

Special Union for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration (Lisbon Union)

Assembly

Forty-Third (17th Extraordinary) Session
Geneva, July 7 to 15, 2026

DRAFT REPORT

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Assembly was concerned with the following items of the Consolidated Agenda (document A/68/1): 1, to 4, 6, 9(ii), 10, 15, 18, 22 and 23.
2. The reports on the said items, with the exception of item 15, are contained in the draft General Report (document A/68/10 Prov.).
3. The report on item 15 is contained in the present document.
4. Ms. Alison Anabella URQUIZO OLAZABAL (Peru), Chair of the Lisbon Union Assembly, presided over the meeting.

ITEM 15 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

LISBON SYSTEM

5. Discussions were based on document [LI/A/43/1](#).

6. [CHAIR](#): To start with, I am pleased to inform you that since the last session of the Lisbon Union Assembly in 2025, one country deposited its instrument of accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, namely, Bulgaria. Also, during these Assemblies, Italy deposited its instrument of ratification of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on July 14, 2026. I congratulate Bulgaria and Italy on their respective accession and ratification. The number of countries covered by the Lisbon System stands at 73. Now allow me to formally open agenda item 15. One document is under consideration, namely document LI/A/43/1. Allow me first to invite Ms. Alexandra Grazioli, Director of the Lisbon Registry, to briefly introduce document LI/A/43/1 entitled "Report on the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System".

7. [SECRETARIAT](#): The Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System held its seventh session from February 17 to 19, 2026. Mr. Erik Thévenod-Mottet (Switzerland) acted as Chair, while Ms. Lamia Kateb (Tunisia) and Mr. Csaba Baticz (Hungary) acted as Vice-Chairs of the Working Group. Two issues were on the agenda of the seventh session of the Working Group, namely the "Proposed amendments to the Common Regulations", concerning the modification of Rule 9 (Refusal), Rule 11 (Withdrawal of Refusal), and Rule 12 (Grant of Protection), and the "Procedures Relating to Additional Requirements", concerning potential modification of the Common Regulations relating to additional requirements under Article 7(4) of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement and Rule 5(3) of the Common Regulations. Document LI/A/43/1 reflects the outcome of the discussions held during the seventh session of the Working Group, including the agreement by the Working Group to continue its discussions, at its next session, on the documents presented by the Secretariat and the European Union (EU) at the seventh session of the Working Group, on the proposals related to such documents presented by the Chair and the European Union at the seventh session, and on any other proposal that might be submitted for the next session of the Working Group.

8. [ALBANIA](#): I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Central European and Baltic States (CEBS) Group. At the outset, the CEBS Group would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing document LI/A/43/1. We extend our gratitude to Mr. Erik Thévenod-Mottet from Switzerland for his guidance during the seventh session of the Working Group. Most notably, the CEBS Group is very pleased and proud to warmly congratulate Mr. Csaba Baticz from Hungary on his election as Chair of the eighth session of the Working Group. We are confident that his leadership will greatly contribute to our future work. The CEBS Group remains convinced that the Lisbon System provides an extremely valuable framework for ensuring the protection of geographical indications (GIs) and appellations of origin (AOs) across all Member Countries. The system plays a key role in preserving traditional knowledge and practices rooted in specific regions, while safeguarding genuine producers against misuse or imitation and guaranteeing quality for consumers. We firmly believe that the System has significant potential for growth. To this end, we take note of the substantial discussion held during the seventh session in February 2026 regarding the proposed amendment to Rule 9 on refusals, Rule 11 on withdrawal of refusal and the proposal presented by the Chair and the European Union. We support the decision to continue this discussion, alongside the review of the procedures relating to additional requirements under the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement. The CEBS Group is very pleased to note the Union's growing framework. Projections of an increase in the number of applications are now further solidified by the recent entry into force of the European Union Regulation extending GI protection to craft and industrial products on December 1, 2025, as well as ongoing reforms in the field of GIs for agricultural products aimed at streamlining registration procedures. The CEBS Group remains fully committed to engaging constructively at

the next session of the Working Group to further contribute to the modernization of the Lisbon System and we look forward to welcoming new members to the Union.

9. [RUSSIAN FEDERATION](#): The Russian Federation has the honor of making this statement on behalf of the Group of Countries of Central Asia, Caucasus, and Eastern Europe (CACEEC) that are members of the Lisbon System. We would like to express our gratitude to Deputy Director General (DDG) Wang and the Secretariat for preparing the report on the seventh session of the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System. For the States in our group, ensuring the appropriate and effective protection of AOs and GIs is very important. Countries of the Eurasian region have a rich cultural heritage and traditions, which are directly linked to their unique natural environment in the territory of origin. We consider the strengthening of international mechanisms for the protection of AOs and GIs on a mutually beneficial basis as an important instrument to support local producers, regional development and the preservation of traditional crafts. In this regard, our regional group is giving priority to the further sustainable development of the Lisbon System for the benefit of all its users. We commend the efforts by the International Bureau to improve flexibility and practical applicability of the System. On our part, the CACEEC regional group confirms its willingness to continue to constructively participate in the gradual development of the Lisbon System.

