

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

Fifty-Sixth Series of Meetings Geneva, October 3 to 11, 2016

ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The observers admitted to attend the Fifty-Sixth 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/56/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-Fifth series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, from October 5 to 14, 2015 (document A/55/13, paragraphs 157 to 162).
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) INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs)
 - (i) African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA);
 - (ii) Centre International d'Investissement (CII Suisse);
 - (iii) Medicines for Africa.

¹ A revision of this document is necessitated by the fact that one national non-governmental organization withdrew its application for permanent observer status in WIPO on September 27, 2016.

(b) NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS² (NGOs)

- (i) Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA);
- (ii) Karisma 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.

[Annexes follow]

² For the principles applicable in extending invitations to national NGOs, as observers, adopted by the Assemblies at their Thirty-Seventh series of meetings, from September 23 to October 1, 2002, see document A/37/14, paragraph 316.

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

African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA)

Headquarters: The African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA) was established in 2014 and is headquartered in Accra, Ghana.

Objectives: The main purpose of AfLIA is to represent the interests of libraries and librarians across Africa. It aims to support the profession, increase the quality of library services and advocate for libraries on the national and international agenda.

Structure: The Annual General Meeting is the highest governance level of the Association. The Association is governed by a Governing Council, consisting of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Immediate Past-President and regional representatives.

Membership: AfLIA groups 74 members consisting of libraries, national or regional library associations and information and documentation centres, through the African continent.

Centre International d'Investissement (CII)

Headquarters: CII was created in 2010, and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Objectives: The objectives of CII are the promotion of sustainable development, the defense of cultural diversity and development of art, international cooperation in the field of education and health, the promotion of new technologies, science and innovation, and the protection of human rights.

Structure: The main governing body of CII is the General Assembly. The Executive Committee consists of a President, a Secretary General and a Treasurer.

Membership: It consists of entities from Switzerland and the Russian Federation.

Medicines for Africa

Headquarters: Medicines for Africa is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and is registered in the United Kingdom.

Objectives: The objectives of Medicines for Africa are to improve access to medicines by supporting cost-effective purchase of medicines by African countries, at prices comparable to what others pay on the international market. The focus is on priority medicines that are not subject to international procurement and development support efforts.

Structure: The main governing body is the Board of Directors.

Membership: Medicines for Africa has 9 individual members.

[Annex II follows]

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

Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA)

Headquarters: JIPA was created in 1938 and is headquartered in Tokyo, Japan.

Objectives: The purpose of JIPA is to contribute to the business of its members by endeavoring to make full utilization of, and improve intellectual property systems. JIPA also aims at contributing to the progress of technology and the development of industry.

Structure: The governing body of JIPA is a Board, composed of a President and a Vice-President.

Membership: Total membership of JIPA stands at approximately 1,200 members. There are two types of members, regular members and associate members. The regular members consist of over 900 corporations that create and protect intellectual property assets. Associate members, over 300 in number, consist of law firms and patent attorney's offices.

Karisma Foundation (Karisma)

Headquarters: Karisma was created in 2003 in Bogota, Colombia.

Objectives: Karisma's main purpose is to ensure that the benefits of technology reach those most in need, and to ensure that technological developments promote human rights, gender and social justice. Karisma's approach incorporates multiple perspectives "legal, technological, social and economic" in the analysis of opportunities and threats, and responds to these in coalitions with local, regional and international partners.

Structure: The Assembly comprises all members and is the highest governing body. The Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees, composed of five members, including the Director, the President and an Auditor (revisor fiscal).

Membership: Karisma has 13 individual members.

[End of Annex II and of document]