English Language
The upward curving lines of the World Intellectual Property Organization’s logo evoke human progress driven by innovation and creativity.

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**Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO**

**Sixty-Second Series of Meetings**

**Geneva, October 4 to 8, 2021, 2021**

general report

*adopted by the Assemblies*

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# INTRODUCTION

1. This General Report records the deliberations and decisions of the following 22 Assemblies and other bodies of the Member States of WIPO (the “Assemblies”):
2. WIPO General Assembly, fifty-fourth (25th ordinary) session
3. WIPO Conference, forty-second (25th ordinary) session
4. WIPO Coordination Committee, eightieth (52nd ordinary) session
5. Paris Union Assembly, fifty-seventh (25th ordinary) session
6. Paris Union Executive Committee, sixty-first (57th ordinary) session
7. Berne Union Assembly, fifty-first (25th ordinary) session
8. Berne Union Executive Committee, sixty-seventh (52nd  ordinary) session
9. Madrid Union Assembly, fifty-fifth (24th ordinary) session
10. Hague Union Assembly, forty-first (23rd ordinary) session
11. Nice Union Assembly, forty-first (25th ordinary) session
12. Lisbon Union Assembly, thirty-eighth (24th ordinary) session
13. Locarno Union Assembly, forty-first (24th ordinary) session
14. IPC [International Patent Classification] Union Assembly, forty-second (23rd ordinary) session
15. PCT [Patent Cooperation Treaty] Union Assembly, fifty‑third (23rd ordinary) session
16. Budapest Union Assembly, thirty-eighth (21st ordinary) session
17. Vienna Union Assembly, thirty‑fourth (21st ordinary) session
18. WCT [WIPO Copyright Treaty] Assembly, twenty-first (10th ordinary) session
19. WPPT [WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty] Assembly, twenty-first (10th ordinary) session
20. PLT [Patent Law Treaty] Assembly, twentieth (9th ordinary) session
21. Singapore Treaty [Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks] Assembly, fourteenth (7th ordinary) session
22. Marrakesh Treaty [Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled] Assembly, sixth (6th ordinary) session.
23. BTAP [Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances] Assembly, second (2nd ordinary) session

The Assemblies of the Member States met in Geneva from October 4 to 8, 2021, and decisions were made in joint meetings of two or more of the said Assemblies and other bodies convened (hereinafter referred to as “the joint meeting(s)” and “the Assemblies” respectively).

1. In addition to this General Report, separate Reports have been drawn up on the sessions of the WIPO General Assembly (WO/GA/54/15), WIPO Coordination Committee (WO/CC/80/5), PCT Union Assembly (PCT/A/53/4), Madrid Union Assembly (MM/A/55/2), Hague Union Assembly (H/A/41/2), Lisbon Union Assembly (LI/A/38/3), Singapore Treaty Assembly (STLT/A/14/2) Marrakesh Treaty Assembly (MVT/A/6/2) and the Beijing Treaty Assembly (BTAP/A/2/2). Furthermore, consolidated reports of the sessions of the other bodies have also been drawn up, as follows: WIPO Conference (WO/CF/42/1), Paris Union Assembly (P/A/57/1), Paris Union Executive Committee (P/EC/61/1), Berne Union Assembly (B/A/51/1), Berne Union Executive Committee (B/EC/67/1), Nice Union Assembly (N/A/41/1), Locarno Union Assembly (LO/A/41/1), IPC Union Assembly (IPC/A/42/1), Budapest Union Assembly (BP/A/38/1), Vienna Union Assembly (VA/A/34/1), WIPO Copyright Treaty Assembly (WCT/A/21/1), WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty Assembly (WPPT/A/21/1), Patent Law Treaty Assembly (PLT/A/20/1).
2. The list of the members and observers of the Assemblies, as of October 8, 2021, is set forth in document A/62/INF/1 Rev.
3. The meetings dealing with the following items of the Agenda (document [A/62/1](https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/2021/a_62/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=552473)) were presided over by the following Chairs:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 32 and 33 | Ambassador Omar Zniber (Mr.) (Morocco), Chair of the WIPO General Assembly | |
| Items 7, 30 and 31 | Ambassador Kadra Ahmed Hassan (Ms.) (Djibouti), Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee |
| Item 8 | Shayea A. Alshayea (Mr.) (Saudi Arabia), Chair of the WIPO Conference, and, in his absence, Mercy K. Kainobwisho (Ms.) (Uganda), Vice-Chair |
| Item 21 | María Loreto Bresky (Ms.) (Chile), Chair of the PCT Union Assembly |
| Item 22 | Philippe Cadre (Mr.) (France), Chair of the Madrid Union Assembly |
| Item 23 | David R. Gerk (Mr.) (United States of America), Chair of the Hague Union Assembly |
| Item 24 | Pascal Faure (Mr.) (France), Chair of the Lisbon Union Assembly |
| Item 27 | Lucía Estrada (Ms.) (Uruguay), Chair of the Singapore Treaty Assembly |
| Item 28 | Ali Alshanqeeti (Mr.) (Saudi Arabia), Chair of the Marrakesh Treaty Assembly |
| Item 29 | María Gabriela Campoverde (Ms.) (Ecuador), Chair of the Beijing Treaty Assembly |

1. The agenda, as adopted, and the list of participants appear in documents A/62/1 and A/62/INF/5, respectively.

ITEM 1 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA  
OPENING OF THE SESSIONS

1. The Sixty-Second Series of Meetings of the Assemblies was convened by the Director General of WIPO, Mr. Daren Tang (hereinafter referred to as “the Director General”).
2. The sessions were opened in a joint meeting of all the 22 Assemblies and other bodies concerned by Ambassador Omar Zniber (Mr.) (Morocco), Chair of the WIPO General Assembly.
3. The opening statement of the Chair is recorded as follows:

“Mr. Daren Tang, Director General of the Organization,

“Your Excellencies, the Heads of Delegations,

“Dear Colleagues, Members of the Secretariat,

“Ladies and Gentlemen,

“It gives me great pleasure to announce the opening of the sixty-second series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO. I would like to welcome all of you, and everyone who is following from afar, to the session, which is being held amid the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic.

“As the term of Morocco as Chair of this General Assembly nears its end, allow me to express to all delegations my profound gratitude for their confidence and continuous support, which have underpinned our work throughout this mandate, taking place as it has in such unprecedented times.

“Our common, steady determination has enabled us to steer a path through this period judiciously and with foresight. We have managed, in spite of the pandemic, to work together to achieve the goals that we had set for ourselves. Indeed, the pandemic pushed us in good measure to adapt our capabilities and devise new ways of striving to achieve those goals. I would like to make at least four points in that regard:

* “First: Throughout the pandemic, the Organization continued to hold its meetings. More recently, we have seen a gradual return to work as normal, as in the case of the Program and Budget Committee and, now, at this session;
* “Second: We have ensured that our key events have been held according to the set timetable. In particular, I would like to mention the two ordinary general assemblies, the convening of which is linked to the work of the committees, and the extraordinary General Assembly that led to the appointment of the new Director General;
* “Third: Since assuming the Chair of this General Assembly, I have made it a point to intensify regular consultative meetings on a broad range of subjects, including some of considerable urgency. Bilateral and multilateral meetings were held at various levels: ambassadors, experts and regional coordinators. The Secretariat of the Organization, and in particular the Director General, made a valuable contribution in providing the necessary support to the Chair in that regard;
* “Fourth. The feedback from and significant interaction by the representatives of the missions in Geneva with the Chair over the past two years show just how much the approach by Morocco as Chair of the General Assembly has helped to enhance understanding of the normative and institutional issues at hand and the related political and economic challenges. This approach has also helped to boost interest in the issues dealt with by the Organization.

“Without a doubt, what we have achieved thus far is due to the efforts of the group coordinators, your positive and constructive engagement and the able support of the Secretariat. Equally important has been the support of my deputy and assistants, who have contributed greatly to the ongoing consultations, and of course that of the committee chairs. To all, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for their valuable efforts. We mean to continue on this path, aware of our grave responsibility, during this session and beyond, and to build on what he have achieved in order strengthen the role of our organization, WIPO, going forward.

“Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

“At this session, we shall focus on discussing the important issues set forth in the agenda. The agenda is balanced and reflects the concerns of all regional groups, as expressed during the various preparatory consultative meetings. This will help to ensure smooth proceedings.

“I would call on all participants to show the necessary flexibility and to bear in mind the circumstances in which we are working, and therefore to respect the health guidelines put in place in accordance with the directives of the Swiss authorities regarding social distancing, the mandatory wearing of masks and the reporting of any possible symptoms. Please also follow any other rules that the Secretariat may announce as necessary.

“The success of this session, as ever, depends on the support and cooperation of all participants so as to achieve the optimum outcome, while ensuring the health and safety of all."

ITEM 2 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA  
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. Discussions were based on document A/62/1 Prov.2.
2. The Delegation of China, observing that the current session of the Assemblies was being held in a hybrid format and had been compressed into a shorter period than was customary, that certain items, such as the composition of the Coordination Committee and of the Program and Budget Committee and the issue of convening a diplomatic conference to adopt the Design Law Treaty, were complicated and required extensive consultations. The Delegation also noted the difficulties posed by the participation in meetings of delegates of the Member States in different time zones, said that the limited time available should be used to focus on the core tasks and future development of WIPO. A certain organization had resubmitted, in spite of concerns raised by the Delegation at the previous session of the Assemblies, its application for observer status. The Delegation recalled that decisions on the admission of observers had always been, and should continue to be, taken by consensus among Member States and said that it would again raise its concerns under Agenda Item 6.
3. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, adopted the agenda as proposed in document A/62/1 Prov.2 (referred to in this document as “the Consolidated Agenda”).

## ITEM 3 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA Election of Officers

1. Discussions were based on document [A/62/INF/1 Rev](https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/2021/a_62/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=550920).
2. Introducing the agenda item, the Legal Counsel wished to recall that at the current year’s Assemblies, Member States were to elect officers, that is, one chair and two vice‑chairs for each of the 22 Assemblies and other bodies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions. The Legal Counsel recalled that all officers, with the exception of those of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the Paris and Berne Executive Committees, were appointed to a two‑year term. The Chair and Vice-Chairs of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the Paris and Berne Executive Committees, however, served a one-year term. The Legal Counsel also reminded Member States that, in accordance with the election cycle of the officers of the WIPO General Assembly as provided in Rule 6 of the Special Rules of Procedure of the WIPO General Assembly, their term of office would begin following the final meeting of the WIPO General Assembly at its, present, Fifty‑Fourth (25th ordinary) Session. He was pleased to announce that Member States had reached consensus in respect of some of the officers to be elected and went on to read out the names of the nominations for positions that the Secretariat had, so far, received.
3. The Chair proposed that the Assemblies first endorse the names as read out by the Legal Counsel, which had already gathered consensus among Group Coordinators, and revert to the agenda item at a later stage to complete the elections for the outstanding positions of officers. In the meantime, he encouraged delegations to submit the remaining nominations and to inform the Secretariat accordingly.
4. As there was no objection, the Chair gaveled the elected officers and announced that the meeting would revert to the agenda item at a later stage.
5. Reverting to the agenda item on the last day of the Assemblies, the Chair invited the Legal Counsel to provide the meeting with an update on the nominations and consultations for the remaining vacant position of officers.
6. The Legal Counsel announced that Member States had reached consensus on officers to be elected and read out their names, which concluded the nominations for officer positions during the Assemblies. He also informed that the names of the officers to the bodies were contained in the informal document that had been circulated to all delegates, through Group Coordinators, earlier in the morning.
7. The Chair then proposed that the Assemblies endorse the nominations read out by the Legal Counsel that had gathered consensus among Group Coordinators.
8. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, elected their respective officers as appears in document [A/62/INF/2](https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/2021/a_62/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=552831).

## ITEM 4 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA Report of the Director General to the Assemblies of WIPO

1. The Address of the Director General is recorded as follows:

“Your Excellency, Ambassador Zniber, Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, “Honorable Ministers, Excellencies,

“Distinguished Delegates,

“It is my great pleasure to warmly welcome you to the Sixty Second Assemblies of the WIPO Member States.

“I would like to thank you, Ambassador Zniber, as the Chairperson of the WIPO General Assembly, for your valued guidance in advance of this week, as well as throughout my first year as the new Director General.

“Special mention must also be made of Ambassador Sabri Bachtobji, whose able and adroit guidance of the Program and Budget Committee have helped us as the new Administration to achieve support from the Committee for many important program and work related proposals.

“I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Presiding Officers of WIPO committees, working groups and other bodies for your leadership and engagement over the last year, as well as the Regional Coordinators for the arduous but critical task of coordinating your respective regional groups.

“Finally, I wish to also express deep appreciation for those of you from capitals who are calling in, or are with us in Geneva. Your support is key to our delivery of impact to your economies, and your continued engagement with WIPO, sometimes at great distances from Geneva and even through these difficult times, reminds us that this is indeed a global IP community, and a global WIPO family.

“Excellencies,

“Along with the rest of the UN family, and indeed, the world, the past year has been dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This has presented this Organization and my fellow colleagues with novel and difficult challenges.

“Beyond the disruptions caused to WIPO’s work, we join you in mourning the lives lost to the pandemic and the devastating impact it continues to have on economies and societies the world over.

“But rather than overwhelm us, our shared grief must inspire in us a steadfast and common resolve to overcome the pandemic and build back better.

“To do this, we must envision the opportunities before us and seize them, even as we work to overcome the current crisis.

“While the pandemic has impacted lives and livelihoods, it has also accelerated pre‑pandemic trends towards the use IP, innovation and creativity as engines of growth.

“As revealed by WIPO’s 2021 Global Innovation Index, IP filings, R&D expenditure and venture capital deals all grew in 2020, despite the deepest economic contraction of modern times.

“At the same time, we face global challenges that threaten the very existence of our lives, and our planet – the pandemic, climate change, unequal growth and others enshrined in the UN SDGs.

“In these times, the work of WIPO, and indeed for all of us, cannot be business as usual.

“In these times, we must harness our energies and deploy our expertise to help to overcome these global challenges as well as lay the foundations for future growth.

“Excellencies,

“In June, we published a new five-year Medium Term Strategic Plan, in which we laid out WIPO’s new Vision and Mission.

“The aim of the MTSP is twofold:

“….to reinforce WIPO’s traditional areas of strength, as the provider of global IP services and the convener of the international IP community.

“…and to ensure that IP acts as a powerful catalyst for jobs, investments, economic development and social vibrancy in all economies and in every region of the world.

“To achieve these aims, our work will be built around four Strategic Pillars, underpinned by a Foundation.

