

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

Fifty-Fifth Series of Meetings Geneva, October 5 to 14, 2015

ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The observers admitted to attend the Fifty-Fifth series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by WIPO (the Assemblies) are listed in document A/55/INF/1.
2. Once an observer is admitted to attend 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 observer.
3. Decisions concerning the admission of observers to the meetings of certain Assemblies were last taken at the Fifty-Fourth series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, from September 22 to 30, 2014 (document A/54/13, paragraphs 137 to 146).
4. Since then, the Director General has received requests, with the requisite information, from each of the following entities for admission to attend the meetings of the Assemblies as an observer:
 - (a) INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (IGOs)
 - (i) European Public Law Organization (EPLO).

(b) INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs)

- (i) Archives and Records Association (ARA);
- (ii) Confederacy of Patent Information User Groups (CEPIUG);
- (iii) European Association for Bioindustries (EUROPABIO);
- (iv) International Intellectual Property Commercialization Council Limited (IIPCC); and
- (v) MALOCA *Internationale*.

(c) NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS* (NGOs)

- (i) Association of Spanish Attorneys before International Industrial and Intellectual Property Organization (AGESORPI);
- (ii) The Finnish Copyright Society; and
- (iii) The Nest Foundation.

5. A brief description of each of the entities mentioned above – its objectives, structure and membership – appears in the Annexes of this document.

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

[Annexes follow]

* For the principles applicable in extending invitations to national NGOs, as observers, adopted by Assemblies at their Thirty-Seventh series of meetings, from September 23 to October 1, 2002, see document A/37/14, paragraph 316.

ADMISSION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (IGOS) AS OBSERVERS

European Public Law Organization (EPLO)

Headquarters: EPLO was established on June 21, 2007, and has its headquarters in Athens, Greece.

Objectives: The primary objective of EPLO is the creation and dissemination of knowledge as well as institution building activities in the area of public law, including national, comparative and European public law, human rights law, environmental law, international law and the promotion of European values through public law worldwide. To this end, EPLO organizes and supports scientific research, educational training and teaching. In the area of institution building, it provides assistance to democratic institutions in Europe and worldwide. EPLO aims to both protect and enforce intellectual property rights (IPRs) in European Union (EU) and non-EU member states, with targeted enforcement of copyright and fighting against piracy through training activities and technical support.

Structure: The main governing bodies of EPLO are the General Assembly, the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and the European Scientific Council. The main officer is the Director, who is appointed by the Board of Directors on the advice of the European Scientific Council.

Membership: Currently, the EPLO is composed of ten Member States: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Italy, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Serbia. Several other countries have declared their intention to join.

[Annex II follows]

PARTICULARS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) (ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE SAID NGOs)

Archives and Records Association (ARA)

Headquarters: The Archives and Records Association (ARA) was established in May 2010, by the merger of three organizations (the Society of Archivists, the National Council on Archives and the Association of Chief Archivists in Local Government), and is headquartered in the United Kingdom.

Objectives: The main purpose of the ARA is to provide a single voice on all matters relating to archives, records management and archives conservation in the United Kingdom and Ireland. ARA fosters, promotes and seeks to broaden the care, management, access to, and use of, records and archives. It also serves as the professional body for those involved in all aspects of recordkeeping in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Structure: The Association is governed by an elected Board, consisting of a Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, an Honorary Secretary and up to eight directors. The general administration and policy making of the Association is the responsibility of the Board. A Chief Executive Officer is appointed by the Board of Directors, and he has the executive authority to act on behalf of the Association.

Membership: Membership in the Association is open to any interested person, and consists of registered members, members, student members, honorary life member, institutional affiliates and individual affiliate members. The association has a total of 2,332 members in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Confederacy of Patent Information User Groups (CEPIUG)

Headquarters: The Confederacy of Patent Information User Groups (CEPIUG) was created in 2008, and its headquarters is in Seville, Spain.

Objectives: The objectives of the Confederacy are to promote the professional status and skills of the patent information community, and to provide a platform for discussion and cooperation for its members. The Confederacy also aims at participating in discussions at any level with national and international patent authorities, giving its feedback and proposing improvements, particularly in the field of patent information and documentation (including classifications, standards, publications, databases, search tools and other matters).

Structure: The main governing body of the Confederacy is a Board of the Confederacy consisting of at least four persons who each represent a different member. Board members include a Chair, a Vice-chair, a Secretary and members.

Membership: The Confederacy currently groups 9 associations of patent information professionals from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom, with a total number of 800 members.

European Association for Bioindustries (EUROPABIO)

Headquarters: The European Association for Bioindustries (EUROPABIO) was created in 2002 and is registered in Brussels, Belgium.

Objectives: The objectives of EUROPABIO consist in the promotion of the interests of the biotechnology industry in Europe, in particular those of a scientific, technical, regulatory and institutional nature, including representations with European and international associations, organizations and institutions. The Association organizes working group meetings and events in order to achieve these objectives.

