Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

Fifty-Fourth Series of Meetings
Geneva, September 22 to 30, 2014

ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

Memorandum of the Director General

1. The intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) admitted to attend, as observers, the meetings of the Assemblies and which have been invited to attend the Fifty-Fourth Series of meetings of the Assemblies and the Unions administered by WIPO are listed in document A/54/INF/1.

2. Once an entity is admitted to attend, as an observer, the meetings of the Assemblies, it is also invited to attend, in the same capacity, meetings of committees, working groups, or other bodies subsidiary to the Assemblies, if their subject matter seems to be of direct interest to that organization.

3. Decisions concerning the admission of entities to attend, as observers, the meetings of certain Assemblies were last taken at the Fifty-First series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, from September 23 to October 2, 2013 (document A/51/20, paragraphs 161 to 164).

I. ADMISSION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AS OBSERVERS

4. Since the Fifty-First series of meetings of the Assemblies, from September 23 to October 2, 2013, the Director General has received a request, with the requisite information, from the following IGO for admission to attend the meetings of the Assemblies as an observer:

   (i) Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC).
5. A brief description of the above-mentioned IGO – its objectives, structure and membership – appears in Annex I of this document.

6. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO are invited, each in so far as it is concerned, to take a decision on the request for admission, as an observer, from the IGO appearing in paragraph 4, above, and to include it in category C (Regional Intergovernmental Organizations).

II. ADMISSION OF INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AS OBSERVERS

7. Since the Fifty-First series of meetings of the Assemblies, from September 23 to October 2, 2013, the Director General has received requests, with the requisite information, from each of the following international NGOs for admission to attend the meetings of the Assemblies as an observer:

(i) Agence Pour La Protection Des Programmes (APP);
(ii) Center for Responsible Enterprise and Trade (CREATe.org);
(iii) Innovation Insights;
(iv) Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO);
(v) International Authors Forum;
(vi) IP Federation;
(vii) Patent Information Users Group (PIUG);
(viii) Pirate Parties International (PPI);
(ix) The Egyptian Inventor Syndicate; and
(x) Traditions pour Demain.

8. A short profile of each of the NGOs mentioned in paragraph 7 above – its objectives, structure and membership – appears in Annex II of this document.

9. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO are invited, each in so far as it is concerned, to take a decision on the requests for admission, as observers, from the international NGOs appearing in paragraph 7, above, and to include them in the category of international NGOs.

III. ADMISSION OF NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AS OBSERVERS

10. At the Thirty-Seventh series of meetings, from September 23 to October 1, 2002, the Assemblies, each in so far as it was concerned, agreed to adopt the following proposals as principles applicable in extending invitations to national NGOs, as observers (document A/37/14, paragraph 316):

(a) The organization shall be essentially concerned with intellectual property matters falling within the competence of WIPO and shall, in the view of the Director General, be
able to offer constructive, substantive contributions to the deliberations of the Assemblies of WIPO;

(b) The aims and purposes of the organization shall be in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of WIPO and of the United Nations;

(c) The organization shall have an established headquarters. It shall have democratically adopted statutes, adopted in conformity with the legislation of the Member State from which the NGO originates. One copy of the statutes shall be submitted to WIPO;

(d) The organization shall have authority to speak for its members through its authorized representatives and in accordance with the rules governing observer status; and

(e) The admission of national NGOs to observer status shall be the subject of prior consultations between Member States and the Secretariat.

11. Since the Fifty-First series of meetings of the Assemblies, from September 23 to October 2, 2013, the Director General has received requests, with the requisite information, from each of the following national NGOs for admission to attend the meetings of the Assemblies as an observer:

   (i) Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP);
   (ii) Club for People with Special Needs Region of Preveza (CPSNRP); and
   (iii) Non-Commercial Foundation for Development of the Center for Elaboration and Commercialization of New Technologies (Skolkovo Foundation).

12. A brief profile of each of the NGOs mentioned in paragraph 11, above – its objectives, structure and membership – appears in Annex III of this document.

13. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO are invited, each in so far as it is concerned, to take a decision on the requests for admission, as observers, from the national NGOs appearing in paragraph 11, above, and to include them in the category of national NGOs.