“Under our first pillar, WIPO is broadening our communications and engagement strategy so that we connect with new audiences, in new ways.

“At the heart of this approach is making IP relevant and relatable to everyone, everywhere.

“From the young Kenyan entrepreneur Navalayo Osembo-Ombati who is using IP to grow her running shoes business.

“…to Kim Haneul who is transforming discarded face masks into a new furniture brand in the Republic of Korea.

“…to Maria Sanchez Amono who is part of the Argentinean team that has patented a new type of roof tile made from recycled materials.

“IP is lifting up people and communities around the world, and we need to share these stories.

“As we move forward, we will continue to find new ways of reaching groups such as youth, women and small and medium sized enterprises who have too often been on the margins of the IP ecosystem.

“This year’s World IP Day was centered on the theme of “SMEs – taking your ideas to market”. It was the most successful IP Day in WIPO’s history, with the greatest number of engagements all over the world as we worked with all of you to bring the IP message to this important community.

“Our work to serve the underserved will continue, and I can share with you that the theme for next year’s World IP Day will be on IP and Youth.

“Many of you have also underlined the importance of IP and Gender issues, and I take this opportunity to reiterate our full support in finding concrete ways to bring greater gender inclusivity to the global IP ecosystem.

“Under our second pillar, WIPO will continue to play an active role as a shaper of global IP norms and standards, and be the global convener for the discussion of IP issues.

“While these roles have faced challenges over the last twelve months, WIPO will continue to find new ways of bringing the international community together to advance the normative agenda, build respect for IP and share perspectives on emerging issues such as IP and Frontier Technologies.

“More broadly, the number of Member States joining WIPO-administered treaties continues to expand, with 45 accessions and ratifications in the last year and a further 26 accessions and ratifications during the first half of 2021.

“The Marrakesh Treaty, which expands learning and education possibilities for the over 250 million people who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled, remains WIPO’s fastest growing Treaty.

“In just five years, it has grown to cover 107 countries worldwide.

“But when it comes to Marrakesh – and the work of WIPO’s Accessible Books Consortium – it is not the statistics that take center stage but the people whose lives it has changed around the world.

“From supporting young people in their education, to boosting and furthering careers, to delivering new leisure and learning possibilities, the Marrakesh Treaty is another powerful example of IP in action.

“WIPO has also stepped-up our engagement with other intergovernmental organizations over the last twelve months.

“Through our enhanced trilateral cooperation with the World Health Organization and the World Trade Organization, we are supporting societies and economies to overcome the pandemic and rebuild.

“WIPO’s stance has been clear and consistent: we believe in vaccine equity and that no one is safe until everyone is safe.

“But the goal of achieving vaccine equity is complex and multi-faceted.

“This is why in June, the Directors General of the World Health Organization and the World Trade Organization and I met and we agreed to strengthen our cooperation by developing cohesive cross-Agency solutions to the challenges that our economies face in overcoming the pandemic.

“We agreed to organize a series of technical capacity-building workshops and to combine our expertise on health, IP and trade matters in a joint platform of trilateral technical assistance.

“The first trilateral workshop on technology transfer and licensing took place last week with over 200 participants from around the world.

“This enhanced trilateral cooperation sits alongside WIPO’s own package of COVID-19 response measures, which will see an additional 3 million Swiss francs being set aside over the next biennium.

“Through tailored technical assistance and capacity building support, including on vital issues such as tech transfer, WIPO is stepping up our measures to support its Members in containing the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and to build back better.

“Under our third pillar, we will work to strengthen the provision of global IP services, knowledge and data.

“In spite of the challenges presented by the pandemic, PCT filings grew by almost 4 per cent last year, with only marginal declines in both the Madrid and Hague systems.

“PCT filings are up a further 2 per cent during the first six months of 2021. And we have seen a strong rebound in Madrid and Hague filings up 18 per cent and 10 per cent respectively, year-on-year.

“WIPO will continue to modernize the provision of our global IP services, with a strong emphasis on engaging more extensively with our customers, so that we will be able to serve them – the innovators and creators of the world, more effectively.

“We will also support the development of key reports such as the Global Innovation Index, as well our WIPO GREEN and WIPO Re:Search platforms that are helping to address global challenges and making progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

“Under the fourth pillar, WIPO’s Development Agenda will look at how we can be impact‑driven, rather than just activity-driven. We will not do this in a one-size-fits-all approach, but customize it so that it is tailored to the specific needs of individual Member States.

“Our ambition is to enable all countries – especially developing countries and LDCs – to use IP as a powerful tool for economic and social development.

“To give just one example of this approach, I would like to speak briefly about WIPO’s program on Women Entrepreneurs and IP in the least developed countries.

“Working in close collaboration with a Ugandan NGO – which itself was established by an alumni of a previous WIPO project – the program began by providing mentorship to a group of female entrepreneurs on how IP can help their business to grow.

“With WIPO’s support, individual action plans have been created for each member of the group, with a focus on issues such as business registration and trademark filing.

“Caroline Matovu is one of the entrepreneurs we are supporting.

“Caroline created a homemade detergent in her back garden, Trion, which is being used by hospitals, supermarkets and schools to keep surfaces clean and protect public health as Uganda fights the pandemic.

“Instead of just a short seminar or workshop lasting days, our relationship with the in-country NGO is enabling us to provide more intensive on the ground support for these entrepreneurs lasting weeks and months.

“In Caroline’s case, she has quickly created a strong brand that people have come to trust. Thanks to her involvement in the program Caroline is currently pursuing a trademark to underpin the quality of her product.

“Last month, we began a similar project in Sudan and are in the process of rolling this out in other countries too.

“The power of this approach is that it transforms IP into a clear driver of business growth –allowing innovators and creators from anywhere to recognize IP as a powerful tool for realizing their hopes and aspirations.

“The Foundation of the Four Pillars and all this work is the exceptional people that make up WIPO.

“Time and again the staff of WIPO have risen to meet the challenges we have faced over the last twelve months.

“My deepest gratitude goes to my colleagues throughout the organization for their professionalism, resilience and commitment, which has enabled WIPO to adapt to a different way of working whilst delivering the results you as Members have come to expect.

“But this Foundation can be made even stronger.

“Through our new HR Strategy we have made a very candid assessment of how WIPO’s organizational culture needs to evolve, and how we are committed to fostering an open, collaborative and inclusive culture – one that suits an organization whose mission is to support innovators and creators around the world.

“Diversity will remain an important goal for us, as I believe that it is a source of strength and will allow us to better connect with all regions in the world.

“Even as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt global economies, I am gratified to share with you that WIPO has maintained a healthy financial position over the last twelve months. Our surpluses last year were at the highest ever in the history of the Organization.

“However, healthy financials is not a state of affairs we can take for granted given the uncertainties of the global economy.

“Moreover, we owe it to Members to ensure that we continue using our resources responsibly, efficiently and prudently, so that we can invest in future infrastructure and skills, in order to continue serving you well.

“Coupled with strong governance that will draw on the best practices within the UN family and beyond, we will manage and administer the organization in an efficient, effective and energetic manner.

“Excellencies,

“As always, you have an extremely busy agenda ahead of you this week.

“You will take a number of important decisions for the Organization, including on our program of work and budget, and on the work plans of our committees and working groups over the coming year.

“I would also like to reiterate the great importance that WIPO attaches to multilingualism as a core value of the UN system.

“The administration sees multilingualism as firmly linked to our broader efforts at engaging a wider audience with the important work we are undertaking here at WIPO. Multilingualism helps to drive multilateralism and we are delighted that the revised policy on languages has been recommended for approval.

“Dear Colleagues and Friends,

“We meet against the backdrop of the greatest challenge humanity has faced in modern times – an inflection point which will come to define our collective future and that of generations to come.

“While the path ahead will not be easy, it is through innovation and creativity that we will overcome the pandemic and build back in a fair, inclusive and sustainable way.

“But innovation and creativity need to be carefully and skillfully nurtured, in order that they may truly create impact.

“If we do this right, our future can truly be one where every WIPO Member uses IP as a powerful tool to create jobs, attract investments, grow businesses, and ultimately develop economies and societies.

“With your steadfast support, active encouragement, and strong partnership, I am confident that we will bring about this change, and together achieve our vision of a world where innovation and creativity from anywhere is supported by IP for the good of everyone.

“Thank you.”

## ITEM 5 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA GENERAL STATEMENTS

1. The Delegations and Representatives of the following 111 States, two intergovernmental organizations and 10 non-governmental organizations provided oral or written statements under this agenda item: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia (the), Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe, African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC Patent Office), Inter‑American Association of Industrial Property (ASIPI), Emirates Intellectual Property Association (EIPA), Health and Environment Program (HEP), IP Justice, Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA), Knowledge Ecology International (KEI), Latin American School of Intellectual Property (ELAPI), League of Arab States (LAS), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and South Centre (SC).
2. The Statements on this agenda item are included in the Annex.

## ITEM 6 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

1. Discussions were based on documents [A/62/3 Rev.](https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/2021/a_62/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=550676) and [A/62/4 Rev.](https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/2021/a_62/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=551260)
2. Introducing the agenda item, the Legal Counsel drew the attention of delegations to document A/62/3 Rev., and recalled that the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO were invited to consider applications by five international non‑governmental organizations (NGOs) and six national NGOs, as listed in paragraph 4 of the said document, for observer status in the meetings of the Member States of WIPO.
3. The Delegation of China wished to make a statement regarding the request for observer status by the Wikimedia Foundation (WMF). The Delegation recalled that during last year’s Assemblies, China had already pointed out that the affiliated websites of WMF contained a large amount of content and misinformation that ran counter to the one‑China principle, United Nations (UN) General Assembly Resolution 2758, as well as the long‑standing position of WIPO on Taiwan‑related issues. The Delegation noted that it was aware of the additional information provided by WMF, in an attempt to demonstrate that WMF did not have any direct management relations regarding its affiliates. The Delegation believed that the additional content was still not clear regarding the nature of the affiliates and that it did not solve the serious concern of China about the Taiwan‑related issues. Therefore, the Delegation could not accept WMF’s application for observer status. The Delegation further pointed out that WIPO, being a specialized agency of the UN, should observe UNGA Resolution 2758 as well as the long‑standing position of the Organization on the Taiwan issue, that is the one-China principle. Considering the above, the Delegation expressed the view that WMF should not be admitted as an observer in WIPO and stressed that it did not agree with the acceptance of WMF to be an observer in WIPO. The Delegation also wished to recall that, in the past, the admission of organizations as observers had always been made on the basis of consensus among the Member States and the Delegation hoped that all parties would continue to observe this principle, when discussing this issue.
4. The Delegation of the United States of America expressed its support for the approval of the full list of applications for observer status as it appeared in document A/62/3 Rev. The Delegation noted that observers were meant to enrich debates and bring diverse and informed views which link to, and support, the activities and objectives of WIPO. In the Delegation’s understanding all the applicant organizations listed in the working document met the requirements requested by WIPO, otherwise the Secretariat would not have published their applications. It understood that one organization was requested to submit additional information regarding its application and had done so, fully answering the questions posed. The Delegation noted that WMF was similar to many other NGOs who had views on copyright-related issues and who had already been granted observer status in WIPO. Regarding this applicant organization, the Delegation further explained that it had also already clearly demonstrated its interest in the field of intellectual property (IP) and its organization’s link to WIPO’s work. The Delegation pointed out that WMF had submitted input to WIPO artificial intelligence (AI) and IP call for public input and used the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation services frequently. Therefore, the Delegation reiterated its call to make the UN, including these bodies, the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, more transparent and accessible for civil society organizations and to ensure that its processes remain focused on enriching the work of this Organization. The Delegation believed that WMF’s observer status should be decided on the merits of its application and its ability to contribute to WIPO discussions on IP issues, which it had proven. The Delegation said it had no information that would lead it to believe that any of the applications would not be able to contribute to the consultations and debates about current IP issues and therefore urged the meeting to approve, at this session, all the applicant organizations as contained in the working document.
5. Speaking on behalf of Group B, the Delegation of the United Kingdom thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of document A/62/3 Rev. and expressed its support for all requests for observer status contained therein. The Delegation observed that the document set out that all requests for observer status received by the Secretariat contained the requisite information and that, to the understanding of Group B, this would mean information necessary to enable the consideration, and subsequent granting of, observer status. The Delegation noted that it was therefore Group B’s view that the published requests had complied with all proper procedures. It further pointed out that all organizations in the document met the admission criteria and procedures for applying for observer status at WIPO, as indicated on the WIPO website. Observer organizations brought technical expertise and insights to the deliberations of WIPO and if they were able to show the direct relationship between their objectives and the field of IP, the Delegation believed that it was important that such organizations would be able to observe and contribute to proceedings. It highlighted that it had been a common practice at WIPO to welcome the involvement of a wide diversity of NGOs, intergovernmental organizations, industrial groups and other stakeholders in consultation processes and discussions regarding current IP issues. The Delegation pointed out that this had been part and parcel of the transparency and inclusiveness Member States cherished in WIPO. The Delegation noted that Group B was unware of any information that would lead its members to believe that any of the organizations listed in the working document would not be able to bring valuable contribution to the deliberations on current IP issues. Together with the compliance regarding the procedural steps, the Group therefore urged the approval of the full list of applications as was listed in document A/62/3 Rev.
6. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) took note of the information provided in document A/62/3 Rev. on the agenda item relating to requests received from different entities to attend the meetings in WIPO as observers. The Delegation said it wished to recall that, as rightly mentioned by the distinguished Delegation of China, the decision concerning admission of observers to the meetings of WIPO had always been taken by consensus and the Delegation therefore understood the concern raised by some Member States. It stated that consensus among Member States for the admission of observers was lacking with regard to the application by one particular entity, and that such consensus would be needed to grant observer status.
7. The Delegation of the Russian Federation said that it believed in the principle of the admission of observers as a technical matter and recalled that at the previous year’s session of the Assemblies there had been discussions on the request for observer status by WMF. In its view, the provision of additional information was not sufficient to adopt a decision on this matter at this juncture. The Delegation reiterated that decisions on the matter of the admission of observers were taken by consensus and that such procedure had to be respected, as a number of delegations had already stated. It further reaffirmed that this practice existed in the Organization and so this Organization should not create any precedent. The Delegation noted that once the decision had been adopted there was no way of impeding anything, the meeting had to abide by the principles of transparency and inclusiveness. Therefore, it then reiterated the fundament importance of adopting all agenda items of the Assemblies on the basis of consensus. In that regard, its Delegation supported the proposal, made by a number of delegations, to postpone the decision regarding this specific organization to a later date.
8. The Delegation of Pakistan acknowledged the contributions of the NGOs to the work of WIPO and explained that the granting of observer status to a large number of NGOs to participate in the work of the Organization was the recognition of their important contribution. The Delegation noted that the granting of observer status was possible with the agreement of all Member States, and in the particular case, it wished to underline the importance of agreement among all WIPO Member States and echoed the views expressed earlier on the matter.
9. Observing that there were no more delegations wishing to take the floor, the Chair took note that consensus had been reached on all the requests for observer status, except for one, namely the request for observer status by the Wikimedia Foundation. Therefore, the Chair proposed the following decision paragraph, which reflected the proposal contained in document A/62/3 Rev., with the exception of the request by the Wikimedia Foundation.
10. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, decided to grant observer status to the following:

(a) International non‑governmental organizations:

(i)  Cumulus, The International Association of Universities and Colleges of Art, Design and Media (CUMULUS);

(ii)  Latin American Audiovisual Authors Societies Federation (FESAAL); (iii)  *Union des Fabricants pour la Protection Internationale de la Propriété Intellectuelle* (UNIFAB); and

(iv)  World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry (WFSGI).

