

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

Sixty-Third Series of Meetings Geneva, July 14 to 22, 2022

ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The observers admitted to attend the Sixty-Third series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and of the Unions administered by WIPO (the Assemblies) are listed in document A/63/INF/1.
2. Once an observer is admitted to attend the meetings of the Assemblies, it is also invited to attend, in the same capacity, meetings of committees, working groups, or other bodies subsidiary to the Assemblies, if their subject matter seems to be of direct interest to that observer.
3. Decisions concerning the admission of observers to the meetings of the Assemblies were last taken at the Sixty-Second series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, from October 4 to October 8, 2021 (document A/62/13, paragraph 32).
4. Since then, the Director General has received requests, with the requisite information, from each of the following entities for admission to attend the meetings of the Assemblies as an observer:

INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS)

- (i) Asian Law Students' Association (ALSA);
- (ii) Global Expert Network on Copyright User Rights (User Rights Network); and
- (iii) Innovation Council.

NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS¹ (NGOS)

- (i) American Arab Intellectual Property Association (AAIPA);
- (ii) Argentine Management Society of Actors and Performers (SAGAI);
- (iii) *Association pour le Devenir des Autochtones et de leur Connaissance Originelle* (ADACO);
- (iv) China Trademark Association (CTA);
- (v) Digital Law Center (DLC);
- (vi) InternetLab Research Association in Law and Technology (InternetLab);
- (vii) Italian Industrial Property Consultants Institute (OCPI);
- (viii) Patent Protection Association of China (PPAC);
- (ix) Wikimedia Argentina;
- (x) Wikimedia CH – Association for the Advancement of Free Knowledge (Wikimedia CH);
- (xi) *Wikimédia France – Association pour le libre partage de la connaissance (Wikimédia France)*;
- (xii) Wikimedia Germany – Society for the Promotion of Free Knowledge (Wikimedia Germany); and
- (xiii) Wikimedia South Africa (Wikimedia ZA).

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

6. *The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, are invited to take a decision on the requests for admission, as observers, from the entities appearing in paragraph 4 of document A/63/3.*

[Annexes follow]

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

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

Asian Law Students' Association (ALSA)

Headquarters: ALSA was established in 2003 and has its headquarters in Kota Depok, Indonesia.

Objectives: ALSA aims at connecting law students from Asia. It aspires to focus a global vision on the promising future of Asia, to promote an awareness of justice and to facilitate the recognition of the social responsibilities of law students. ALSA motivates law students to develop a creative spirit through a network of joint activities among Asian law students, and encourages the enhancement of the capabilities of Asian law students, so as to become internationally minded, socially responsible, academically committed, and legally skilled.

Structure: ALSA is comprised of National and Local Chapters, governed by their respective National and Local Chapter Boards. The executive body of ALSA as such is the International Board and consists of six elected members. The highest decision-making body of ALSA is the General Assembly, which is composed of the delegates of ALSA's National Chapters. ALSA also has a Governing Council, comprised of representatives of the National Chapters, which is the association's second highest decision-making body.

Membership: ALSA's membership is composed of 17 National Chapters.

Global Expert Network on Copyright User Rights (User Rights Network)

Headquarters: The User Rights Network was established in 2011 and has its headquarters in Washington D.C., United States of America.

Objectives: The purpose of the User Rights Network is to promote research, education, and technical assistance that furthers its mission regarding research and public testimony on the value of "user rights" within domestic and international copyright law.

Structure: The User Rights Network is composed of scholars and experts from around the world and consists of a Secretariat, currently the Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property, American University Washington College of Law, which appoints a Steering Committee to guide the day to day work of the User Rights Network and report on its activities in service of its mission.

Membership: The membership of the User Rights Network is composed of around 190 natural persons.

Innovation Council

Headquarters: Innovation Council was established in 2020 and is headquartered in Commugny, Switzerland.