[Annexes follow]
ADMISSION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AS OBSERVERS

Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)

Headquarters: The EEC was established on February 2, 2012, and has its headquarters in Moscow, Russian Federation.

Objectives: The primary objective of the Commission is to provide conditions for the operation and development of the Customs Union and the Common Economic Space and to work out economic integration initiatives within the framework of the Customs Union and the Common Economic Space. The core areas of EEC activities include unification of national laws in the field of protecting intellectual property rights and enhancing investment appeal of the Member States by creating favorable innovative conditions. In addition, the EEC aspires to build a civilized intellectual property market and develop integration processes for Member States.

Structure: The main governing body is the Board of the Commission. It is composed of nine members (each Member State is represented by three members) of which one is appointed to act as Chairman.

Membership: Currently EEC is composed of three Member States: the Russian Federation, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Republic of Belarus.

[Annex II follows]
PARTICULARS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
(ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE SAID NGOS)

Agence pour la protection des programmes (APP)

Headquarters: APP was established on December 16, 1982, and has its headquarters in Paris, France.

Objectives: APP is a European organization for software authors and designers in information technology, which aims to defend corporate bodies or individual authors or editors of computer programs, video games, software packages, data bases, digital works, as well as associated studies and documents. The APP aims to facilitate the amicable or legal action seeking compensation for the prejudices suffered by the right holders due to counterfeiting, fraudulent or illegal imitations, plagiarism and unfair competition. As an organization for professional protection, the APP is competent to initiate legal proceedings in order to defend the rights of designers. The APP gives each work registered to its directory (deposit or registration) an inter Deposit Digital Number (IDDN).

Structure: The main governing bodies of APP are the Executive Committee and the General Assembly and the officers consist of the President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer and two Advisors.

Membership: The Organization has more than 10,000 members in Europe and North America.

Center for Responsible Enterprise and Trade (CREATe.org)

Headquarters: CREATe.org was established on July 28, 2011, and has its headquarters in Washington, D.C., United States of America (USA).

Objectives: CREATe.org’s objective is to help supply chain members mitigate the risks of counterfeiting, piracy, and trade secret theft. CREATe.org seeks to improve management systems and practices to protect IP and prevent corruption. On an international scale, the Organization’s focus is to strengthen compliance among multinational companies and promote transparency around issues of intellectual property protection and corruption prevention.

Structure: The main governing body of CREATe.org is comprised of a Board of Directors along with a Global Advisory Council.

Membership: CREATe.org is not a member organization. Any company can utilize CREATe.org's services, training and resources. The organization's work is global, with particular focus on Brazil, China, Europe, India, Japan, Mexico, and the USA.

Innovation Insights

Headquarters: Innovation Insights was established in May 2013 and has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Objectives: Innovation Insights provides a platform to share business perspectives on technology diffusion and intellectual property. The Organization aims to enhance and accelerate technological advancement globally, by encouraging policy-makers to create environments tailored for innovation.
Structure: The main governing body of Innovation Insights is the Executive Committee. A Committee directs the Organization’s executive decisions, which is led by a Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Membership: The Organization’s members are drawn from the private sector. Currently there are six members representing wireless, medical, and multinational corporations.

**Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO)**

Headquarters: IPO was established on January 25, 1972, and has its headquarters in Washington D.C., United States of America.

Objectives: The Organization aims to encourage the development and protection of intellectual property by educating members and the public concerning the importance of intellectual and industrial property. In addition, IPO encourages the use of incentive systems for stimulating invention and innovation for the development of intellectual and industrial property.

Structure: The main governing body of IPO is comprised of a Committee led by the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Executive Director.

Membership: More than 200 companies and 12,000 individuals around the world are members of IPO through their companies or law firms, or as inventors, authors, university, law firms or individual attorney members.

**International Authors Forum**

Headquarters: International Authors Forum was established on April 19, 2013, and has its headquarters in Cardiff, United Kingdom.

Objectives: International Authors Forum aims to provide a platform to support authors’ rights. The Forum advocates the authors’ role in society, pointing out the importance of creation for cultural diversity and the economic value of authors’ work. Further, the Forum facilitates a strong authors’ presence internationally through lobbying and copyright awareness.

Structure: The Forum is governed by a Steering Committee, which consists of the Trustees of the Association. The Trustees are responsible for the management of the Forum’s business, for which purpose they may exercise all the powers of the International Authors Forum. There are nine members currently on the Trustee Board.