(b) National non‑governmental organizations:

(i)  Brazilian Intellectual Property Association (ABPI);

(ii)  Denver Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS);

(iii)  Korea Intellectual Property Association (KINPA);

(iv)  Korea Intellectual Property Strategy Agency (KISTA);

(v)  *Ordre Suprême des Ancêtres* (OSA); and

(vi)  *Société des Auteurs dans les Arts Graphiques et Plastiques* (ADAGP).

1. Next, the Legal Counsel drew the attention of the delegations to document A/62/4 Rev., under the same agenda item, which provided a report on the process and results of the update of the list of NGOs admitted as observers at WIPO, and which was based on the decision taken by the Assemblies at their Fifty‑Eighth Series of meetings in 2018. Regarding the process, the Secretariat distributed an initial survey in May 2019, requesting all NGOs admitted as observers at WIPO that did not participate in the Assemblies of WIPO or WIPO Committees during the period between 2013 and 2017, to confirm that they remained interested in the work at WIPO and wished to retain their status as observers. This initial communication was followed by two reminders in late 2019 and 2020 addressed to NGOs that had not yet replied. An additional third reminder was sent in March 2021 to a remaining group of NGOs that had not replied to any of the three previous communications and for which the Secretariat had found new or additional contact details. Subsequently, in April 2021, the Secretariat informed the NGOs concerned that in accordance with the above-mentioned decision adopted by the Assemblies in 2018, the absence of any response to the survey and follow-up communications had been considered as indication that the NGO did not wish to be retained as an observer at WIPO. Consequently, the NGOs concerned were removed from the list of organizations admitted as observers at WIPO. However, this process did not affect an organization’s status as *ad hoc* observer if such status had previously been granted by a WIPO Committee. In total, 104 NGOs were removed from the list of observers, not counting three NGOs that resumed their observer status under the “restoration principle”, after initial removal. Together with the newly‑admitted NGO observers in recent years, this resulted in a total number of 268 NGOs, consisting of 189 international and 79 national NGOs currently admitted as observers at WIPO by the Assemblies. Within a period of one year after the dispatch of the communication regarding the removal from the list of observers, that is, until April 16, 2022, affected NGOs may petition to resume their observer status at WIPO, without a new observer status application. The NGOs concerned were informed accordingly.
2. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, took note of the document entitled “Update of the list of the non‑governmental organizations admitted as observers at WIPO” (document A/62/4 Rev).

## ITEM 7 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS

1. See the report of the session of the WIPO Coordination Committee (document WO/CC/80/5).

## ITEM 8 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

## Composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee, and of the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions

1. Discussions were based on documents [A/62/5](https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/2021/a_62/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=547733), [A/62/10](https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/2021/a_62/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=545395) and [A/62/11](https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/2021/a_62/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=551553).
2. Opening the agenda item, the Chair of the WIPO Conference, Mr. Shayea A. Alshayea (Saudi Arabia) thanked Member States for having elected him as Chair of the WIPO Conference and invited the Legal Counsel to introduce the item.
3. Introducing the agenda Item, the Legal Counsel drew the attention of delegations to document A/62/5. He recalled that membership of the Coordination Committee was established once every two years, at the ordinary sessions of the Assemblies of WIPO, and consisted of members of the Paris and Berne Union Executive Committees; *ad hoc* members designated by the WIPO Conference, that is, States that are parties to the WIPO Convention but not Members of the Paris or Berne Unions; and Switzerland, as the host state, as *ex officio* member. He recalled that the terms of office of the present members of the Paris and Berne Executive Committees and of the WIPO Coordination Committee would expire at the close of the present session of the Assemblies. New members were therefore to be elected during the present Assemblies to serve for two years. He pointed out that as explained in the working document, the new composition of the Coordination Committee was to consist of 89 members, an increase above the current membership of 83.
4. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group (APG) recalled that the APG had made its position clear since the beginning of the discussion on this particular issue. In allocating the additional seats of the Coordination Committee among regional groups, the principles of fairness, equitable geographical representation, and rectifying the gaps among the regional groups should be duly regarded. The Group pointed out that those principles were also reflected in relevant WIPO legal texts. The Group recalled that the legal basis for the composition of the Coordination Committee was found in Article 8(1)(a) and Article 11(9)(a) of the WIPO Convention and that the members of the Coordination Committee were drawn from the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions, one-fourth of the States party to the WIPO Convention that were not member of any of the Unions administered by WIPO, and Switzerland as an *ex officio* member. Article 14(4) of the Paris Convention and Article 23(4) of the Berne Convention also stated that “[i]n electing the members of the Executive Committee, the Assembly shall have due regard to an equitable geographical distribution and to the need for countries party to the Special Agreements established in relation with the Union to be among the countries constituting the Executive Committee”. The Delegation pointed out that despite such straightforward guidance by the relevant Conventions, its Group regretted to note that the number of allocated seats in the Coordination Committee had remained at 83 since 2011. According to its Group, the number should by now be at 89 based on the applicable legal texts. In this regard, APG had proposed, at the last two meetings of the Assemblies, to allocate the vacant seats in the Coordination Committee so as to align the number of actual seats in the Coordination Committee with the principles as stipulated in the WIPO Convention. The Delegation recalled that the APG with the African Group, had further submitted the joint proposal in document A/62/11 and reiterated that its Group had always remained engaged in discussions with the spirit of flexibility and solidarity, as well as with the aim of finding an amicable way forward. The Group was happy to see that the Facilitator, Ambassador Mr. Sabri Bachtobji (Tunisia), had come up with “a middle ground” solution. The proposal by the Facilitator was reflected in the joint proposal of the APG and the African Group. The APG therefore asked regional groups and Member States to support the joint proposal in document A/62/11 and to join consensus in making a recommendation on the allocation of the vacant seats of the Coordination Committee in the present session.
5. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, took note of the proposal of the APG and the African Group in document A/62/11. The Group observed that there had been a series of expansions of the WIPO Coordination Committee in the past and that some Groups had benefited from those expansions more than others. It pointed out that some delegations focused on a single criterion of geographical representation. Its Group was of the view that geographic representation was only one of several elements to consider in the Coordination Committee membership, as noted in the proposal contained in document A/62/10. The Group further explained that there were multiple principles regarding the election of the membership of the Paris and Berne Executive Committees envisioned in Article 14 of the Paris Convention and Article 23 of the Berne Convention, as well as points raised in subsequent discussions among WIPO Member States over the years. The proposal to allocate the six vacant seats to each of the regional groups seemed the most sensible and fair approach. That said, the Group strongly believed that Member States could discuss the allocation of future seats and thus resolve the issue once and for all. The Group reiterated that it was ready to engage with other regional groups to find a solution acceptable to all.
6. The Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf of the Central European and the Baltic States (CEBS) Group, noted that the issue had been on the Organization’s agenda for several years and had been the subject of lengthy discussions between Member States. The reasons why the CEBS Group deserved an additional seat in the WIPO Coordination Committee were well known and had been recognized by all regional groups on many occasions, including through a formal joint proposal put forward by two regional groups. Keeping in mind WIPO’s specificities and the function of the WIPO Coordination Committee, which was to deal with all the administrative matters of the Organization and its unions, the CEBS Group believed that the allocation could not be based only on one criterion but on several of them, including rational and solid ones, such as the number of accessions to or ratifications of WIPO‑administered treaties, in respect of which the CEBS Group was in second place with more than 360 accessions. When looking at the numbers available, as it was the nature of figures and numbers to unveil the reality, it was hard to ignore and easy to recognize the underrepresentation of its Group in the Coordination Committee. The composition of the Coordination Committee had remained the same since 2011 despite having additional seats allocated for eight years now. Believing that 2021 was the moment when an agreement could be reached and a consensual decision found on the matter, the CEBS Group together with three other regional groups submitted, in July 2021, a joint proposal. While reflecting the Groups’ views with regard to the allocation of the current six available seats, the present proposal opened a new window of opportunity and took into account not only the position of its Group but at the same time considered the results of several rounds of consultations of the WIPO Member States. The Group believed and hoped that the joint proposal would lead Member States towards a consensual decision and it was of the view that its Group had provided a sound basis for future negotiations. The Group noted and thanked the African Group and the APG for their proposal, and expressed their readiness to find a solution in a timely manner, for which it was ready to engage extensively in the discussions and negotiations.
7. The Delegation of Belarus, speaking on behalf of the Central Asian, Caucasus and Eastern European Countries (CACEEC), noted that colleagues from the CEBS Group had expressed their main position, which was part of the joint proposal of the four Groups. With regard to the composition of the Coordination Committee, CACEEC stated that its position had not changed, as the history of its proposal was something it had tried to express and on which it was quite clear, which began in 2001. CACEEC agreed that the geographical principle was one criterion, but there were also other criteria that were important in the allocation of seats on the Coordination Committee. In developing its proposal, CACEEC had tried to show flexibility and was ready to discuss the possibility of having three proposals if the other colleagues supported its proposal. In conclusion, CACEEC also wished to quote the Director General, who had said that today was really the time for Member States to solve the issue, as it was not an election year. Thus, there was the possibility of agreement and ensuring that everyone benefited from the Assemblies’ decision so that they could come up with six seats for six groups. The Group reiterated that its position was, in its view, a step forward towards the other colleagues and added that CACEEC stood ready for constructive dialogue on the issue.
8. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, noted that it was aware that there had been differing views on the composition of WIPO Coordination Committee and as a result, no consensus had yet been reached on the allocation of the vacant seats. The Group took the opportunity to extend its gratitude to the Facilitator, Ambassador Bachtobji for his efforts and wisdom in coming up with the proposed allocation following consultations with regional groups. The African Group wished to stress the importance it attached to the Coordination Committee as a key governing body of WIPO. The Group was hopeful that Member States would overcome the differences and reach an agreement on the allocation of the vacant seats and in that regard reiterated its appreciation to the Groups that made proposals to move the issue forward. The African Group was of the view that the allocation of current vacant seats should be guided by the principle of equitable geographical representation and take into account the size of different regional groups with the view to correct the existing imbalances among them. In that respect, as Africa was one of the most underrepresented in numerical terms, it believed that its region should be given priority in the distribution of available seats in order to catch up with other regions. While the Group acknowledged and thanked the four regional groups that had submitted a joint proposal for the vacant seats to be allocated equally among six regional groups, the African Group was unable to support the proposal as it only served to maintain the *status quo*. On the other hand, the joint proposal by the African Group and the APG, which was premised on the Facilitator’s proposal, provided a pathway for Member States to partially address the imbalance that existed in the composition of the Coordination Committee. The Group therefore urged all other groups to be pragmatic and to acknowledge that the continued underrepresentation of some groups in the key governing bodies of WIPO went against the principle~~s~~ of fairness, inclusiveness and universality, which it believed, should guide the work of WIPO. That being said, the African Group stood ready to work constructively with all groups to reach a mutually acceptable solution to the matter.
9. The Delegation of Paraguay, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC) pointed out that this agenda item was a point of great importance for its Group. GRULAC thanked the Chair and his facilitators for all the efforts and meetings that had been devoted to the subject. It was with the same spirit of consistency, flexibility and good faith always displayed by GRULAC, that it had presented together with Group B, CACEEC and the CEBS Group, a proposal in document A/62/10, which was aimed at moving forward on the basis of a proposal that contained one component of allocating current vacant seats, and a second component of allocating three vacancies in the future. GRULAC wished to thank the African Group and the APG for their proposal in document A/62/11, which raised the issue of a seat for GRULAC, which its Group appreciated. GRULAC wished to express its confidence in the Chair and its willingness to continue seeking a decision on this agenda item.
10. The Delegation of China expressed the view that the WIPO Coordination Committee was one of the most important decision-making bodies of WIPO and it should reflect, to the extent possible, Member States’ representation, in particular, that of many developing countries. Furthermore, on the allocation of new seats, priority should be given to regional groups that were underrepresented. The Delegation hoped that Member States could uphold the principle of flexibility and openness so as to reach an agreement on the allocation of new seats on the WIPO Coordination Committee.
11. The Delegation of Pakistan aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the APG. The Delegation noted that that there were asymmetries concerning the presentation of various regional groups in the WIPO Coordination Committee. As one of the largest regional groups in WIPO, the APG was significantly underrepresented in the WIPO Coordination Committee. Moreover, the composition of the body had remained the same since 2011 despite the availability of additional seats since 2013. It was important to note that an increase in the number of seats since 2011 had arisen mostly from accessions from the APG. Since the WIPO Coordination Committee did not meet very often, its composition should be extended, in principle, to the entire membership of WIPO. There were six additional seats available that needed to be filled and should be filled on the basis of equitable geographical representation and with a view to rectifying the glaring asymmetries among regional groups. The Delegation said that the APG had submitted a proposal for the last two years of the Assemblies and in the present year its Group had submitted a joint proposal with the African Group. The joint proposal was in alignment with the proposal of the facilitator on the matter. The Delegation was not in favour of linking currently available seats with those that would arise in the future as it would not only maintain the *status quo* and would also accentuate the existing asymmetries. The Delegation therefore urged all the regional groups and Member States to support the joint proposal of the African Group and the APG for a resolution of the issue on the available vacancies.
12. The Delegation of the Russian Federation expressed its support for the statement delivered by the Delegation of Belarus on behalf of CACEEC and for the proposal in document A/62/10 put forward by CACEEC, the CEBS Group, Group B and GRULAC, which called for allocating the six additional seats, that is, one per regional group. The proposal contained the element of flexibility that provided for an automatic distribution of the seats and in the Delegation’s view the proposal allowed for a balanced approach. Taking that into account, the Delegation hoped there could be further dialogue so as to take a decision on it as soon as possible.
13. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea wished to align itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the APG. It wished to emphasize the importance of equitable geographical representation that would reflect new accessions to the Paris and Berne Conventions. The Delegation therefore hoped that every regional group would show the utmost flexibility regarding the allocation of the vacant seats in the WIPO Coordination Committee and reach consensus during the present Assemblies.
14. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking in its national capacity, noted that the WIPO Coordination Committee was one of the most important governing bodies of WIPO and it had a substantial role in making constructive contributions to WIPO matters. For that it should have a composition that was balanced in terms of geographical distribution, which was not the case, in its view. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement delivered by the APG and it wished to reiterate that membership of the WIPO Coordination Committee should be allocated based on the principle of geographical distribution, which had a solid constitutional basis as stipulated in the relevant Articles of the WIPO Convention, the Paris Convention and the Berne Convention. Unfortunately, the reality was that not all regional groups, including the APG, were well represented in the Committee. One could not ignore the fact that the highest number of accessions to the Paris and Berne Conventions since 2011 had come from the APG. These accessions were not reflected in the composition of the Coordination Committee. In view of that, the Delegation of Bangladesh extended its full support to the joint proposal submitted by the African Group and the APG as contained in document A/62/11. The proposal made by both regional groups had merit in terms of legal basis, and the Delegation also wished to point out that both regional groups had shown their utmost flexibility. The Delegation therefore asked Member States to join in consensus and agreed to the proposal in the Assemblies.
15. The Chair of the WIPO General Assembly wished to give his views on the informal consultations and on the discussions concerning the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee. He recalled that when he was elected Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, Member States had mandated him to carry out consultations on the subject so as to put an end to the rather lengthy discussions that had taken place, with a view to finding a solution for the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee, in accordance with the relevant treaty provisions. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, those involved in the informal consultations on this matter reacted as swiftly as possible. The Chair recalled that Member States had previously decided to convene an extraordinary session with a specific agenda but, also with a view to making progress on other issues that might be raised in the framework of the extraordinary session. It was unfortunately also hard hit by the health circumstances that affected everyone. The WIPO General Assembly that was held a year ago was also handicapped, considering the large number of issues the WIPO General Assembly had to consider, as Member States commonly shared the decision not to enter into substantive issues. That never prevented him, as Chair, from engaging in consultations with all the Group Coordinators, and with all the delegations that were willing to contribute to the process. The Chair noted that in the present session, Member States had heard the statements made and the arguments put forward concerning the criteria to be applied and the need to find a solution. He observed that from the afternoon's discussion, the meeting was not in a position to take a decision immediately. He therefore reiterated his hope that before the end of the work of the Assemblies, he would shoulder his full responsibilities as Chair with a view to trying to comply with the mandate that was given to him, that is, to find a solution. He was sure that he would fulfil his part and regarding the Member States’ part, there was need for pragmatism, flexibility, and good faith. He said that he heard all the criteria and the objectives described, and wondered why a solution could not be found. He wondered if perhaps the parties involved had not been sufficiently creative or innovative. The Chair thanked Ambassador Bachtobji, Friend of the Chair, who had worked extremely arduously at all levels, engaging in consultations with experts and Ambassadors, and always drawing upon the Secretariat for wise opinions on the subject because it was the guarantor of the future of the Organization. The Chair noted that, in his view, the two proposals on the table and, what he considered to be a third category of proposals, were not mutually exclusive; he was of the view that Member States could find points of convergence. He said that this was the logic and he would be guided by it and he would push delegations, with their assistance and, of course, with everyone's agreement. He pointed out that he would not craft any kind of solution that did not meet with Member States’ approval but observed that there was need to find a solution that was convincing for everyone. He also expressed agreement and welcomed what had been said by the Director General, earlier that morning, that there were a certain number of subjects of vital importance, on which the Organization was focusing its work for future generations, for all countries, for the well‑being of multilateralism and for the mutual understanding of all. He was of the view that despite the importance of the present subject, which had been stressed greatly in the present session, delegations should put it in perspective; and the only way they could deal with it to come up with a solution was to see it as a relative issue. He then asked for a few additional hours to discuss the issue with the Coordinators. He recalled, as had been stated extremely eloquently earlier that morning by the Director General, that the Organization was steered by its Member States, but that the steering should be done on a consensual basis, which was the wisest way of proceeding. He pointed out that consensus should not prevent delegations from taking decisions. He said that like a good pilot, facing troubled waters and turbulence, he had to take account of the elements that had to be dealt with and take the necessary decisions. That was why he would, once again, ask delegations for flexibility, understanding, and goodwill, so that they could, hopefully, come back in the next few hours with a decision that could be accepted and supported by all.
16. The Chair of the WIPO Conference said that it was clear that the meeting could not conclude the item at that stage. He therefore proposed to suspend the item to allow Member States to continue their informal consultations and would keep the plenary informed of any developments. He recalled that the issue had been the subject of long discussions in the two previous Assemblies and during the informal consultations conducted since then. He reassured delegations that there would be ample time to make further statements when the agenda item reopened and he would proceed that way if it were agreeable to all.
17. Reverting to the agenda item, Ms. Mercy Kainobwisho (Uganda), Vice-Chair of the WIPO Conference, recalled that the agenda item was opened on the second day of the Assemblies. At that time, delegations had agreed to engage in further informal sessions in the margins of the Assemblies and delegations had been actively consulting on the matter since then. In that respect, she wished to thank the Group Coordinators and delegations involved for their cooperation. She also wished to take the opportunity to invite the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly to provide an update on the agenda item.
18. The Chair of the WIPO General Assembly said that he was not in a position to announce any expansion in the composition of the Coordination Committee but wished to warmly thank the delegations and the Secretariat who supported very actively his endeavors to that end.
19. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of APG, wished to stress that the Group had expressed its positions and its principles on the important issue in the statements made under the agenda item when it was first opened on the second day of the meeting. The Group had expressed and shared the same views in various informal meetings. In addition to that, the Group regretted that its request, which was based on the principles of equitable geographical distribution and rectification of underrepresentation and overrepresentation in the WIPO Coordination Committee, was not duly reflected in the proposed decision paragraphs during those informal sessions. However, its Group was still hopeful that members would be able to find common ground in a spirit of flexibility and solidarity to resolve the issue in the coming days. However, the Group recognized the hard efforts and the hard work by the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly as well as the constructive engagement of the regional groups.
20. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) recalled that the APG was the most underrepresented Group in terms of membership of the WIPO Coordination Committee. Any proposal should take into account the issue instead of widening the huge imbalance of geographical representation in the WIPO Coordination Committee and try to fill that gap. The Group’s proposal, as rightly mentioned by the Delegation of Bangladesh, was based on a solid legal argument, namely a balanced geographical representation. The Delegation was hopeful that in the remaining time Member States could find common ground to move forward in that regard.
21. The Delegation of Pakistan aligned itself with the statement delivered by the APG and wished to echo the arguments and interventions made by the Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of). The Delegation wished to state that the future formula for the expansion of the WIPO Coordination Committee, as well as other important bodies of WIPO, should be based on equitable geographical distribution and any formula or proposal should be aimed at rectifying the glaring asymmetries that currently exist with respect to the underrepresentation of the APG, although it was one of the largest Groups in WIPO.
22. Noting that there were no further requests for the floor, the Vice‑Chair thanked all groups for their cooperation on the matter and all the delegations that had been involved in the consultations that had taken place during the Assemblies. Commenting on the remarks of the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, she wished to point out that, as explained in document A/62/5, the new composition of the Coordination Committee was to consist of 89 members, an increase above the current membership of 83. However, in the absence of agreement on how to best allocate the remaining six additional seats of the WIPO Coordination Committee, consensus among Member States had been that the WIPO Coordination Committee should exceptionally remain at 83 members. Further, if approved by the Paris Union and the Berne Union Assemblies as well as the WIPO Conference, the proposed composition of membership in the Paris and Berne Executive Committees and the Coordination Committee would take effect from the close of the present session of the Assemblies until the close of the 2023 sessions.
23. Following informal consultations among Member States,
24. The Paris Union Assembly unanimously elects the following States as *ordinary* members of the *Paris Union Executive Committee*: Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cambodia, China, Canada, Croatia, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador (2022-2023), France, Gambia (the), Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malawi, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Paraguay (2021-2022) Portugal, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, Viet Nam (41);
25. The Berne Union Assembly unanimously elects the following States as *ordinary* membersof the *Berne Union Executive Committee*: Argentina, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of ), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Finland, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe (40);
26. The WIPO Conference unanimously designates the following State as *ad hoc* member of the *WIPO Coordination Committee*: Eritrea (1);
27. The WIPO Conference and the Assemblies of the Paris and Berne Unions note that Switzerland will continue to be an *ex officio* member of the *Paris Union* *Executive Committee* and of the *Berne Union Executive Committee*.