Objectives: Innovation Council has the mission to raise awareness regarding innovation and the policies that support the development and commercialization of new technologies, across sectors and countries. To further that mission, Innovation Council organizes events, and publishes articles and reports on policy developments that affect innovation. In that context, the organization is also working with policy makers and other stakeholders to promote environments for the development and global diffusion of new technological solutions.

Structure: The governing bodies of Innovation Council are the General Assembly, which is the supreme decision-making body, and the Committee, which is the body responsible for overseeing the execution of the day-to-day activities of the organization. Innovation Council is represented externally by its Executive Director, appointed by the Committee.

Membership: The membership of Innovation Council is composed of 37 juridical persons.

[Annex II follows]

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

American Arab Intellectual Property Association (AAIPA)

Headquarters: AAIPA was established in 2021 and has its headquarters in Grand Rapids, Michigan, United States of America.

Objectives: The goal of AAIPA is to raise cultural awareness regarding the protection of intellectual property rights through workshops, exhibitions, competitions and conferences. The organization supports inventors, as well as writers and artists, particularly young ones, in protecting their intellectual property.

Structure: AAIPA's governing body is the Board of Directors, consisting of three persons, including a President and Treasurer.

Membership: AAIPA's membership consists of ten natural persons.

Argentine Management Society of Actors and Performers (SAGAI)

Headquarters: SAGAI was established in 2006 and has its headquarters in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Objectives: SAGAI is an Argentine collective management organization that represents both actors and performers. Its main objective is to collect and distribute royalties generated by the public performance of the audiovisual works of SAGAI's members. Furthermore, SAGAI seeks to promote the performing arts and to enhance the members' capacities by providing training courses and scholarships through its own foundation.

Structure: The General Meeting of SAGAI is the principle body of the entity. SAGAI is managed by the Management Committee, consisting of a maximum of 12 members, including a President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer. The Supervisory Committee is concerned with auditing and is made up of three members of the organization.

Membership: SAGAI's membership consists of 7479 natural persons.

Association pour le Devenir des Autochtones et de leur Connaissance Originelle (ADACO)

Headquarters: ADACO was established in 2017 and has its headquarters in Libreville, Gabon.

Objectives: ADACO promotes the tangible and intangible heritage of indigenous people and enables them to assume responsibility for themselves and to participate in the development of their community. By pursuing these goals, the association encourages understanding and exchange for the development of socio-cultural and economic activities. Furthermore, ADACO develops activities related to gender equality, youth and sustainable development, including appropriate solutions to environmental problems and climate change.

Structure: The two bodies of ADACO are the General Assembly and the Secretariat. The General Assembly is the supreme body of ADACO and consists of the members of the

association. The Secretariat is the supervisory body of ADACO and represents the association in all its work areas. It consists of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary General, a Vice Secretary General, a Treasurer, a Vice-Treasurer and the Commissions, which are auxiliary bodies under the responsibility of the Secretariat.

Membership: ADACO's membership consists of 41 natural persons.

China Trademark Association (CTA)

Headquarters: CTA was established in 1994 and has its headquarters in Beijing, China.

Objectives: CTA has the objective to strengthen the creation, protection and exploitation of intellectual property rights. It aims at, *inter alia*, safeguarding the legitimate rights and interest of its members, and serves as a bridge to the government. CTA encourages the participation of domestic business in international competition using their trademarks and brands to advance the development of China's trademark and brand economy. It also encourages industry self-regulation to promote a sustainable and healthy development of the industry, and contributes to the national trademark and brand strategies by increasing the public awareness on trademarks and brands. In the international context, CTA enhances the influence of Chinese trademarks, as well as brands, and strengthens the cooperation and exchanges with international organizations and foreign non-governmental organizations on trademarks and brands.

