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Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

Sixty-First Series of Meetings Geneva, September 21 to September 29, 2020

ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The observers admitted to attend the Sixty-First series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and of the Unions administered by WIPO (the Assemblies) are listed in document A/61/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 the Assemblies were last taken at the Fifty-Ninth series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, from September 30 to October 9, 2019 (document A/59/14, paragraph 37).
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:

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION (IGO)

- (i) International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory (INL).

INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS)

- (i) Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC);
- (ii) Brand Owners Protection Group (Gulf BPG);
- (iii) Independent Alliance for Artists Rights (IAFAR);
- (iv) Intellectual Property Latin American School (ELAPI);
- (v) Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT);
- (vi) Wikimedia Foundation (WMF); and
- (vii) Women@theTable (Women at the Table).

NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS¹ (NGOS)

- (i) French Association of Industrial and Artisanal Geographical Indications (AFIGIA);
- (ii) Design and Artists Copyright Society (DACs);
- (iii) Omani Association for Intellectual Property (OAIP); and
- (iv) Research Center for Innovation-Supported Entrepreneurial Ecosystems (RISE).

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

6. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as 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 of document A/61/3.

[Annexes follow]

¹ 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 AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION (IGO) (ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE ORGANIZATION)

International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory (INL)

Headquarters: INL was established in 2008 and has its headquarters in Braga, Portugal.

Objectives: INL provides a basis for scientific and technological cooperation between its Member States, especially in nanoscience and nanotechnology by carrying out both fundamental and applied research, as well as research essentially related thereto. As such, INL promotes and performs interdisciplinary research in the field of nanotechnology and nanoscience for the benefit of society and has a focus on six applied research areas: health, food, environment, renewable energy and Information and communication technologies.

Structure: The Director-General of INL is the Chief Executive Officer of the Laboratory and its legal representative. The Director-General is appointed by the Council, which is responsible for the promotion, overall direction and supervision of INL's activities.

Membership: The member states of INL are Portugal and Spain. Membership is open to all States.

[Annex II follows]

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

Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC)

Headquarters: ARSC was established in 1966 and has its headquarters in Eugene, Oregon, United States of America.

Objectives: ARSC actively promotes a copyright regime that supports the needs of its community of sound recording curators, dealers, scholars, performers, engineers, producers, and broadcasters, while respecting the needs of creators. ARSC encourages, *inter alia*, cooperation among recording archivists and collectors, fosters recognition of sound recordings as source of information by research scholars, and convenes members, as well as guests, periodically to information on the subject of recorded sound collections.

Structure: ARSC is overseen by an eight-person Board of Directors, including the President. The Executive Director is an *ex officio* member of the Board. Together, the Board of Directors and the chairs of the Standing Committees comprise ARSC's Executive Committee.

Membership: ARSC has a total membership of 756, which is composed of natural and juridical persons.

Brand Owners Protection Group (Gulf BPG)

Headquarters: The Gulf BPG was established in 2005 and has its headquarters in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Objectives: The Gulf BPG's mission is to promote the interests of its members by protecting their intellectual property rights and by protecting consumers' rights against counterfeit goods and illicit trade including infringements of trademarks, copyrights, patents and industrial designs. The organization collects and exchanges any type of information and experience for the purpose of promoting best practices in the field of intellectual property protection and the defending of consumer rights. To promote brand owners' intellectual property protection, it coordinates with various governmental authorities on a local, federal, regional and international level.

Structure: The governing bodies of the Gulf BPG consist of the General Assembly and a Board of Directors elected by the General Assembly.

Membership: The Gulf BPG has 54 juridical persons as members.

Independent Alliance for Artists Rights (IAFAR)

Headquarters: IAFAR was established in 2018 and has its headquarters in London, United Kingdom.

Objectives: IAFAR's mission is to advocate for neighboring and related rights for the benefits of persons making audible contributions to musical recordings. It pursues this mission by addressing worldwide issues related to managing neighboring rights, by providing workshops, seminars and literature to artists as well as organizations, and by providing a community to support, debate and foster the work of all members.

Structure: IAFAR has a Board of Directors comprised of eleven individuals, including the President, the Treasurer/Secretary and the Head of Business and Legal Affairs.

Membership: IAFAR membership consists of 18 natural and juridical persons.

Intellectual Property Latin American School (ELAPI)

Headquarters: ELAPI was established in 2019 and has its headquarters in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Objectives: ELAPI's objectives are, *inter alia*, the promotion of the development of Intellectual Property in the Latin American Region, as well as the establishment of alliances with different governmental and non-governmental organizations for the promotion and study of Intellectual Property. ELAPI also aims at serving as a consultative body on matters related to intellectual property.

Structure: The governing bodies of ELAPI are the Board of Directors, the General Assembly, composed of all the members of ELAPI, and the Auditing Body. The Board of Directors consists of the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

Membership: ELAPI's membership is composed of 58 natural persons.

Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT)

Headquarters: TRACIT was established in 2017 and has its headquarters in Fort Myers, Florida, United States of America.