As a consequence, the WIPO Coordination Committee for the period October 2021 to October 2023 is composed of the following States:

Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of ), Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador (2022-2023), Eritrea (*ad hoc*), Finland, France, Gambia (the), Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay (2021-2022), Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland (*ex officio*), Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe (83)

1. The Assemblies of WIPO, each in so far as it is concerned, decided that the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly will undertake consultations with Member States on the allocation of the vacant seats at the WIPO Assemblies in 2023, for the election of the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee, and of the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions, at the same WIPO Assemblies.

## ITEM 9 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA Composition of the Program and Budget Committee

1. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15).

## ITEM 10 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA Reports on Audit and Oversight

(i) Report by the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC)

1. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15).

(ii) Report by the External Auditor

1. Discussions were based on documents [A/62/6](https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/2021/a_62/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=/547753) and [A/62/7](https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/2021/a_62/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=551574).
2. On behalf of the External Auditor, Mr. Damian Brewitt, Director, National Audit Office (NAO) of the United Kingdom, delivered his report as follows:

“On behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General of the United Kingdom, I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the findings from our audit, following our earlier presentation to the Program and Budget Committee. It continues to be important to engage you on the issues we highlight from our audit, as a means of providing you with independent and objective insight.

“In my presentation I will cover the three main areas of our work, firstly the audit of the financial statements and financial management, and then I will cover the two substantive topics which are contained in our report, namely governance and internal control and our review of the Capital Master Plan (CMP).

“Turning first to the results of our audit of the financial statements. I am again pleased to confirm that the External Auditor’s opinion was unqualified. WIPO’s financial statements and accompanying financial commentary remain of high quality, supported by sound systems of internal controls and reporting. The preparation of financial statements and their audit were completed remotely which resulted in additional effort by WIPO colleagues and the NAO team.

“On financial management, WIPO continues to enjoy a strong financial position and positive cashflows, supported by a steady future revenue stream. Considering the healthy reserve and cash position the Organization is well placed to respond to the continued global economic uncertainty. However, the differing financial performance of each Union demonstrates how reliant the Organization continues to be on the PCT and Madrid Unions which compensate for the deficits reported by the Hague and Lisbon Unions.

“Our report this year highlights the continued growth of the employee benefits liabilities. During 2020, the overall liability for these staff benefits increased to some CHF 495 million. If current assumptions remain consistent, WIPO forecasts that the liability for the After-service health insurance (ASHI) is projected to increase to CHF 580 million by 2024. These benefits will consume a growing proportion of WIPOs future revenues and we have highlighted this and the future trends in our long form report as key financial risks.

“Moving now to the first topic area of our performance reporting, which speaks to the issues of governance and internal control, which helps to provide Member States with confidence and assurance over the management of resources.

“We have continued to be impressed by the pro-active approach WIPO takes in developing its internal control framework, its second line of defense and the approach to the quality of the Statement on Internal Control. The Statement remains aligned to the seven components of the Accountability Framework, providing a clarity and transparency over the control processes. Important highlights in the 2020 statement included details of the key risks and mitigations, with particular focus on the program delivery and financial risks faced by WIPO. The Director General also highlighted that the business continuity arrangements worked effectively, with the Organization moving to a virtual working environment during the pandemic.

“The Statement could be further enhanced by highlighting the results of the IOD’s work – including an overall opinion based on its findings and as highlighted by the positive external quality assessment undertaken in 2020.

“We considered WIPO’s organizational preparedness for the pandemic. In line with many other organizations, WIPO had a documented framework in place bringing together the main components of its preparedness and resilience planning. In its risk register, WIPO had identified the risk of significant business disruption caused by an external event with appropriate mitigations. As a consequence, WIPO was relatively well placed to respond to the pandemic. WIPO expects to complete a comprehensive review of lessons learned from WIPO’s business continuity response in 2021.

“Turning now to our observations on the projects financed from reserves,

we examined WIPO’s approach to its Capital Master Plan (CMP) and its links to wider strategy and decision-making. We concluded that the CMP had not historically been integrated with strategic planning.

“Over time, the funds dedicated to the CMP have been increasing and the project portfolio has become increasingly ambitious. Unlike many other international organizations, WIPO does not have the same incentives or pressures to demonstrate the need for prioritization or cost efficiency. This makes it more important that the CMP and the individual project business cases are transparent and robust, subject to effective challenge processes and to ensure that outcomes will be evaluated to feedback into the CMP and project management processes.

“We could not clearly determine how projects had been prioritized against other opportunities, or the relativity between individual projects within the CMP. Investment decisions should be driven by need, and a clear identification of opportunities linked to WIPO’s objectives. WIPO should consider the level of funds dedicated to projects alongside other investment options, such as enhancing its technical co-operation, minimizing the financial risk to the organization by reducing its employee benefit liabilities or reviewing its fee structure.

“In an earlier definition, special projects had to be “extra-ordinary” which stressed the importance of the uniqueness of the investment. Member States broadened this out to a wider more encompassing definition. This has meant that projects could be funded for more general purposes, such as estate maintenance. We found that in some cases there was a strong rationale for a proposed project to be funded as part of the CMP, but less so in others; especially projects to maintain facilities and systems which would normally be part of a regular budget strategy. Such a mix risks losing strategic focus and challenges the concept of the CMP being based upon a coherent portfolio of special and significant projects. Similarly, we observed that there was little differentiation between very large investments and those of a much smaller scale.

“The preparation of a business case is an important step in any project: to confirm alignment with organizational priorities and objectives; to quantify the amount and timing of resources; and to set expected outcomes. Good business plans enable decision makers to make informed judgements on whether projects should progress.

“From our review we felt that the consideration of options should have been more detailed and that alternative ways to deliver the outcomes should have been more fully considered. We also identified the need for more detailed articulation of targets and measurement criteria without which it is difficult for WIPO to demonstrate that the overall project objectives have been achieved and value for money obtained.

“We found that project budgets were high level with little granularity and limited information on the full lifecycle costs. We found that many risks were generic in nature and not necessarily tailored to the individual project.

