to trial a modified timeframe, as suggested by the International Bureau, providing a longer period for the commenting phases at the next session. The Committee also acknowledged that the time of year for commenting and voting was just as important as the length of revision phases, to allow greater participation from Member States. The Committee agreed that the International Bureau would establish the timeframe accordingly, taking account of the stated preferences. Moreover, the Committee agreed to maintain the current two-year revision cycle.

## **PUBLICATION OF THE NEW EDITION. ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE**

19. The Committee noted that an early publication of the new (sixteenth) edition of the Classification will be made available online on the [LOCPub site](#), in English and French, by the end of June 2026.

20. The Committee agreed that amendments and additions to the fifteenth edition of the Classification would enter into force on January 1, 2027. The corresponding notification of entry into force would be sent by the end of June 2026.

## **NEXT SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS.**

21. The Committee agreed that the next (eighteenth) session would be held in Geneva in autumn 2027, subject to the schedule of WIPO principal Committees.

## **CLOSING OF THE SESSION**

22. The Chair closed the session.

*23. The Committee of Experts  
unanimously adopted this report by  
electronic means  
on November 6, 2025.*

[Annexes follow]

## LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS/LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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[L'annexe II suit/  
Annex II follows]

ANNEX II  
AGENDA

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of a Chair and two Vice-Chairs for the Seventeenth Session of the Committee
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Consideration of proposals in Group 1 (four-fifths majority approval) after Vote 1 in LOCRMS
5. Consideration of proposals in Group 2 after Vote 1 in LOCRMS
6. Consideration of a proposal for amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts
7. Discussion about the Locarno Classification revision cycle
8. Entry into force of LOC16
9. Next session of the Committee of Experts
10. Closing of the session

[Annex III follows]

## ANNEX III

RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE LOCARNO UNION

(Article 3(1) of the Locarno Agreement)

adopted by the Committee of Experts on September 17, 1971,  
and amended on October 29, 2002 [and October 22, 2025](#)*Rule 1: Application of the General Rules of Procedure*

The Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts of the Locarno Union ([hereinafter referred to as the "Committee of Experts"](#)) shall consist of the General Rules of Procedure of WIPO, supplemented and amended by Articles 3 and 4 of the Locarno Agreement and by the provisions set forth hereinafter.

*Rule 2: Representatives of Member States*

- (1) Each delegate may represent one State only.
- (2) The expenses of each delegation shall be borne by the Government which has appointed it.

*Rule 3: Sessions*

- (1) The Committee of Experts ~~of the Locarno Union~~ shall meet in ordinary session on the initiative of, and on convocation by, the Director General.
- (2) The Committee of Experts ~~of the Locarno Union~~ shall meet in extraordinary session on convocation by the Director General at the request of one-fourth of the States members of the Committee.

*Rule 4: Examination of Proposals*

- (1) The Committee of Experts ~~of the Locarno Union~~ shall decide only on proposals submitted to it at least two months before the opening of the session.
- (2) It may, however, by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast at the meeting, decide to depart from this rule.

*Rule 5: Voting by mail*

(1) The period referred to in Article 3(6) of the Locarno Agreement shall be two months from the date on which the notification of the proposals to be considered by the Committee of Experts is made available by the International Bureau ~~is sent~~. Votes thus communicated shall only be taken into consideration if they are in the possession of the Director General within the prescribed period.

(2) The communication of the vote must come either from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or from the competent Administration of the State in question.

*Rule 6: Observers*

(1) The Director General shall invite States members of the Paris Union but not members of the Locarno Union to be represented by observers at the sessions of the Committee of Experts ~~of the Locarno Union~~.

(2) The Director General may, as an exceptional measure, invite other States and organizations to be represented by observers.

*Rule 7: Officers*

(1) The Committee of Experts shall elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs. Officers' terms of office shall begin immediately with their election. Officers shall remain in office until terms of office of newly elected officers begin.

(2) Any outgoing Chair or Acting Chair may be immediately re-elected to the office which they have held.

(3) Where the Chair or Acting Chair is the only member of the delegation of a member State, they may vote in their capacity of delegate.

*Rule 8: Adoption of Amendments to the Classification*

(1) Except in special cases, amendments to the Classification shall be adopted at the end of specified periods; the length of each period shall be determined by the Committee of Experts.

(2) The Committee of Experts shall be able to take certain decisions by electronic means. Such decisions include the adoption of the reports of its sessions and, without prejudice to Rule 8(1), the adoption of amendments to the Classification.

*Rule ~~79~~: Publication of the Report*

The report on the work of each session of the Committee of Experts, or a summary drawn up by the International Bureau, shall be published in the review WIPO Magazine or on the WIPO Website ~~on the Internet~~.