Objectives: TRACIT's objective is to mitigate economic and social damages of illicit trade, *inter alia* those caused by trademark counterfeiting and copyright piracy, by promoting better government regulation and policies, improving supply chain controls, exchanging data, strengthening national government enforcement measures, and pressing for UN coordination.

Structure: TRACIT is supervised by a Board of Directors, which is composed of members drawn from the Executive Committee and the Director-General of the organization.

Membership: TRACIT's membership is composed of 11 juridical persons.

Wikimedia Foundation (WMF)

Headquarters: WMF was established in 2003 and has its headquarters in San Francisco, California, United States of America.

Objectives: The mission of WMF is to empower and engage people around the world to collect and develop educational content under a free license or in the public domain, and to disseminate it effectively and globally. WMF provides the infrastructure and an organizational framework for the support and development of multilingual websites ("projects") that host user-generated knowledge in coordination with a network of individual volunteers and independent movement organizations. WMF will make and keep useful information from its projects available on the Internet free of charge, in perpetuity.

Structure: WMF's governing body, the Board of Trustees, consists, currently, of ten persons. It elects, from among the Trustees, the following officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, and any Board Committee Chairs. It also appoints the following non-Trustee officer positions: an Executive Director, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as the Board may appoint.

Membership: WMF does not have member organizations but 124 user groups, 39 geographic chapters, and two thematic organizations with which it is affiliated.

Women@theTable (Women at the Table)

Headquarters: Women at the Table was established in 2015 and has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Objectives: Women at the Table advocates for more women, more dynamic, progressive voices, and more seats with strong, vibrant women's voices at decision-making tables in all social, economic, political and public spheres. The organization seeks movement in the public conversation so that these dynamic, humanist voices, particularly those of women and their unique points of view, are heard and acted upon in the corridors of power. Women at the Table leverages both grassroots and media to take the equal numbers of "women at the table" global and mainstream.

Structure: Women at the Table's governing bodies consist of the General Assembly, the Board, and the Auditor. The Board consists of a President and at least two other members elected by the General Assembly. The General Assembly is the organization's supreme authority.

Membership: Women at the Table's membership is composed of five natural persons.

[Annex III follows]

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

French Association of Industrial and Artisanal Geographical Indications (AFIGIA)

Headquarters: AFIGIA was established in 2015 and has its headquarters in Bordeaux, France.

Objectives: AFIGIA aims at representing as broadly as possible all French geographical indications for industrial or artisanal products and forms a network for exchange and consultation that improves the visibility of these sectors in the field of geographical indications. The organization ensures, *inter alia*, the recognition, promotion and defense of the concept of geographical indications for industrial or artisanal products and combats usurpation, counterfeiting and all types of geographical indications infringement.

Structure: The governing bodies of AFIGIA consist of the General Assembly, which, *inter alia*, elects the Board of Directors from among the members of the organization. The Board of Directors elects the organization's officers, including a President, one or several Vice-Presidents and a Treasurer.

Membership: AFIGIA's membership is composed of 16 juridical persons.

Design and Artists Copyright Society (DACS)

Headquarters: DACS was established in 1983 and has its headquarters in London, United Kingdom.

Objectives: DACS is a visual artists' rights management organization. It ensures the representation, furtherance and defense of the professional, economic, legal and moral interests of owners of copyrights in artistic works with regard to reproduction and other rights therein. DACS collects and distributes royalties to visual artists and their estates through payback, artist's resale right, copyright licensing, as well as Artimage.

Structure: DACS is governed by a Board of Directors, currently consisting of 16 persons, appointed by the members of DACS, who meet in an annual General Meeting.

Membership: DACS represents over 100,000 artist members.

Omani Association for Intellectual Property (OAIP)

Headquarters: OAIP was established in 2017 and has its headquarters in Muscat, Oman.

Objectives: The objectives of OAIP are, *inter alia*, raising awareness of the importance of protecting intellectual property, promoting scientific research on intellectual property, and sharing experience and knowledge regarding intellectual property issues in various fields.

Structure: The governing bodies of OAIP are the General Assembly and the Board of Directors, which consists of 12 members and is elected by the General Assembly. The Board of Directors elects, among its members, a Chair, Vice-President, Coordinator and Treasurer. It may form an Executive Committee, consisting of a maximum of five members of the Board of Directors.

Membership: OAIP's membership is composed of 80 natural persons.

Research Center for Innovation-Supported Entrepreneurial Ecosystems (RISE)

Headquarters: RISE was established in 2018 and has its headquarters in Concord, North Carolina, United States of America.

Objectives: RISE provides, *inter alia*, consultancy and training services to universities, research institutions, intellectual property organizations and governments with regard to technology transfer and intellectual property commercialization strategies to foster knowledge-based economies in Africa. It works with public and private institutions in African countries to create a community of technology and intellectual property professionals with the skills to access and utilize technological innovation.

Structure: The governing body of RISE is the Board of Directors, which consists of at least two and not more than eight individuals, managing the general affairs of the organization. The officers of RISE are a President, President Elect, Past President, CEO or Executive Director, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Membership: RISE is not a membership-based organization.

[End of Annex III and of document]