“The 2018/19 Performance Report set out the progress of CMP project activities during 2019, including the key milestones reached and resource utilization rates for 20 ongoing projects. These projects had total budgets of CHF84 million and associated expenses to that date of CHF44 million. We noted some significant changes in risk and budgets from the initial proposals and that the status reports lacked real impact measurement. In our view, while the Status report clearly highlights project attributes, it could provide Member States with a greater measure of added value.

“Management have responded well to the recommendation we made and have sought to begin to address these issues in new proposals to Member States. We consider this will enable WIPO to better demonstrate the impact of the use of reserves and how they meet the objectives of the Organization, increasing transparency and accountability over the use of the funds. We look forward to reviewing the outcome of the changes made to the process and oversight of the CMP during the course of our next audit cycle.

“To conclude, I can confirm that progress was made in closing and implementing six recommendations from previous years, with 13 recommendations remaining in progress. These mostly relate to our 2018 recommendations on Human Resources Management and our recommendations made last year on External Offices which have future implementation dates. Given the importance of HR management to the Organization it is our intention to perform a substantive follow-up of HR developments during our 2021 audit.

“Finally, I wish to express my thanks to the Director General and the staff of WIPO for their support and co-operation in facilitating our audit in the challenging circumstances of the pandemic, enabled us to ensure we met the timetable for our report to you.

Thank you for your kind attention and I would be happy to take any questions or to provide further background to our audit. Thank you.”

1. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the External Auditor for the report contained in document WO/PBC/33/5 (A/62/6) and Mr. Damian Brewitt, Director, NAO, United Kingdom for his presentation of the document. The Group stated that it was aware that the External Auditor had issued an unqualified opinion regarding the audit on WIPO's financial statements and congratulated the Secretariat and the Financial Division for the result. The Group noted the challenges in providing access to appropriate information during the COVID-19 pandemic. Regarding financial management, the Group was pleased that the External Auditor had assessed the financial health of WIPO and concluded that the Organization was well-placed to respond to continued global uncertainty. The Group was particularly pleased to see that the overall budget surplus each year was considerably higher than the original expectations, and welcomed the External Auditor’s review of governance and internal control mechanisms. The Group noted the positive assessment of many of those mechanisms, and expressed its pleasure with the External Auditor’s assessment of WIPO's level of preparedness for a pandemic as strong. The Group then stated that it was ready to support the review of lessons learned from WIPO’s business continuity response to the pandemic in 2021. With regard to pending recommendations of previous years, the Group noted with satisfaction that six recommendations had been implemented and considered closed. The Group was aware that the External Auditor had advised that many of the 13 outstanding recommendations could not be implemented within the previous year. Nonetheless, the Group echoed the importance of Human Resources management and supported the External Auditor's intention to perform a substantial follow-up on those recommendations and the review of the status of WIPO’s people strategy during the 2021 audit. The Group also thanked the External Auditor for its in-depth review and assessment of projects financed from reserves and recalled Group B’s statement for that file at the 33rd PBC session. The Group closed by stating that it was ready to work with the Secretariat to understand the needs and costs and to plan those projects with care.
2. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, expressed its appreciation to the External Auditor for the comprehensive audit report. The Group welcomed the sound financial standing of WIPO and noted with appreciation that the financial statements of WIPO presented fairly in all material aspects the financial position of the Organization. The Group recognized that the audit process and results provided assurance to the Member States of WIPO's financial management and governance. The Group was pleased that the Organization was found to be well placed to respond to the continued global economic uncertainty. The Group further noted that the External Auditor had found WIPO's level of preparedness in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic to be strong compared to other bodies. The Group also agreed with the External Auditor’s observation that options should be explored to increase its efficiency for mitigating the potential future growth in the After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) Liabilities. The Group noted that the External Auditor’s had observed that there remained more scope for WIPO to further complement existing communications to provide relevant insight, in a more holistic view of what had been delivered with resources, such as including more Key Performance Indicators(KPIs) on the outcomes from its operational activities and to amplify commentary on key financial risks. The Group noted the various recommendations made by the External Auditor on different aspects of the Organization’s operations, including the recommendation on the Capital Master Plan (CMP). For the CMP, the Organization should consider mapping individual projects under the CMP against WIPO’s core objectives and ranking them to enable Member States to better understand the priority areas for investment. The Group believed that all the recommendations were useful and could contribute to improvements in the governance and management systems of WIPO. The Group concluded by reiterating its thanks to the External Auditor for the audit report and stated that it looked forward to updates by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor.
3. The Delegation of Spain thanked the External Auditor for the report and the presentation. The Delegation congratulated WIPO for the unqualified opinion of the financial results of the Organization at December 31, 2020. The Delegation was pleased to see that the financial statements of the Organization continued to be of a high quality and that they were based on sound internal control and systems. However, the Delegation recommended that if possible to improve the performance of the Organization it supported what the External Auditors had indicated in its report about considering the importance of studying the best way to promote the Organization and Member States objectives, and to manage risks provided they remained within a financially prudent framework.
4. The External Auditor thanked the delegations for their kind comments on the audit process for that year. The External Auditor reassured Member States that he would pay close attention to the follow-up of recommendations made in previous years, and observe progress on the CMP over the following year’s cycle. The External Auditor noted that the report recognized that the previous year was a challenging one, with Human Resources busy managing the inevitable significant challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, there had already been some constructive conversations progress being made in those areas. Additionally, as per the presentation, there were some productive conversations with WIPO finance colleagues regarding progress around the CMP. In response to comments by the Delegation of Spain, the External Auditor stated that they were looking more closely in the following year’s audit cycle around budget processes and budget reporting. The External Auditor hoped that he would be able to provide confidence and assurance with the following year’s review.
5. The Chair thanked the External Auditor for his clarifications.
6. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, took note of the “Report by the External Auditor” (document A/62/6).

### (iii) Report by the Director of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD)

1. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15).

