

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

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COMPOSITION OF THE WIPO COORDINATION COMMITTEE, AND OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES OF THE PARIS AND BERNE UNIONS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. The membership of the WIPO Coordination Committee consists of States drawn from three other bodies, namely:

- (i) the Executive Committee of the Paris Union;
- (ii) the Executive Committee of the Berne Union; and
- (iii) one-fourth of the States party to the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization (“the WIPO Convention”) that are not members of any of the Unions administered by WIPO.¹

In addition, Switzerland, as the host State, is an *ex officio* member of the WIPO Coordination Committee.²

¹ Article 8(1)(a) and (c), WIPO Convention.

² Article 11(9)(a), WIPO Convention.

2. The membership of the WIPO Coordination Committee is established once every two years, at the ordinary sessions of the Assemblies of WIPO. The terms of office of the present members of the Executive Committee of the Paris Union, the Executive Committee of the Berne Union, and the WIPO Coordination Committee expire at the close of the present (October 4 to 8, 2021) ordinary sessions of the Assemblies. New members of each of these Committees must therefore be elected during the present sessions of the Assemblies. The new members will serve until the close of the next ordinary sessions of the Assemblies, which will be held in October 2023.

3. The present document deals with the composition of the Committees that are to be elected and the decisions that the corresponding Assemblies and other bodies are invited to take in order to elect the new members of the Committees.

I. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PARIS UNION

4. The Executive Committee of the Paris Union shall consist of countries elected by the Paris Union Assembly from among countries members of the Assembly ("ordinary members"). The number of countries members of the Executive Committee shall correspond to one-fourth of the number of countries members of the Assembly. Furthermore the State on whose territory the Organization has its headquarters (Switzerland) is the *ex officio* member.³

5. Present Composition. The Executive Committee of the Paris Union comprises, at present, 42 members, consisting of 41 ordinary members, and one *ex officio* member. The names of the present members are underlined in List No. 1 in the Annex to this document.

6. Limits to Eligibility for Re-Election. Members of the Executive Committee of the Paris Union may be re-elected, but only up to a maximum of two-thirds of the ordinary members.⁴ There being 41 such members, the number of elected ordinary members eligible for re-election is 27.⁵

7. New Composition. The Executive Committee of the Paris Union to serve from the close of the present sessions of the Assemblies to the close of the next ordinary sessions of the Assemblies should have 44 members, consisting of:

- (i) 43⁶ elected ordinary members, to be elected by the Assembly of the Paris Union; out of the present 41 elected members, 27 may and 14 may not be re-elected;

³ See Articles 14(2)(a) and (3) of the Paris Convention and Rule 3(1) of the Special Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Paris Union (document A/57/INF/6). In addition, Article 14(3) of the Paris Convention provides, in relevant part, that "[i]n establishing the number of seats to be filled, remainders after division by four shall be disregarded."

⁴ See Article 14(5)(b) of the Paris Convention.

⁵ $41 \times 2/3 = 27.3$.

⁶ Forty-three represents one-fourth of the number of States members of the Assembly of the Paris Union, discounting any remainders after division by four (see Article 14(3) of the Paris Convention). There are 175 members of the Assembly, whose names are set out in List No. 1 in the Annex.

- (ii) one *ex officio* member (Switzerland).

8. Accordingly, the Assembly of the Paris Union is invited to elect, from among its members, 43 States to the Executive Committee of the Paris Union, in the capacity of ordinary members; these 43 States must not include more than 27 States which, at present, are ordinary members of that Committee.

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BERNE UNION

9. The Executive Committee of the Berne Union shall consist of countries elected by the Assembly from among countries members of the Assembly ("ordinary members"). The number of countries members of the Executive Committee shall correspond to one-fourth of the number of countries members of the Assembly. Furthermore, the country on whose territory the Organization has its headquarters (Switzerland) is the *ex officio* member.⁷

10. Present Composition. The Executive Committee of the Berne Union comprises, at present, 41 members, consisting of 40 ordinary members and one *ex officio* member. The names of the present members are underlined in List No. 2 in the Annex to this document.

11. Limits to Eligibility for Re-Election. Members of the Executive Committee of the Berne Union may be re-elected, but only up to a maximum of two-thirds of the ordinary members.⁸ There being 40 such members, the number of elected ordinary members eligible for re-election is 26.⁹

12. New Composition. The Executive Committee of the Berne Union to serve from the close of the present sessions of the Assemblies to the close of the next ordinary sessions of the Assemblies should have 45 members, consisting of:

- (i) 44¹⁰ elected ordinary members, to be elected by the Assembly of the Berne Union; out of the present 40 elected members, 26 may and 14 may not be re-elected;

⁷ See Articles 23(2)(a) and (3) of the Berne Convention and Rule 3(1) of the Special Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Berne Union (document A/57/INF/6). In addition, Article 23(3) of the Berne Convention provides, in relevant part, that "[i]n establishing the number of seats to be filled, remainders after division by four shall be disregarded."

⁸ See Article 23(5)(b) of the Berne Convention.

⁹ $40 \times \frac{2}{3} = 26,6$.

¹⁰ Forty-four represents one-fourth of the number of States members of the Assembly of the Berne Union, discounting any remainders after division by four (see Article 23(3) of the Berne Convention). There are 177 members of the Assembly, whose names are set out in List No. 2 in the Annex.

- (ii) one *ex officio* member (Switzerland).

13. Accordingly, the Assembly of the Berne Union is invited to elect, from among its members, 44 States to the Executive Committee of the Berne Union; these 44 States must not include more than 26 States which, at present, are members of that Committee.

III. WIPO COORDINATION COMMITTEE

14. Rules of Composition. The WIPO Coordination Committee is composed of the following categories of members:

- (i) the elected ordinary members of the Executive Committee of the Paris Union and of the Executive Committee of the Berne Union;¹¹
- (ii) Switzerland, as the State on whose territory the Organization has its headquarters, as an *ex officio* member;¹²
- (iii) one-fourth of the States party to the WIPO Convention that are not members of any of the Unions, which are designated by the WIPO Conference¹³ and which serve as *ad hoc* members of the WIPO Coordination Committee.

15. The names of the present *ad hoc* members are underlined in List No. 3 in the Annex to this document.

16. New Composition. It follows that the WIPO Coordination Committee that will serve from the close of the present sessions of the Assemblies to the close of the next ordinary sessions of the Assemblies should have 89 members, consisting of:

- (i) the 43 ordinary members of the Executive Committee of the Paris Union to be elected by the Assembly of the Paris Union in the present sessions (see paragraph 7(i), above);
- (ii) the 44 ordinary members of the Executive Committee of the Berne Union to be elected by the Assembly of the Berne Union in the present sessions (see paragraph 12(i), above);
- (iii) Switzerland; and

¹¹ See Article 8(1)(a) of the WIPO Convention.

¹² See Article 11(9)(a) of the WIPO Convention.

¹³ See Article 8(1)(c) of the WIPO Convention.