Structure: The main decision-making body of CTA is the General Assembly. The executive body of the General Assembly is the Council. It exercises leadership over CTA when the General Assembly is not in session. Further bodies of CTA include a Standing Council and a Board of Supervisors. CTA has one President, 3 to 23 Vice Presidents and one Secretary-General.

Membership: CTA's membership consists of 1160 natural and juridical persons.

Digital Law Center (DLC)

Headquarters: DLC was established in 2020 and has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Objectives: DLC serves as a center of expertise in digital law at the University of Geneva. It deals with all legal issues related to the digital environment and to information and communication technologies, in order to understand the impact of the digital environment on the law and its practice, including intellectual property.

Structure: DLC's governing body is the Management Board, consisting of nine persons, including a Director.

Membership: DLC is not a membership-based organization.

InternetLab Research Association in Law and Technology (InternetLab)

Headquarters: InternetLab was established in 2014 and has its headquarters in São Paulo, Brazil.

Objectives: InternetLab fosters academic debate around law and technology issues, especially internet policy, and aims at conducting interdisciplinary research to promote dialogue among academics, professionals and policymakers. The association develops and supports projects at

the interface of technology and law, politics, psychology, economics, culture, human rights, development and democracy. This includes, *inter alia*, the promotion of access to education and culture, the conservation of artistic heritage, and activities related to copyright in the digital environment.

Structure: InternetLab is composed of five governing bodies: the General Assembly, the Advisory Board, the Board of Directors, the Audit Committee and the Ombudsman. The General Assembly is the supreme body of the association and decides on all issues related to its objectives. The Board of Directors is the highest executive management body, consisting of four persons and is headed by an Executive Director. The Advisory Board consists of eight elected members, advising the Executive Board as well as the General Assembly on all activities of InternetLab. The Audit Committee supervises the financial management of the association. The Ombudsman acts as an independent body responsible for forwarding accusations of misconduct.

Membership: InternetLab's membership consists of five natural persons.

Italian Industrial Property Consultants Institute (OCPI)

Headquarters: OCPI was established in 1981 and has its headquarters in Milan, Italy.

Objectives: OCPI's mission is to contribute to the improvement of the industrial property system. It represents the Italian community of industrial property consultants in front of national and international institutional bodies, organizes educational events and maintains the Register of Certified Industrial Property Consultants.

Structure: OCPI is governed by a Council, consisting of ten members, including a President and Vice-President. The Council is elected by the General Meeting of OCPI's members and serves a three year mandate. A separate body, the Disciplinary Council, consisting of eight members, is appointed by the President of the Court of Milan for a three year term as well.

Membership: The membership of OCPI consists of approximately 1300 natural persons.

Patent Protection Association of China (PPAC)

Headquarters: PPAC was established in 2003 and has its headquarters in Beijing, China.

Objectives: PPAC's mission is, *inter alia*, to increase the understanding and respect for intellectual property in society through promotional work and to improve the awareness and ability of enterprises in the field of intellectual property by providing training. Furthermore, PPAC helps its members to protect their rights and interest through alternative dispute resolution and promotes innovation among its members through the use of the intellectual property system. PPAC encourages its members to compete within the scope permitted by national laws, as well as regulations, and also aims at deepening the mutual understanding between Chinese and foreign enterprises through cooperation.

Structure: The supreme governing body of PPAC is the General Assembly, comprising all representatives of its member enterprises. It elects the Board of Directors, comprised of one President and two Vice-Presidents.

Membership: The membership of PPAC consists of more than 400 natural and juridical persons.

Wikimedia Argentina

Headquarters: Wikimedia Argentina was established in 2008 and has its headquarters in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Objectives: Wikimedia Argentina's objective is to carry out programs and initiatives that raise awareness and promote the use and participation of citizens in Wikimedia projects. It promotes education and access to culture, creates spaces for training on human rights on the internet and works to incorporate more diverse voices that represent the reality and perspective of Latin America, especially Argentina, in the construction of free knowledge.