## ITEM 11 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA Report on the Program and Budget Committee (PBC)

1. Discussions were based on document [A/62/7](https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/2021/a_62/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=551574).
2. The Chair noted that the item covered all Program and Budget Committee (PBC) matters. One document was considered under the item, as stated in the List of Documents, namely document A/62/7, “List of Decisions Adopted by the Program and Budget Committee” which contained all decisions taken at the 32nd and 33rd PBC sessions.
3. The Secretariat stated that 2021 was a budget year and the two PBC sessions were held in July and September, respectively. The PBC agenda covered a number of items as listed in document A/62/7. The items included: WIPO Performance Report 2020; Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2022-2026; Revised Policy on Languages at WIPO; Proposed Revision of the Selection Procedure for the Members of the WIPO Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC); Proposed Revisions to the WIPO Internal Oversight Charter; Progress Report on the Implementation of the Joint Inspection Unit’s (JIU) Recommendations; Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23; Capital Master Plan for 2022-23; United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Membership; and Annual Financial Report and Financial Statements 2020 and the Status of the Payment of Contributions as at June 30, 2021. In this connection, document A/62/INF/4 provided an update to the Status of the Payment of Contributions as at August 31, 2021. Furthermore, since September 1 and as of October 5, the following contributions had been received: Bangladesh, 1,424; Trinidad and Tobago, 5,697; Malaysia 22,789; Côte d’Ivoire 231; Gabon, 105; Mali, 63; Niger, 63; Greece, 51,277; Peru, 11,395; Brazil, 87,661; Seychelles, 5,698; and Uruguay 5,697. The arrears, as a result of those payments, stood at approximately 7.5 million Swiss francs. Finally, there were two PBC 33 agenda items, which were a follow up of decisions of the 31st and 32nd sessions of the PBC, and the 2020 Assemblies. These included the Update on the status and progress of submissions by Member States on views on the preparations of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices; and the Methodology for Allocation of Income and Expenditure by Union. On the ToR of the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices item, the PBC took note of the Member States views and requested the Secretariat to develop a preliminary draft of the ToR and submit it to the Member States at least six months before the 34th PBC session. On the Methodology for Allocation of Income and Expenditure by Union item, the PBC decided to continue discussion on this matter at the 34th PBC session.
4. The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the presentation of the item. The Chair recalled that delegations had already engaged very constructively and had ample opportunity to express their views on all PBC matters at the 32nd and 33rd PBC sessions. Their statements at the PBC sessions had been duly recorded and would be reproduced in their entirety in the report.
5. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and thanked the PBC Chair and Vice-Chair for their leadership during the 32nd and 33rd PBC sessions, and for conducting and concluding the sessions successfully with a number of key decisions taken. The Group congratulated the PBC for agreeing to recommend to the Assemblies the approval of the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Group was pleased that the PBC continued its work during the pandemic set out in WIPO's response to COVID-19, which was discussed in the 32nd and 33rd PBC sessions. The Group was also pleased to see that the PBC recommended that the WIPO General Assembly accept the invitation to become a member of the UNSDG. The Group looked forward to annual reporting of the Secretariat of the implementation, achievements, challenges, and policy development impacts of WIPO's UNSDG membership. Progress by the PBC on the ToR on the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices was a welcome development. The Group looked forward to seeing a preliminary draft on the ToR to be prepared by the Secretariat, taking into account all relevant documents as noted in the 33rd PBC decision.
6. The Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, noted that 2021 had been extraordinary and challenging in many ways and the Group particularly thanked the Chair of the PBC for leading the PBC through the 32nd and 33rd sessions. The PBC had achieved significant progress through the sessions and adopted the vast majority of decisions. The Group commended the work done and believed the PBC would maintain a constructive spirit in the future. The Group noted the projected surplus for the 2022/23 biennium and a significant increase in income compared to the Program and Budget for the 2020/21 biennium. The Group also believed that the prudent increase of the proposed expenditure for the 2022/23 biennium reflected good governance. The Group welcomed the sound performance of WIPO and appreciated the fact that the Organization enjoyed such positive financial results. The Group looked forward to the continuation of this strength. The Group was pleased to recall the decision on the WIPO UNSDG membership and the approval of the decision on the preparation of the ToR of the 2021 Evaluation of WIPO External Offices. The Evaluation of WIPO External Offices must be done in a highly transparent, independent and objective manner. The Group was glad that the PBC was in a position to adopt the decision. The Group reiterated that the support and engagement of the Secretariat were vital in this process. In line with the PBC 33rd decision on the Capital Master Plan 2022-23, the Group was in a position to approve from the WIPO reserves the funding of the projects presented in that document.
7. The Delegation of Paraguay, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, thanked the PBC Chair and Vice-Chair for their leadership. The Group welcomed the results reflected in the Report of the PBC session, and in spite of the circumstances, the PBC had managed to adopt the Medium‑Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022-2026, the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, UNSDG Membership, and the provisions on the Evaluation of WIPO External Offices and other Items. The Group was convinced of the usefulness of WIPO External Offices to move forward the agenda of the Organization in the different regions and extend its services and strengthen cooperation. The Group wished to go back to the process initiated in 2016 for opening an External Office in Colombia. The Group trusted that with the adoption of those PBC decisions, WIPO would have the tools to achieve its vision, “A world where innovation and creativity from anywhere is supported by Intellectual Property, for the good of everyone,” and mission, “WIPO leads the development of a balanced and effective global intellectual property ecosystem to promote innovation and creativity for a better and more sustainable future.”
8. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the APG, thanked the PBC Chair, Vice-Chair and the Secretariat for their excellent work done to support the PBC and for the preparation of the documents under that agenda item as contained in document A/62/7. The Group thanked the Secretariat for the presentation of the item. The Group noted and appreciated that the PBC made a number of important recommendations to the 2021 Assemblies which included, but were not limited to, taking note of the MTSP 2022‑2026, the adoption of the Revised Policy on Languages at WIPO, the approval of the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, which included WIPO’s response to COVID-19, and to accept the invitation to become a UNSDG member. The Group appreciated the Director General and the Secretariat’s efforts in providing the PBC with a simple framework of the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Group believed that the new format would help ensure more accountability and transparency in the overall activities of the Organization. The Group recalled its statements at the 32nd and 33rd PBC sessions that since the new format had taken a sector-wide approach, the cross-sectoral collaboration should not be compromised in any way. The Group hoped that Member States would duly consider all recommendations made by the PBC.
9. The Delegation of China thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and the efficient preparation and publication of the PBC documents. Despite the severe impact of the COVID‑19 pandemic, and the fact that the 32nd and 33rd PBC sessions were held in a hybrid format, the meetings had resulted in many positive outcomes, including the adoption of the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 and the Capital Master Plan for 2022-23. On the Capital Master Plan for 2022-23, the Delegation wished to express its congratulations. The Delegation appreciated the efficient and effective Chairmanship of the PBC Chair and Vice‑Chair, the constructive participation and flexibility shown by all participants and the wealth of information, presentations, and clarifications provided to Member States by the Director General, the Secretariat, the IAOC and the External Auditor before and during those PBC sessions. The Delegation was of the view that the MTSP 2022-2026 served as important guidance to the implementation of WIPO’s work for the following five years. The Program of Work and Budget, which had undergone major adjustments in terms of structure and length, had incorporated a large number of proposals for Member States, particularly in relation to WIPO’s response to COVID-19. The Delegation hoped that WIPO, in the preparation of future Program of Work and Budgets, would continue to seek and strike a balance between efficiency and transparency. With regard to the Capital Master Plan for 2022-23, the Delegation appreciated the pragmatic approach of the Secretariat to the PCT Resilient and Secure Platform project and its commitment to ensuring user’s data security. The Delegation reiterated that in implementing the cloud first strategy, important interests such as user’s data security of WIPO's global IP services system should be considered first before other factors such as cost and lead‑time are taken into account. The Delegation thanked the Delegations of the Russian Federation and Spain for their valuable and constructive comments on this issue at the 33rd PBC session. The Delegation stood ready to continue discussions with the Secretariat and interested delegations to explore an appropriate solution. In terms of the Revised Policy on Languages at WIPO, the Delegation hoped that WIPO would give favorable consideration to the Delegation’s proposal put forward at the 32nd PBC session, which was to translate, as far as possible, the relevant official legal and procedural documents relating to the Global Intellectual Property services system into all six official UN languages.
10. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of document A/62/7 and for introducing the item. The Group thanked the PBC Chair and Vice-Chair for the efficient and skillful manner with which they guided the PBC, which lead to the recommendation of the adoption of the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 to the Assemblies. The Group was excited about the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 as it would continue to guide the work of WIPO towards the implementation of development activities which sought to help developing countries and a wide-ranging stakeholders to be key players in a more inclusive IP ecosystem. The Group thanked the Director General for the MTSP 2022-2026, particularly its mission and vision. The Group noted with appreciation that a strong culture of cross-sectoral collaboration had been strongly encouraged in the new administration, and this had resulted in the MTSP 2022-2026 and Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 being a truly collective effort from all areas in WIPO. The Group believed that all WIPO Sectors had a crucial role to play to advance the mandate of WIPO and contribute to the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda (DA) and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Group thanked the Member States for contributing to shaping the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, which was discussed during the 32nd and 33rd PBC sessions, held in July and September 2021. Those two sessions were held in the midst of the ongoing COVID‑19 pandemic which had affected all facets of life and it was imperative that the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 had specific measures that the Organization would put in place to respond to the pandemic. Those measures would be supplemented by the proposals and inputs of Member States. The PBC was able to agree to post COVID-19 response measures and the Group looked forward to the implementation of WIPO’s response to the COVID-19 response, as well as other important programs and initiatives contained in the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Group welcomed the positions taken by the PBC and the recommendations to the WIPO General Assembly which was invited to note or approve those items. The Group was pleased to see the recommendation of the adoption of the Revised Policy on Languages at WIPO as well as the recommendation for WIPO to join the UNSDG. The Group noted and appreciated the progress made towards the Evaluation of the WIPO External Offices, and looked forward to the next steps in the process as outlined in the decision of the 33rd PBC session. The Group reiterated the need for a ToR for the Evaluation of the WIPO External Offices to be balanced, fair and transparent and for the evaluation to take into account amongst others the context and different circumstances of each External Office.
11. The Delegation of Pakistan welcomed the report and thanked the Secretariat for their efforts, hard work and dedication towards the successful outcome of the PBC. The 33rd PBC session had made some important progress, including on the draft ToR for the Evaluation of WIPO External Offices. The Delegation attached great importance to this evaluation and as requested by the 32nd PBC, the Delegation submitted its views on the draft ToR. There were convergences on a number of aspects, and different views had been expressed concerning the objectives and scope of the evaluation. There were also differences as to which entity would conduct the evaluation. The Delegation asked the Secretariat to reflect the different views in the preliminary draft. In addition to measuring the performance of the External Offices, the evaluation would also prove to be extremely valuable in guiding the future of PBC and the WIPO General Assembly. The External Auditor Report submitted to the PBC in 2020 highlighted some very serious issues on the existing network of the WIPO External Offices and made useful comments and recommendations for the process of opening new External Offices such as the absence of a standard template and the subsequent inability of the Secretariat to present a factual and technical report against each new application. The Guiding Principles of 2015 mandated the Secretariat to present a technical and factual report on each of the new applications. Without prejudging the outcome of the evaluation, it was important to have a standard template for new applications. It would not only allow the Secretariat to compare the required report but would facilitate the Member States to make an objective comparison of different applications. Therefore, the Delegation urged the Member States to commence discussions on the issue of standard templates in the 34th PBC session and mandate the Secretariat to prepare a preliminary draft of the template. The Delegation welcomed the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 and the MTSP 2022-2026. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat and its partners for the publication of the 2021 Global Innovation Index (GII). While the Index is useful as it provided a comprehensive outlook of several sub‑indicators, there was an underlying subjectivity with regard to the selection of sub‑indicators. Some sub-indicators, particularly the input sub-indicators, had no direct relevance to the output and especially for innovation. Many countries had been performing well with regard to innovation but this growth was not truly reflected in the GII as the input indicators weighed down the performance of many developing countries as more weight was given to the input indicators rather than the actual output that was innovation. Therefore, the GII in principle should only measure, in line with its name and objective, only output sub‑indicators. The Delegation reiterated its proposal for an enhanced collaboration with concerned Member States before the data collection phase to ensure timely transmission of data sets to relevant international organizations.
12. The Delegation of Brazil indicated its support for the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 and the MTSP 2022-2026 to the Assemblies. As pointed out by the WIPO Financial Report for 2020, the Organization continued to enjoy a sound financial position with good performance and encouraging results from the main registration systems. The financial situation put it in a good position to invest resources for the DA. The Delegation congratulated the Director General for using the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 for this purpose, using WIPO’s prosperity for the benefit of individual members and the IP ecosystems in developing countries. All this was without prejudice to investments in the digital transformation of the Organization and the improvement of services infrastructure, guaranteeing that WIPO continued to provide strategic services for the Global IP system to the benefit of all. The Delegation supported WIPO joining the UNSDG and hoped that this mechanism could continue to improve coordination with UN agencies in order to ensure that the UN System as a whole works effectively to pursue the SDGs. The Delegation expressed support to the new strategies for the use of languages and interpretation services at WIPO for the following years. The Delegation welcomed the growing use of technological resources, an important tool to cost-effectively expand WIPO's work in non-official UN languages. The Delegation was convinced that efforts to promote multilingualism improved the overall relevance of the services and programs of the Organization. With regard to the network of WIPO External Offices, the Delegation supported the solution negotiated by the PBC, which gave the Secretariat the role of drawing up a preliminary draft of the ToR for the Evaluation of WIPO External Offices. The Delegation believed that a successful evaluation of the WIPO External Offices could bring added value to the functioning of those offices and continue to improve the services that they provided. In these evaluations, it is extremely important that existing offices have a voice and the opportunity to contribute to the analysis and offer suggestions on how they can improve their performance and, eventually, increase the scope of their activities in a coordinated and complementary manner to operations at WIPO headquarters in Geneva.
13. The Delegation of Algeria thanked the Secretariat, particularly the Assistant Director General of the Administration, Finance and Management Sector and his team for the hard work done in preparing the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Delegation welcomed the innovative direction that had been proposed within the MTSP 2022‑2026. This reflected WIPO's wish to extend the scope and impact its activities to a greater number of stakeholders with an innovative and creative ecosystem. The Delegation was happy to note the new methodology adopted for the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 and how it is divided into sectors, strategic pillars and expected results. The Delegation was convinced this would improve governance in WIPO and strengthen the ability to meet the aspirations of Member States by offering tailor-made services. The Delegation recognized the robust financial situation that exists within WIPO and were delighted to see the development of expenditure within the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 amounted to 18.5 per cent of total expenditure which was a slight increase over the previous biennium. The Delegation noted WIPO's tireless commitment to integrate the DA within all programs and activities undertaken by the Organization. The Delegation emphasized that the WIPO External Offices could make a substantial contribution to the overall results obtained by WIPO in the framework of the four strategic pillars. The intention being to connect everyone and create pathways, which allowed the Organization to reach out to key players in the global IP ecosystem. The Delegation believed it was important to strengthen the human and financial resources of the WIPO External Office in Algiers, Algeria. The Delegation believed it was important because this External Office continued to provide valuable services to local IP players and others in the region. The Delegation believed that strengthening international cooperation within the UN System would be the best possible thing that WIPO could do which would take forward the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Participation of WIPO within the UNSDG would be very much to WIPO’s advantage and would allow for the enhanced role and profile of WIPO in the attainment of the SDGs.
14. The Delegation of the Russian Federation thanked WIPO for having prepared and conducted the 32nd and 33rd PBC sessions in 2021. Those sessions were particularly important ones where the PBC had agreed to the MTSP 2022-2026 and the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. There were new areas of work for WIPO that were of interest to its Delegation and other delegations. The MTSP 2022‑2026 outlined building an ecosystem and support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), youth and the developing the competences and practical skills on economic aspects of IP. The Delegation was happy to note that one key issue is that of continuing to promote multilingualism and thanked the delegations for expressing their support for that approach which allowed for the achievement of the goal set. The Delegation considered it particularly important that support for multilingualism be reflected within the five-year plan and that support be given to dialogue for expanding the language regime within the Madrid and Hague Systems. The Delegation welcomed the Revised Language Policy of WIPO. The Delegation noted that there could be an extended amount of translation using automated translation resources such as AI. Within the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 some key indicators on the translation of WIPO publications into all six official UN languages were included. The Delegation was grateful to the Director General and the Secretariat for their commitment to multilingualism as a fundamental UN value and hoped to continue this commitment in the future as it is exceptionally important. The Delegation noted the adoption of important decisions on oversight issues and noted the importance to continue monitoring the implementation of recommendations made by the internal and external audits, and recommendations from the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). The Delegation noted that the amendments adopted to the ToR of the IAOC strengthened the key principles that applied to establishing the membership of the IAOC which should focus attention on Regional Group representation. The Delegation noted that WIPO would be joining the UNSDG and the way in which WIPO participates in that body would be closely monitored. The Delegation stated that it counted on future productive work on the mandate and the ToR for the WIPO External Offices. The Delegation concluded by thanking the PBC Chair for his leadership and for his active work in leading consultations as part of the operations of the PBC.
15. The Delegation of Spain supported the statement made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B. The Delegation thanked the delegations for their constructive engagement in participating in discussions to reach agreements, which made it possible for the Assemblies to adopt the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. There were many decisions taken in the 32nd and 33rd PBC sessions in which the Delegation fully participated. The Delegation welcomed the efforts of the PBC Chair and Vice-Chair. The Delegation welcomed the positive results of the budget of the Organization, which was a testament to the valuable efforts to maintain prudent and diligent management to WIPO's resources. The Delegation fully supported the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, because it believed it responded to the intellectual and industrial needs. The Delegation believed it helped improve accountability on the part of the Organization as well as clarifying and streamlining its structure. The Delegation emphasized that gender equality and multilingualism should continue to play a central role within the Organization. The Organization should continue to disseminate the advantages of the international protection systems and make better efforts to improve coordination between WIPO and Member States to ensure that systems achieved their expected outcomes. In addition, to ensure that IP could contribute to social economic development which needed to go hand-in-hand with effective management based on financial prudence and sustainability.
16. The Delegation of Ghana noted and appreciated the increased attention to COVID‑19 assistance to Member States. The Delegation welcomed the Trilateral Cooperation between the World Health Organization (WHO), WIPO and the World Trade Organization (WTO), as it relates to decisions taken by the three Directors General. The Delegation welcomed the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, which guided the work of WIPO towards the implementation of development activities to assist developing countries and diverse stakeholders. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation was pleased with the MTSP 2022‑2026, with its theme of an inclusive IP ecosystem that benefits everyone. The Delegation also welcomed the decision for WIPO to join the UNSDG.
17. The Delegation of Nigeria aligned itself with the statements made by the Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation thanked the PBC Chair and Vice‑Chair in expertly steering the work of the PBC. The Delegation welcomed the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. In particular, the Delegation noted that the programs aligned with the spirit and tone of the Director General's MTSP 2022-2026. The Delegation looked forward to supporting the Secretariat in any way it could to ensure the fruitful actualization of the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23. The Delegation was pleased that WIPO would be joining the UNSDG. It was welcomed, as there is a 10-year period for the decade of action and delivering of the SDGs. The Delegation would be looking keenly into how WIPO engages with the UNSDG, particularly the activities WIPO will be engaging in, and seeing clear footprints of WIPO as a member of that Group. On the Evaluation of the WIPO External Offices, the Delegation stated that like many delegations that have spoken earlier on that matter, the Delegation thanked the other delegations for their submission of views and looked forward to the preliminary draft that would be put forward by the Secretariat. The Delegation stated that the preliminary draft should reflect the ideas in a balanced way, because the previous selection of WIPO External Offices showed that a number of those Offices had different needs to meet and to ensure they were working and adding to the Program of Work and Budget of the Organization. It was important to take that into account when developing the initial draft which should be a balanced document that pointed out the mandates of different profiles, and the additional activities that needed to be engaged in by WIPO to ensure that all WIPO External Offices would be able to be profitable for the Organization in terms of supporting growth of IP on the ground. This was especially important with respect to the WIPO External Office in Nigeria, because when the Nigeria and Algeria External Offices were selected, it was mainly to facilitate the use of IP for development. The Delegation hoped that the ToR would reflect this mandate for the different WIPO External Offices.
18. The Secretariat thanked the delegations for their comments on the item.
19. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned:

(i) took note of the “List of Decisions Adopted by the Program and Budget Committee” (document A/62/7); and

(ii) approved the recommendations made by the Program and Budget Committee as contained in the same document.