Structure: The main governing bodies of the Association are a General Assembly, as well as a Board composed of a maximum of 28 members, including a Chair, Vice-Chairs, a Treasurer and Members. Board members are appointed and dismissed by the General Assembly. The Secretary General ensures the everyday management of the Association and sees to the proper functioning of the Association.

Membership: The Association is composed of 60 members (companies operating in a Member State and national non-governmental associations (NGOs) representing the biotechnology industry in a Member State), as well as 13 associate members (regional biotechnology development organizations, scientific institutions, commercial, financial, asset management or service providing companies).

International Intellectual Property Commercialization Council Limited (IIPCC)

Headquarters: IIPCC was established on May 7, 2014, and has its headquarters in Hong Kong, China.

Objectives: IIPCC is committed to the promotion of and education on IPRs. IIPCC acts as an advisory body for other organizations in all matters concerning the education, generation, commercialization and other uses of IPRs and assets, by recommending best practices, standards and certification, and by building and supporting an ecosystem for the generation and commercialization of these rights.

Structure: The main governing body of IIPCC is comprised of a Board of Governors, which elects the Company Secretary.

Membership: Current membership stands at over 20,000 and includes individuals (both regular and student) as well as corporations and other entities.

MALOCA Internationale

Headquarters: MALOCA *Internationale* is a Foundation created in 2014 in Bogota D.C., Colombia. It has headquarters both in Bogota D.C. and Mocoa, Colombia. The Foundation has also registered an association in Switzerland to support its international activities.

Objectives: The objective of the Foundation is to foster indigenous spiritualities as a core element of indigenous cultures, and to share the experiences, knowledge and spirituality of indigenous people with Switzerland and all Nations.

MALOCA *Internationale* also offers a space where the representatives of indigenous people and civil society can define their objectives with regard to the negotiation processes of the United Nations (UN). The activities of the Foundation include lobbying in the UN system, providing access to health in Colombia using indigenous traditional medicinal knowledge, preserving indigenous culture and knowledge in the Colombian amazon, and carrying out research and educational activities about indigenous people's medicinal plants in Colombia.

Structure: The main governing body of the Foundation is a Board of Directors, comprised of three members (and substitutes), a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer and a Secretary. The Foundation also has an Executive Director, a Deputy Executive Director and an International Representative, elected by the 7 founding members, and who execute the decisions made by the Board of Directors. They act as legal representatives of the Foundation.

Membership: MALOCA *Internationale* has seven individual members.

[Annex III follows]

PARTICULARS CONCERNING NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) (ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE SAID ORGANIZATIONS)

Association of Spanish Attorneys before International Industrial and Intellectual Property Organizations (AGESORPI)

Headquarters: The Association of Spanish Attorneys before International Industrial and Intellectual Property Organizations (AGESORPI) was created in 1987 and has its headquarters in Barcelona, Spain.

Objectives: The objectives of the Association are to represent the interests of its members before the Spanish authorities and associations, and before the EU, the European Patent Office (EPO) and WIPO. The Association also aims at developing recommendations, promoting its members on a professional perspective, and ensuring the respect and compliance of European and Spanish regulations.

Structure: The governing bodies of the Association are a General Assembly and a Board of Directors (composed of a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Treasurer).

Membership: The Association has a total of 82 members, and is composed of ordinary members (who have a right to vote and who are eligible for the Board of Directors), extraordinary members and honorary members. Ordinary membership is open to physical persons with a professional address registered in Spain.

The Finnish Copyright Society

Headquarters: The Finnish Copyright Society was founded in 1965 and has its headquarters in Helsinki, Finland.

Objectives: The main objective of the Finnish Copyright Society is to become a national discussion forum for copyright policy. Its aim is to promote the development of legislation and the international copyright regime, and to enhance the general knowledge on copyright. The Society also acts as an impartial discussion forum, for the exchange of information, ideas and experiences on copyright.

Structure: The governing bodies are the Board of Directors and the Annual Meeting of Members.

Membership: The Finnish Copyright Society has 400 members, comprising of individuals who deal with copyright matters in their professional activity, as well as associations and companies who produce or use copyrighted subject matter in their business. The Society's membership also extends to lawyers, academics and other professionals who have a special interest in copyright.

The Nest Foundation

Headquarters: The Nest Foundation was founded in 2009 and has its headquarters in New Delhi, India.

Objectives: One of the main objectives of the Nest Foundation is to educate and create awareness in India on the issues, rights and duties related to intellectual property, through audiovisual media, print and electronic, and through various other forms like art, paintings and crafts. The Foundation also aims at protecting and promoting intellectual property, as well as protecting and preserving the traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions, and indigenous knowledge of the people of India.

Structure: The governing body is the Board of Trustees, composed of a Chairman presiding over all the meetings of the Board, a Secretary (in charge of the general administration of the Trust) and a Treasurer.

Membership: The Nest Foundation has 390 individual members and two types of membership (Life Membership and Student Membership).

[End of Annex III and of document]