Membership: Currently, International Authors Forum is composed of 23 individual members and 8 associations. The 31 current members advocate for authors’ organizations worldwide, including the UK, US, and certain African countries.

**IP Federation**

Headquarters: The IP Federation was established in 1920 and is headquartered in London, United Kingdom (UK).

Objectives: The IP Federation’s aim is to bring about improvements for intellectual property rights to benefit inventors, manufacturers and consumers alike. Today, the Federation has numerous IP-intensive members operating in a wide range of sectors and product groups. The Organization focuses specifically on copyright, competition, and database rights.
Structure: The IP Federation has a Council, a Governance Committee, and a number of technical committees, to which detailed consideration of issues may be delegated. Two presiding officers lead discussions at the Organization.

Membership: 41 IP-intensive multinational companies have joined as members to date.

Patent Information Users Group (PIUG)

Headquarters: PIUG was established on February 3, 1999, and has its headquarters in Southfield, Michigan, United States of America (USA).

Objectives: PIUG’s objective is to support and enhance the success of patent information professionals through leadership and networking. PIUG seeks to assist individuals having a professional, scientific or technical interest in patent information. Also, PIUG’s international forum and discussion promotes the retrieval and dissemination of patent information.

Structure: The business of the corporation is managed by a Board of Directors, which consist of seven individuals. The main board officers are a Director and Chair.

Membership: PIUG has over 700 active members representing 27 countries. The largest concentration of members is from the USA, Europe and Japan. PIUG members include patent attorneys, patent agents, and documentation experts.

Pirate Parties International (PPI)

Headquarters: PPI was established in 2010 and is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.

Objectives: PPI serves as a world-wide organization currently representing members from 44 countries. The Pirate Parties are political incarnations of the freedom of expression movement, trying to achieve their goals by the means of the established political system rather than through activism. PPI advocates on an international level for the promotion of the goals its members share such as protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the digital age, consumer and authors’ rights-oriented reform of copyright and related rights, support for information privacy, transparency, and free access to information (See letter from PPI of May 27, 2014, that appears in Annex IV of this document).

Structure: PPI’s General Assembly is the highest governing body. It is composed of all Members of Pirate Parties International. PPI is managed by the Board, the executive organ.

Membership: PPI counts Pirate Parties of over 44 nations as its ordinary members and has admitted 11 Pirate Parties to observer membership.

The Egyptian Inventor Syndicate

Headquarters: The Egyptian Inventor Syndicate was established on November 2012 and has its headquarters in Cairo, Egypt.

Objectives: The Syndicate aims to improve the international economic status of Egyptian inventors. In addition, the Syndicate aims to advance economic development by spreading the culture of invention and innovation in developed countries and Egypt. The Syndicate further integrates intellectual property into international development policies and increases the efficiency of invention and innovation management.
Structure: The main governing body of the Egyptian Inventor Syndicate is a Board of Directors, which is made up of a President, General Secretary, and Treasurer.

Membership: Associations from Egypt, Niger, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Yemen are members of The Egyptian Inventor Syndicate. Also, 67 Egyptian and Syrian inventors are members of the Syndicate.

Traditions pour Demain: Association pour la protection et la promotion de l'environnement culturel en milieu ethniques (Traditions pour Demain)

Headquarters: Traditions Pour Demain was established on July 14, 1986, and has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Objectives: The Organization’s aim is to contribute to the protection and promotion of traditional values and cultural expressions of indigenous communities, in any country, through the conception and support of projects, in Latin America mainly.

Structure: The main governing body of Traditions Pour Demain is comprised of the General Assembly. The officers consist of the President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary General and a Treasurer.

Membership: 500 members made of legal entities or individual members.

[Annex III follows]
PARTICULARS CONCERNING NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
(ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE SAID ORGANIZATIONS)

Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)

Headquarters: CILIP was established on April 1, 2002, and has its headquarters in London, United Kingdom.

Objectives: CILIP is actively involved with issues concerning copyright and rights for libraries. The Organization’s aim is to work for the benefit of the public to promote education and knowledge through the development of libraries and information services in order to advance the information sciences.