## ITEM 12 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA Records of WIPO Meetings

1. Discussions were based on document [A/62/9](https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/2021/a_62/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=547754).
2. The Secretariat stated that document A/59/9 was presented and approved during the 59th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies in 2019. It was a proposal designed to leverage advances in digital technologies in order to improve the speed and quality of services in relation to the production of WIPO meeting records, while aiming to achieve significant cost efficiencies. In addition, the document proposed to pilot a new approach to provide enriched digitally indexed and searchable conference video recordings, complemented by automatically generated text records in the six UN languages, using WIPO's AI tools. The Secretariat recalled that Member states had approved the proposed document for an initial trial phase for two sessions of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP/31 and SCP/32), and for two sessions of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP/24 and CDIP/25). Information and feedback received on the trial phase were available in document A/62/9, and Member States were invited to consider proceeding to Phase Two, namely the phased discontinuation of the resource-intensive human production of verbatim meeting reports.
3. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the Secretariat for preparing the document under consideration, stating that it gave a useful overview of the circumstances, which had led to the approval of the proposal to improve the speed, quality and cost efficiency of producing WIPO meeting records. The Group thanked WIPO for implementing the proposal in a trial phase, the outcomes of which were clearly identified in the document, such as the enriched video-on-demand (VoD) recordings with digital indexing and the creation of speech‑to‑text transcripts. The Group noted the cost savings and the use of new technology platforms during CDIP/25 and SCP/32. Furthermore, the Group noted that meetings had been more widely accessible with increasingly more people having insight into the global IP system, which was one of the key deliverables of the Organization and part of the Director General's new vision. The Group also took note of the features designed to overcome problems in localities where Internet connection was slow or unreliable. It welcomed the oversight of those technologies in terms of quality and means to verify the original record in case of doubt. Bearing in mind the increased accessibility in the cost savings and the other efficiencies identified, the Group supported the replacement of verbatim reports of WIPO meetings by automated speech-to-text transcripts and translations.
4. The Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, thanked the Secretariat for preparing and presenting document A/62/9. The CEBS Group recalled that at the 59th Series of Meetings, WIPO Member States had decided to start a pilot system to replace the production of the verbatim report with the automated speech‑to‑text transcription and translation. The first phase results showcased that the new system enabled access to meeting recourse in all six interpretation channels, and the estimated cost savings for the four pilot meetings held in hybrid format amounted to approximately 355’000.00 Swiss francs. The CEBS Group took note and supported the proposal to proceed to the second phase and extend the system for all WIPO meetings, standing committees and working groups, with the exception of the Assemblies and other WIPO Governing Bodies, and of diplomatic conferences.
5. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the APG, thanked the Secretariat for the brief introduction of document A/62/9. The Group wished to express its sincere and deepest appreciation to the Secretariat for its timely and comprehensive records of WIPO meetings, which were invaluable to the work of the Organization and its Member States. The Group also appreciated the Secretariat's commitment to reduce technology and digital gaps in accessing and sharing records of WIPO meetings while maintaining security and integrity of data. The Group took note of document A/62/9 which details the outcome of the trial phase of the technological platforms of the enhanced webcasting, VoD and the automated speech‑to‑text system. The Group stated that since the first phase had proven a cost‑effective service, Member States might decide to proceed to the second phase, as proposed by the Secretariat. However, the Group looked forward to hearing the views and comments from Member States, as well as the response from the Secretariat regarding the practicality of the implementation.
6. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, thanked the Secretariat for the preparation and introduction of document A/62/9. It noted that the topic of the Records of WIPO Meetings had been discussed in the 2019 Assemblies, resulting in the decision to agree to pilot a new approach, namely to provide enriched recordings of WIPO conferences, using commercially available audiovisual technologies complemented by automatically generated text records in all six UN languages using WIPO's AI tools. The Group was pleased with the results of the said pilot phase that covered CDIP/24, SCP/31, CDIP/25 and SCP/32. The Group was cognizant of the significant cost savings associated with the replacement of verbatim reports, with the fully automated speech‑to‑text transcripts and translations. The Group also took positive note of the enhanced audiovisual recordings of meetings enabling access to meeting recordings in all six interpretation channels, which exceeded the original target of that phase. The Group welcomed the very useful features as indicated in paragraphs 3 and 10 of the document, the ability to access specific agenda items or interventions and the integrated link to the documents under discussion. In its opinion, further improvements had to be made to better facilitate navigation and connectivity. The Group appreciated that the Secretariat recognized that challenges caused by the digital divide could impact the sharing of records of WIPO meetings by those on the negative side of the digital divide. It was therefore pleased that the platform enabled the downloading of full or precise parts of a given meeting after it had taken place. Overall, the Group applauded WIPO for this innovative technological solution that ensured efficiency while still guaranteeing transparency in the work of WIPO. The Group supported the extension of the pilot phase to other meetings.
7. The Delegation of Brazil stated that it is enthusiastic about the speech-to-text tool and its multiple possible functionalities not only for WIPO but also for other multilateral organizations and for Member States. By expressing its support for the start of the second phase of the project, which will extend the application of the tool to a broader list of committees and deliberative bodies of the Organization, the Delegation registered the need to continue to improve the system's functionalities and its presentation, not to mention the accuracy of the transcripts. The Delegation noted, in particular, the need to integrate both the webcasting and speech-to-text platforms. One of the missing aspects of speech-to-text today is precisely the indexing of transcripts, which would facilitate the navigability of the text. Furthermore, the Delegation reiterated its interest in developing projects with WIPO for the use of the speech‑to‑text tool in Portuguese and expressed its availability to assist with training material or other aspects to develop the skills of the tool in the Portuguese language.
8. The Delegation of China stated that, while holding an open attitude and based on the results of the four trial meetings, it was not satisfied with the accuracy and quality of the Chinese speech‑to‑text records. The Delegation believed that accurate text to records of meetings could help Member States and other stakeholders to follow the proceedings in a faster and more convenient manner, and would facilitate future reviews. However, it was not appropriate to significantly sacrifice the accuracy and quality of meeting records for the sake of efficiency and cost‑saving. The Delegation urged the Secretariat to adopt the necessary measures to improve the accuracy and quality of speech‑to‑text transcripts and automated translations. Meanwhile, the Secretariat should provide Member States with the possibilities to correct or supplement statements delivered orally. The Delegation said that cost-saving gained from the new system should be allocated mainly to the implementation of WIPO's multilingual policy and to the improvement of the quality and coverage of WIPO's language services. Considering that the PBC discussions touches upon important matters such as WIPO’s Program and Budget and the use of financial resources, the Delegation believed that the verbatim reports should be maintained for the PBC meetings.
9. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for the preparation of document A/62/9. The Delegation supported the Secretariat’s proposal on the replacement of verbatim reports of WIPO meetings by automated speech‑to‑text transcripts and translations with some exceptions, as this would improve the speed and quality of the services in relation to the production of WIPO meeting records.
10. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia, while supporting the efforts made by the Organization, believed that it was vital for the Organization to adopt glossaries and dictionaries in all six official languages in order to improve the quality of translations. The Delegation informed that it had developed its first glossary for industrial property in Arabic, which could be used as a basis for other lexical projects.
11. The Delegation of the Russian Federation valued the new systems for preparing reports for WIPO meetings from the viewpoint of economies of time and effort. The Delegation nevertheless wished to stress the importance of producing reports in all six official languages of the UN system. In its opinion, the PBC should be excluded from the report production of using automated translation. The Delegation said that the PBC played a key role in the work of WIPO, therefore it was important to ensure that delegations and interested persons had access to high-quality reports prepared manually.
12. The Secretariat thanked all delegations for their interventions. It stated that it had taken due note of all the comments made and would be working on improving navigation, access and overall functionalities, as well as the quality which had come out as a major issue. It was looking forward to receiving feedback from all delegates and delegations on the quality and functionality of the system proposed in order to continue on improving it. With particular reference to the demand made by the Delegation of Brazil, the Secretariat stated that it would look internally into the possibility of adding the Portuguese language. The Secretariat also stressed that it would ensure that the accuracy was improved. The Secretariat took note that the PBC would be added to the exception list of WIPO meetings which would still use verbatim reports. Finally, it looked forward to the possibility of collaborating with Member States to add language references to the indexing or search functionality.
13. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, decided on the replacement of verbatim reports of WIPO meetings by automated speech-to-text transcripts and translations, except for WIPO meetings taking place in the framework of the Assemblies, meetings of WIPO Governing Bodies, the Program and Budget Committee (PBC) and of Diplomatic Conferences, as of October 2021.

## ITEM 13 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

## Report on the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR)

1. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15).

## ITEM 14 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA Report on the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP)

1. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15).

## ITEM 15 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

## Report on the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)

1. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15).

## ITEM 16 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

## Matters Concerning the Convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Design Law Treaty (DLT)

1. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15).

## ITEM 17 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

## Report on the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) and Review of the Implementation of the Development Agenda Recommendations

1. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15).

## ITEM 18 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

## Report on the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)

1. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15).

## ITEM 19 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA Report on the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) and Related Issues

1. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15).

## ITEM 20 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA Report on the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE)

1. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15).

## ITEM 21 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA PCT System

1. See the report of the session of the PCT Union Assembly (document PCT/A/53/4).

## ITEM 22 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA Madrid System

1. See the report of the session of the Madrid Union Assembly (document MM/A/55/2).

## ITEM 23 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA Hague System

1. See the report of the session of the Hague Union Assembly (document H/A/41/2).

## ITEM 24 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA Lisbon System

1. See the report of the session of the Lisbon Union Assembly (document LI/A/38/3).

## ITEM 25 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, including Domain Names

1. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15).

## ITEM 26 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA Patent Law Treaty (PLT)

1. See the report of the session of the WIPO General Assembly (document WO/GA/54/15).

## ITEM 27 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (STLT)

1. See the report of the session of the Singapore Treaty Assembly (document STLT/A/14/2).

## ITEM 28 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

## Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled (MVT)

1. See the report of the session of the Marrakesh Treaty Assembly (document MVT/A/6/2).

## ITEM 29 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances (BTAP)

1. See the report of the session of the Beijing Treaty Assembly (document BTAP/A/2/2).

## ITEM 30 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA Reports on Staff Matters

1. See the report of the session of the WIPO Coordination Committee (document WO/CC/80/5).

## ITEM 31 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA Amendments to Staff Regulations and Rules

1. See the report of the session of the WIPO Coordination Committee (document WO/CC/80/5).

## ITEM 32 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA Adoption of the Report

1. Discussions were based on document [A/62/12](https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/2021/a_62/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=552851).
2. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned,
   * 1. adopted the Summary Report (document A/62/12); and
     2. requested the Secretariat to finalize the Extensive Reports, post them on the WIPO website and communicate them to Member States by November 5, 2021. Comments should be submitted to the Secretariat by December 3, 2021, after which the final reports will be deemed adopted by December 17, 2021.