Structure: Wikimedia Argentina's governing bodies are the General Assembly and the Board of Trustees, consisting of 12 members, including a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Membership: The membership of Wikimedia Argentina consists of 110 natural persons.

Wikimedia CH – Association for the Advancement of Free Knowledge (Wikimedia CH)

Headquarters: Wikimedia CH was established in 2006 and has its headquarters in Lamone, Switzerland.

Objectives: The purpose of Wikimedia CH is to support the creation, collection and distribution of open content in a not-for-profit way in order to support education and the equal opportunity of access to knowledge. The association aims at supporting and promoting Wikimedia projects, such as the free online encyclopedia Wikipedia, the multimedia database Wikimedia Commons, the offline version of Wikipedia Kiwix and many other open source projects. In partnership with different educational and cultural institutions Wikimedia CH focuses on three main areas: Education; GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums); and Community as well as Outreach.

Structure: Wikimedia CH highest decision-making body is the General Assembly, which decides on fundamental questions of Wikimedia CH, and elects the, four to six, members of the Board, including a President. The Executive Office consists of at least one member, designated by the Board, and runs the day-to-day operation of the association. An Advisory Council may be created, with its members being appointed or removed by the Board.

Membership: The membership of Wikimedia CH consists of 259 natural and juridical persons.

Wikimédia France – Association pour le libre partage de la connaissance (Wikimédia France)

Headquarters: *Wikimédia France* was established in 2005 and has its headquarters in Paris, France.

Objectives: *Wikimédia France*'s main objective is to facilitate the free sharing of knowledge. It recognizes a fundamental right to information and promotes the idea of a world in which everybody has free access to the sum of human knowledge. *Wikimédia France* is committed, within the Wikimedia movement, to break down the social, political and technical barriers that prevent people from accessing content and contributing to it.

Structure: The supreme body of *Wikimédia France* is the General Assembly, which elects the Board of Directors, consisting of 12 members, including a President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Membership: The membership of *Wikimédia France* consists of 189 natural and juridical persons.

Wikimedia Germany – Society for the Promotion of Free Knowledge (Wikimedia Germany)

Headquarters: Wikimedia Germany was established in 2004 and has its headquarters in Berlin, Germany.

Objectives: The purpose of Wikimedia Germany is to promote the creation, collection and dissemination of open content in an altruistic manner in order to promote equal opportunities in access to knowledge and education. It supports the Wikimedia projects (including Wikipedia, Wikidata, and Wikimedia Commons) and their volunteer communities. Wikimedia Germany also promotes open culture, education, as well as research, and it advocates for a legal framework that facilitates access to knowledge.

Structure: The supreme body of Wikimedia Germany is the General Assembly. It elects the Volunteer Board, consisting of seven persons, which performs steering supervisory functions and appoints the Executive Director of the Society.

Membership: The membership of Wikimedia Germany consists of around 100,000 natural persons.

Wikimedia South Africa (Wikimedia ZA)

Headquarters: Wikimedia ZA was established in 2012 and has its headquarters in Cape Town, South Africa.

Objectives: The objective of Wikimedia ZA is to promote the free knowledge movement in South Africa and support local Wikipedia editors. It runs events that support the growth of the community of volunteers that participate in the free knowledge movement and that grow the body of free knowledge that is freely accessible to the public. Part of its mission to support its community involves advocating for copyright law that is friendlier to the free knowledge movement, e.g., support for the adoption of “Freedom of Panorama” and “Fair Use” copyright regimes.

Structure: Wikimedia ZA’s governing body is the Board of Trustees, which is elected at the Annual General Meeting of the members of Wikimedia ZA. The Board consists of nine persons, including a President. Besides the Board of Trustees, Wikimedia ZA has a Company Secretary and an Executive Director, the latter being also a member of the Board of Trustees.

Membership: The membership of Wikimedia ZA consists of around 90 natural and juridical persons.

[End of Annex II and of document]