Structure: CILIP’s main governing body is a Council headed by a President along with the advice of five executive officers. CILIP has a number of boards, panels and task groups, each of which has a unique role and report to the Office of the President.

Membership: CILIP has approximately 13,500 individual members working closely with most parts of the United Kingdom economy. CILIP also works closely with a variety of Special Interest Groups and Regional Member Networks from the United Kingdom.

Club for People with Special Needs Region of Preveza (CPSNRP)

Headquarters: CPSNRP was established on October 24, 2000, and has its headquarters in Preveza, Greece.

Objectives: CPSNRP aims to organize the needs for the blind and visually impaired members, by studying the issues that affect their everyday life and the promotion of their social rights. The Club is involved in the development of structures for professional accessibility and social solidarity for people with special needs. In addition, the Club encourages professional accessibility and work for the blind and visually impaired members.

Structure: The Club is a member of the Greek National Confederation of Disabled People. A nine-member Administrative Council led by a President comprises the executive board.

Membership: The CPSNRP has approximately 1,200 Greek individual members.

Non-Commercial Foundation for Development of the Center for Elaboration and Commercialization of New Technologies (Skolkovo Foundation)

Headquarters: The Skolkovo Foundation was established on May 21, 2010, and has its headquarters in Moscow, Russian Federation.

Objectives: The Skolkovo Foundation’s mission is to establish development and commercialization for research and development results. Further, the Skolkovo Foundation incorporates a Centre to provide innovative companies with a whole range of services in the field of intellectual property.
Structure: The main governing bodies are the Board of Trustees and the Foundation Council.

Membership: More than 300 companies have received the status of Skolkovo resident/members.

[Annex IV follows]
Please see our attached application for the permanent observer membership of the WIPO.

Pirate Parties International (PPI) is a not-for-profit international non-governmental organisation with its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. Formed in 2010 it serves as a worldwide organisation for Pirate Parties, currently representing members from 44 countries. The Pirate Parties are political incarnations of the freedom of expression movement, trying to achieve their goals by the means of the established political system rather than through activism.

The PPI advocate on the international level for the promotion of the goals its members share such as protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the digital age, consumer and authors rights-oriented reform of copyright and related rights, support for information privacy, transparency and free access to information.

The name "Pirates" itself is a reappropriation of the title that was given to Internet users by the representatives of the music and film industries, and do not refer to any illegal activity.

We believe that the Pirate Parties International (PPI) can bring new viewpoints of the public which they represent, and can be helpful in preparing the legislative change that is necessary, so that the right of the public to copy information be protected in the age of digital media.

During the hearing of our last application during the WIPO GA 2013 concerns have been raised regarding a precedent of known cooperation of political international organisations with Intergovernmental Organisations such as WIPO or other UN bodies, and also the question for more detailed information regarding the actual activity of PPI. I want to address those concerns by giving the following details:

There are numerous examples of cooperation between UN bodies and political international: The Socialist International are listed as having ECOSOC general consultative status since 1995; the Socialist International Youth is listed as ECOSOC (since 1993), DPI, ILO and FAO observers; the Christian Democrat International is in general consultative status with ECOSOC since as early as 1950; the Liberal International is in relations with ECOSOC (since 1996) and DPI.

PPI itself have meanwhile acquired a record of relation with international governmental organisations.

PPI held a presentation "Copyright for the digital age" at the UNESCO regional summit on Freedom of Expression on the Internet in Marrakesh in March 2013. PPI have officially been granted the observer status at the WTO 8th ministerial
conference in Bali in December 2013, where we have presented a paper calling for inclusion of provisions on public licenses into the framework of the TRIPS agreement. Gregory Engels is spearheading a statement in the official WTO "Reflections from the 9th MC in Bali" exercise.

In May 2014, representatives from PPI attended the Stakeholder Consultation Forum of the 5th negotiation round of TRIPS and have given a presentation on a suggestion for transparency and electronic participation in international negotiation.

I hope that this time our application will cease less misunderstandings and that we can build on a partnership with WIPO.

Sincerely yours,

on behalf of the Board of the Pirate Parties International,

Gregory Engels, Board Member

P.S. Alex’s response, President, Open Pirate Party

Attachments:
1. Statutes of Pirate Parties International
2. Application for the permanent observer membership of the WIPO

[End of Annex IV and of document]