## ITEM 33 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA Closing of the Sessions

1. The Chair recalled that the WIPO General Assembly had taken decisions in previous sessions that still required action by Member States, in particular, the decision for a review of the Contract of the Director General, which would take effect on the next occasion that his contract was renewed. The Chair had drawn the attention of Ambassador Molcean, his successor, as Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, to this matter. Ambassador Molcean would be in touch with Member States in the coming months.
2. The Delegation of Paraguay, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, congratulated and thanked the Chair for his leadership, thanked the Director General as well as the staff of the Secretariat for their constant support and efforts despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Group expressed satisfaction of the results of the items of the different Committees discussed at the Assemblies as well as the approved decisions. The Group reaffirmed its commitment to the multilateral system, the work of the Organization and all of its dimensions, particularly during the COVID‑19 pandemic. Noting the importance of the role of innovation, creativity, development and research was for societies, the Delegation welcomed the new focus of the Director General for the Organization, which was reflected in the documents that were approved in the current Assemblies, such as the new MTSP, which focuses on development. Furthermore, the Group welcomed the 45 recommendations of the DA, which was included in the work of the Organization as well as the contributions to achieving the SDG’s. The Group concluded by thanking all the Secretariats of the different Committees, the interpretation services, the services for audiovisual and all staff.
3. The Delegation of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the APG, expressed its appreciation for the Chair’s able leadership over the past years in steering the WIPO General Assembly, and thanked the Director General and the Secretariat for facilitating and their contribution to the preparations of the Assemblies. The Group recognized that the facilitators and the friends of Chairs, appointed by the Chair had spared no effort in resolving the various long-standing issues since the Chair’s assumption of this important role. Although the discussions and engagements among the Member States and Regional Groups were constructive, the Group regretted that the Assemblies could not make any progress on the pending issues including the expansion of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC. However, the Group looked forward to further constructive discussions in the spirit of solidarity and unity in the next days regarding those two important issues, on the basis of the long-standing principles of equitable geographical distribution and the ratification of gaps between the under representation and the over representation. The Group reiterated its thanks to the Chair and expressed sincere gratitude to all Member States, in particular, the Regional Coordinators for their cooperation and collaboration which had enabled the smooth conduct of work during these sessions.
4. The Delegation of the Russian Federation, speaking on behalf of CACEEC, thanked the Chair for his able leadership of the sessions, thanked the Regional Coordinators as well as all delegations for their constructive spirit and cooperation, and expressed its gratitude to the Director General and the whole management team of the Organization. In addition, the Group expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for the efforts taken to organize the session in a hybrid format, in particular, Mr. Andrew Staines, Assistant Director General for the management of the Assemblies, and thanked the Secretariat for its support and cooperation with the delegations. The Group was pleased that Member States were able to adopt several important documents, in particular, the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 biennium, which outlined the next development of the global ecosystem of IP and focused on the economic aspect of the field of IP. The Group was grateful to the Director General for preparing the new strategic areas of the work of WIPO that particularly reflected the principles of support of multilingualism. The Group hoped that with joint efforts Member States would be able to launch new projects to introduce innovation for the good of all. The Group stated that an important item of the Assemblies was the fact that the Eurasian Patent Organization was integrated into the International Searching and Preliminary Examiningsystem. This step had great significance for the Eurasian region. The Group noted that after the challenges caused by the pandemic, the WIPO General Assembly for the first time adopted the reports of all the WIPO Committees. The Group hoped that the health situation would improve in the world and enable the return to normal conditions of work at WIPO. Concerning the agenda items that had been postponed, the Group hoped that Member States would be able to make progress. Noting the outstanding questions where Member States did not achieve consensus, the Delegation reassured that its Regional Group stood ready to engage in constructive cooperation with WIPO Member States. The Group thanked the conference service team and the interpreters for their tireless endeavors which had enabled the holding of these meetings. Finally, the Group wished all delegations success and health.
5. The Delegation of China expressed its appreciation to the Chair as well as the Chairs of the various treaties bodies for their strong leadership. The Delegation thanked the Director General, the Senior Management Team as well as the Secretariat for their efforts in ensuring the smooth finish of the various agenda items of the current Assemblies. In particular, the Delegation was highly appreciative of the work of the Chair over the past two years. Under the Chair’s outstanding leadership, Member States had overcome the problems brought about by the COVID‑19 pandemic and work had been significantly promoted. Furthermore, the Delegation congratulated the current Assemblies for having achieved the expected result, such as the approval of the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23 biennium, the 2022-2023 IGC mandate as well as the work program, reviewed the HR Strategy as well as the report on the oversight work and the reports of various Committees. The Delegation regretted that the Assemblies was yet to reach consensus on the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee and the PBC, as well as the convening of a diplomatic conference on the Design Law Treaty. The Delegation hoped that the parties would maintain their flexible and open approach and to strive for substantive progress on the above-mentioned items at an early date. The Delegation noted that the Covid-19 situation had necessitated the hybrid model for the current session. In spite of that, all Member States participated and exchanged actively, for which China expressed its appreciation. The Delegation believed that this positive approach and the enabling environment would continue to promote further exchanges and cooperation among Member States to enable to set up together an effective IP ecosystem that took into account the interests of all parties. Finally, the Delegation wished to express gratitude to the interpreters for the quality service and wished all delegates present a safe trip, and wished all colleagues very good health.
6. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the African Group, thanked the Chair for the efficient manner he had chaired not only the WIPO General Assembly but also the previous ones he presided over during his term as Chair. The Group acknowledged with appreciation the Chair’s efforts in trying to find consensus on a number of long-standing issues. The Group thanked the Director General for setting the scene for this 62nd Series of the Assemblies of WIPO with his detailed report. The Group thanked the Senior Management Team and WIPO staff present who provided reports, responded to questions, and interacted with Member States. The Group’s gratitude also goes to the Secretariat, including the conference services, interpreters, technical team, security, and all who played a big part in facilitating their work and thus contributing to the success of these Assemblies. The Group was pleased that capital based delegates were able to participate physically and virtually in the current Assemblies, and said it was good to see the conference hall almost full due to their participation. Regrettably, the pandemic had prevented even more delegates from joining the Assemblies physically. The Delegation stated that the African Group had always participated constructively in the Assemblies with the view of advancing the work and making progress on all issues. Although there were some issues on which consensus could not be reached, the Group was encouraged by the positive approach and flexibility of all Groups, and it believed that consensus on those outstanding issues was within reach. The Group was pleased that the Assemblies approved the Program of Work and Budget for the 2022-2023 biennium, which would enable WIPO to forge ahead with the important work of making IP work for everyone everywhere, as well as effectively responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the Group was pleased that the WIPO General Assembly endorsed the renewal of the IGC mandate, and it was optimistic that the IGC would make meaningful progress in the new biennium. The Group thanked all regional groups and delegations for their cooperation throughout the week as well as the outgoing Regional Coordinators with whom it had worked very well and welcomed the incoming Regional Coordinators. The Group reaffirmed its commitment to work towards advancing the work of WIPO. The Group wished everyone continued good health.
7. The Delegation of Georgia, speaking on behalf the CEBS Group, applauded the skilful guidance of the Chair during these sessions of the Assemblies that had enabled Member States to achieve tangible progress and thanked the Chair for his efforts. The Group also extended its appreciation to Mr. Staines, Assistant Director General and the Secretariat for their excellent work and efforts invested in the preparation and advancement of the work of the current Assemblies. Likewise, thanked the interpreters, the conference services, and special thanks goes to the IT team and all who supported delegations during the week. Furthermore, the Group thanked the Member States, colleagues, Regional Coordinators and all stakeholders who contributed to the successful work of the Assemblies. The Group stated that the 2021 Assemblies left everyone optimistic that they would be back to normal soon. The Group used every means available to contribute to the positive spirit and efficient work of the Assemblies. The Group reiterated the great importance it attached to the Design Law Treaty and expressed its commitment in finding a solution which would lead to the convening of the long-awaited diplomatic conference. Recalling the good financial performance of the Organization, the Group looked forward to the strengthening of the PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Unions. At the same time, the Group was pleased to see positive trends and the expansion of the Lisbon System. The Group thanked all Member States for supporting the nomination of Her Excellency, Ambassador Ms. Tatiana Molcean (Republic of Moldova) for the position of Chair of the WIPO General Assembly. The Group wished her all the success in this crucial role. Finally, the Group expressed appreciation to the Director General, and looked forward to continued cooperation with the new Senior Management Team. The Delegation stated that the Chair could count on the full support of the member states of the CEBS Group to develop an efficient and effective IP ecosystem for the good of all and especially for future generations.
8. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf Group B, thanked the Chair for his dedicated guidance ahead, and throughout the WIPO General Assembly and for facilitating the discussions. Group B also extended its appreciation to the Secretariat for its support ahead and during the Assemblies. Group B said that it would be remiss not to thank the conference staff, the skilled interpreters and the technicians without whom these sessions in hybrid format would not have been possible. Group B wished to thank wholeheartedly the Director General for his guidance, the documents, and for the work ahead and during the week. Group B, the Delegation of the United Kingdom and the Delegation speaking in his own capacity, would like to thank Mr. Staines, Assistant Director General and Mr. Katbi, Director, Diplomatic Engagement and Assemblies Affairs Division. Their honest, open and transparent engagement with Member States had been a testament to and instrumental to this WIPO General Assembly being particularly efficient, focused on impact in line with its wider approach. Group B thanked all the Regional Coordinators, Member States and Chairs for their tireless efforts. The Group considered the session a success, in particular, it was pleased to have the Program of Work and Budget for the 2022-23 biennium as well as the MTSP. It considered those two documents as guidebooks for the Organization going forward. Without wanting to get into technical details, Group B was also pleased with the many decisions taken that week, such as, agreeing the key date of Standard ST26 going live or adopting the updates to the global IP systems. Those were important decisions that kept the WIPO services fit for purpose and forward-looking. Group B also thanked the Chair for his comments concerning future informal consultations to deliver the WIPO General Assembly’s decision contained in paragraph 12 of document A/60/3. Group B regretted that Member States were not able to find consensus on some of the issues. However, Group B honestly believed that by engagements that week, under the Chair’s leadership Member States laid the ground for successful future outcomes. It noted that the first years of meetings under the new administration confirmed the strength of the Organization and its forward-looking nature. The Delegate informed that he was just finishing his 13th WIPO General Assembly as a Geneva-based delegate, and the fourth WIPO General Assembly as a Regional Coordinator, and it would be his last as a Regional Coordinator. So many people had guided, advised and showed him the right outcomes, the right avenues and the dead ends. The Delegate said he could spend a good couple of hours naming them all. The Delegate sincerely thanked all and made a special mention to his fellow Regional Coordinators whose ranks he was now leaving at least for some time.
9. The Delegation of Spain associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B. The Delegation saluted the Chair for his wise manner in conducting the debates and congratulated the Secretariat on its work. The Delegation noted that these Assemblies held in hybrid format had been a wonderful example of the way things could work and had helped to reconcile in-person participation in the Plenary with remote delegations, which was not an easy task. In the 62nd Series of meetings of the Assemblies, a variety of documents had been approved which had been of great relevance for the operations of the Organization, in which the Delegation had participated actively, such as the Program of Work and Budget for 2022-23 biennium and which the Delegation supported. It believed that this would allow WIPO to flourish in the current context and it hoped that there would be appropriate, smooth and ambitious implementation of the mandates contained in that document. In addition, the Delegation welcomed the fact that the WIPO General Assembly had approved the requisite steps to ensure that WIPO could join the UNSDG. This was an essential matter if Member States wished to link internationally speaking public policies for the promotion and protection of intellectual and industrial property with the SDGs, which guide the actions of the Member States. The Delegation was pleased with the improvements in the modernization of the international registration systems, and requested the Secretariat and Member States to pay particular attention to the development and proper operation of the PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems. Furthermore, the Delegation took note of the progress made in the different Committees. It hoped that once Member States moved towards a certain degree of normalcy, while continuing combating the COVID-19 pandemic, these forums would continue to be convened and would act as a forum for fruitful debate on the different aspects of intellectual and industrial property. Take decisions for the future in which Spain would continue to participate actively, taking into account the cross cutting dimensions which govern all of the activities of the Organization, a true example of dialogue and effective multilateralism.
10. The Delegation of Slovenia, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member states, reiterated its thanks to the Chair for his able and skilful guidance and leadership in facilitating discussions during the session of the WIPO General Assembly. The Delegation also thanked the Chairs, Vice-Chairs, the facilitators as well as the Director General, Deputy Directors, General, Assistant Directors General and the whole Secretariat for their hard work, and excellent performance during the current Assemblies and throughout the challenging year. Last but not the least, the Delegation thanked the WIPO staff that diligently supported delegations during the week. In spite of the hybrid mode, the Delegation was pleased that the WIPO General Assembly was able to discuss and adopt some vital documents for WIPO’s continuous work, such as the Program of Work and Budget for 2022-23 biennium and the MTSP. With great interest and hopes, the Delegation looked forward to concrete results of the vision and new strategic approach. The Delegation was encouraged by WIPO’s promise to aspire and make IP work for all. The Delegation supported WIPO in its efforts towards efficient and effective response to the COVID-19, and the willingness to assist Member States and business, including individual creators, innovators and SME’s in their efforts towards economic recovery. The Delegation hoped that in building back better, IP would play its role for all stakeholders on the road to a resilient post-pandemic world. The Delegation was pleased to see the commitment to continued work in the different WIPO bodies and committees. The European Union and its member states welcomed the renewal for the IGC mandate for 2022/23, and looked forward to engaging constructively in negotiations as soon as they could restart in the new biennium. On the matter of the Design Law Treaty, the Delegation stood ready to further explore constructive proposals once the normative negotiations could resume, hopefully at the next WIPO General Assembly. In closing, the European Union and its member states wished to reassure and reiterate their continued commitment to WIPO’s goals and work. The Delegation hoped that the demonstrative cooperative spirit would prevail in all WIPO bodies and committees, and continue to help delegations find pragmatic solutions during the upcoming year when improved circumstances would hopefully allow delegations to meet again without any restrictions.
11. The closing remarks of the Director General is recorded as follows:

“Thank you Chair, for giving me the floor at the closing of the Sixty-Second Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the WIPO Member States.

“It has been a pleasure to see this hall and our lobby come alive again with people and participants, and to reconnect with old friends, as well as to meet many new ones, in person.

“My deep thanks goes as well to all those delegates who have joined us remotely.

* + “For many of you, and I know this as someone whose home country is 6 hours ahead of Geneva, this has involved early morning or late night hours.
  + “Thank you for your commitment, which has enriched our discussions and allowed us to feel connected with the WIPO family worldwide throughout the week.

“To Your Excellency, Ambassador Zniber, thank you for your unstinting commitment, steadfast support and wise guidance not only during this week, but throughout your tenure as Chair of the WIPO General Assembly.

* + “You have played a key role in facilitating the positive outcomes we have reached this week, and you oversaw the transition at WIPO between two Administrations and the Organization’s transition through the pandemic.
  + “During these exceptional times, the Organization has been fortunate to have you as our Chair.
  + “It has been a pleasure and honor to work with you.

“To our Dear Colleague Ambassador Molcean, congratulations once again on your election as the incoming Chair of the WIPO General Assembly. My team and I look forward to working closely together as we begin our preparations for next year’s Assemblies.

“Thank you also to the Regional Coordinators for your contributions and support behind the scenes. And to Member States for your engagement. We look forward to our continued work together.

“Excellencies, Colleagues, Friends

“As I said during my opening remarks, even as we must work to overcome the current crisis and mitigate the effects of the pandemic, we must also envision the opportunities before us and seize them together.

“I am therefore very grateful for the positive and encouraging statements many delegations made about the Medium Term Strategic Plan and our new Vision, Mission and Strategy for WIPO.

“We are also grateful that the Assemblies have approved the PBC’s recommendations for the 2022/23 biennium. This Program of Work and Budget, including covid-19 related support, Capital Master Plan and other initiatives approved by you will lay the foundation for our future work. But these foundations will only translate into actual impact with your continued partnership and support. So please continue to be in close contact with us, and work with us to bring these plans to life.

“We are also pleased to have your approval for the revised policy on languages. We believe that greater inclusivity is not only key to WIPO’s future Mission, but also aligns us even more strongly with multilingualism as a core value of the UN family. We are also pleased that a decision to join the UNSDG has been reached and we look forward to progressing the 2030 Agenda as one team.

“Members have also conveyed their enthusiasm for progressing the work of WIPO’s Committees, agreed to the consensual renewal of key mandates and spoken favorably of resuming a more regular program of work in those areas where this has been impacted by the pandemic.

“And we have been able to achieve consensus on a range of provisions which will strengthen the functioning of this Organization and the operation of our services.

“Many Members have also indicated their desire to progress the normative agenda. The Secretariat is encouraged by these statements and will continue facilitate, to our utmost, these discussions.

“Excellencies, colleagues, friends

“If I may, I would like to say a brief word of thanks to my many colleagues here at WIPO.

“To my Sector Leads, my Deputy DGs and Assistant DGs, thank you to you and your teams for your work during the Assemblies and since we came together as the collective senior executive leadership of WIPO in January this year.

* + “A special mention must go to ADG Andy Staines for skillfully facilitating the work of the various Chairs and Office-holders of the Committees and WIPO Bodies as Secretary of the WIPO Assemblies.

“Delivering a multiday, multilingual hybrid event involves a huge amount of energy and skill behind the scenes.

* + “I want to thank our remarkable Secretariat for ensuring the smooth running of the Assemblies. And I want to thank our Interpreters for their professionalism and adjusting to the hybrid format with aplomb.

“I am sure Members will also want to join me in acknowledging the work of WIPO’s technical teams who have done a tremendous job in facilitating our discussions, as well as our security, sanitary and catering staff for keeping delegates safe and suitably refreshed. Thank you all. It is deeply appreciated.

“Excellencies, colleagues, friends,

“The issues debated, raised and agreed to over the course of this week’s Assemblies are a testament to what can be achieved through international cooperation and partnership, through multilateralism.

“While these remain uncertain times, it is only by working together that we can build consensus, confront shared challenges and ensure that WIPO’s work advances the common good, supports the delivery of Agenda 2030 and delivers real impact for you, for your communities and your economy.

“It is in this spirit that I look forward to continuing our work together over the year ahead.

“And it is in this spirit that we can advance our shared vision of a world where innovation and creativity from anywhere is supported by IP for the good of everyone.

“Thank you all very much, and keep safe until we next meet again.”

1. The closing remarks of the Chair is recorded as follows:

“Excellencies Ambassadors,

“Mister Director General,

“Delegates and representatives from all capitals,

“Dear Staff of WIPO,

“Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

“We have reached the end of the 62nd series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO.

“It is with great pleasure that I chaired all of our work, not only this week, but also throughout these two last years.

“My involvement during the several dozen meetings that I have chaired all through my mandate allowed me, once again, to appreciate the importance of multilateralism. It is crucial for us – for all Member States – to come together to discuss, negotiate and overcome any blockages, always in a spirit of cooperation and partnership. We must bring together interests and minds for a better tomorrow.

“Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

“There are still several unsettled points that need to be taken forward if we are to reach the full potential of this august assembly that brings us together.

“Beyond what we want to achieve together, let us not forget that WIPO’s first mission is to lead the development of a balanced and effective international IP system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all.

“WIPO has an essential role for artistic, creative and intellectual ties. WIPO is the guardian of culture; and culture, Ladies and Gentlemen, is certainly an essential pillar in the rapprochement between societies and all living consciences.

“It is this same goal that Morocco has been willing to promote throughout these two years of presidency. Therefore, I hope we have succeeded in adding one more stone to the edifice that we are building here together.

“In a world without COVID, we were prepared to celebrate our presidency with several cultural events that could show you the richness and diversity of Moroccan culture. We will program an event as soon as we can and we hope to see many of you at a cultural meeting connected to one of WIPO’s activities.

“In any case, you can always count on the Moroccan delegation, which remains committed to progress in our discussions in all the necessary themes in an active and constructive manner.

“Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

“I would like to make a special mention of the regional coordinators who facilitated the task of the presidency thanks to their flexibility, their spirit of communion and dialogue. I know that their task is not always easy but they succeed in it with excellence even when our meetings have been intense.

“I would like to thank all member states for their engagement, their constructive contributions and their flexibility.

“I would also like to thank the Director General, Mr. Daren Tang, as well as all the members of the Secretariat who have been of invaluable and unwavering help. Mister Director General and all the SMTs have always been present and active for the ins and outs and for every detail of our work.

“And, of course, I would like to salute the tireless work of the translators without whom we could not exchange our ideas and our words.

“I would like finally to express my best wishes for our incoming Chair, Her Excellency Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Moldova, Madam Tatiana Molcean.

“If I may, I would like to end my remarks recalling an essential point: To know how to sublimate talents and to protect them is to believe in the future of humanity; that is why WIPO is an organization mainly focused on the future.

*“*Thank you for your attention”

1. The Sixty-Second Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO was closed by the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly.

[Annex follows]