10. [EUROPEAN UNION](#): Chair, the European Union and its member States attach great importance to the Lisbon System and to the work of the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System. As the International Register dedicated to the protection of AOs and GIs, the Lisbon System, and in particular, the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, is an essential instrument for the protection and promotion of GIs worldwide. We remain firmly committed to its effective functioning and to promoting wide adherence to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement. The European Union and its member States are pleased to announce that the legislative procedure to align our legal framework with the amendments to the Common Regulations adopted by the Lisbon Union Assembly on July 14, 2025 will be implemented in due course. Further, we take note of the Report on the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System at the end of the seventh session contained in document LI/A/43/1. We reaffirm our commitment to contributing actively to the work of the Working Group, building on proposals we presented at its seventh session, both on the amendments to the Common Regulations and on the procedures relating to additional requirements, with a view to fostering consensus at the next session. We consider that the further development of the Common Regulations should continue to build on the work of the Working Group and be carried forward in keeping with established practice by consensus. We also attach importance to enhancing the attractiveness of the Lisbon System in order to encourage new accessions to, and wider participation in, the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement. The European Union and its member States remain fully committed to engaging constructively in these discussions with the objective of supporting the continued development of the Lisbon System and the robust protection of GIs at the international level.

11. [DOMINICAN REPUBLIC](#): The Delegation of the Dominican Republic would like to start by showing recognition to the Secretariat for the preparation of document LI/A/43/1, as well as to the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System for all the results of the seventh meeting that was organized in February 2026. As a member State of the Lisbon System, the Dominican Republic attaches particular importance to its continued strengthening and modernization. This relevance holds special significance in our country, having registered under the System the AO *Larimar-Barahona*, a semi-precious stone unique in the world and a distinctive symbol of our national identity. The *Larimar*, as it is known, transcends its commercial and artisanal value, as it is part of the cultural heritage of the nation. Its international protection through the Lisbon System contributes to the preservation of its authenticity, reputation, and link to its place of origin, while preventing its misuse in international markets. This experience has reaffirmed our conviction that GIs and AOs are strategic tools to promote sustainable development and strengthen local economies. In this regard, the National

Industrial Property Office of the Dominican Republic would like to express its sincere gratitude to the World Intellectual Property Organization for the excellent support provided in organizing the sub-regional seminar on GIs as a tool for economic development and their international protection through the Lisbon System, held in Santo Domingo, on June 16 and 17 of this year. The holding of this event constituted a valuable opportunity to exchange experiences between the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic, strengthen capabilities, and deepen knowledge on the benefits of the Lisbon System. At the same time, it also highlighted the enormous potential of GIs and AOs to generate added value, strengthen producer communities, and expand international recognition of our products with differentiated quality. We trust that the Lisbon System will be consolidated as a more modern, accessible, and transparent mechanism for the benefit of the Contracting Parties, competent authorities, and rights holders.

12. [SERBIA](#): The Republic of Serbia reaffirms its strong and consistent support for the Lisbon Agreement and for its continued expansion and modernization. My Delegation welcomes the work of the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System and thanks the WIPO Secretariat for the report concerning the work of the Working Group. Serbia welcomes the continued discussion on the proposed amendments to the Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement. Resolving these open questions is important, above all for the legal certainty of right holders. My Delegation believes that modern States should approach the protection of GIs with particular care. It has been said that culture is the sum of the people's spiritual achievements. Viewed in this light, the products of traditional skills and folk wisdom may also be seen as a part of that culture. We should not forget that people do not live only within the borders of their states. People also live through their poetry, music, painting, and all other spiritual achievements that our ancestors created over the centuries. GIs belong to this heritage as well. Because of it, the promotion of the Lisbon System must be pursued continuously and with dedication, particularly among local producers who today are often unaware of the benefits the Lisbon Agreement offers them. On June 25, 2026, the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia adopted the law on the ratification of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement. It is with great satisfaction that I note that my country has thereby taken another step toward better protection in the interest of producers of our traditional products. Foreign right holders too will now find it easier to protect their GIs in Serbia.

13. [SAMOA](#): Samoa conveys its sincere appreciation to the Lisbon team for their continued cooperation and dedicated support. The capacity-building programs that Samoa had recently requested, and that the Lisbon team was happy to assist us with, have significantly strengthened our national expertise in the administration of AOs and GIs and have contributed to the overall development of Samoa's intellectual property (IP) system. Samoa greatly values the training opportunities, technical guidance and practical assistance provided. We look forward to continued collaboration as we work to further enhance our institutional capacity and advance the protection of our unique national products.

14. [UNITED STATES OF AMERICA](#): The United States of America is taking the floor to express our continued concerns with the lack of sufficient safeguards in the Lisbon System and with the lack of financial self-sustainability of the Lisbon Union. The Lisbon System continues to adversely impact a wide variety of stakeholders, including small businesses and small producers by not providing protection for common names and by not preserving prior trademark rights. This is especially significant for small businesses and small producers as well as new businesses that rely upon the use of common names and generic terms in describing, promoting and selling their products worldwide. Failure to properly accommodate these essential concepts hinders business development, is a barrier to market entry, and threatens prior trademark rights in countries that are now blocking the use of common names. The Lisbon System also continues to not meet its treaty obligation to operate as a financially self-sustainable system. The Lisbon Union continues to run an increasing deficit, relying upon

other WIPO systems, such as the Patent Cooperation Treaty and Madrid, to subsidize its operations. This is unacceptable to the United States. Additionally, at this year's Lisbon Working Group meeting, it came to light that a large number of irregularities were issued, resulting in renunciation of protection due to Lisbon applicants' failure to timely pay individual fees, and that it was proposed to increase these irregularities' response periods from the current three months up to two years. It is unclear why applicants are failing to pay the individual fees in a timely manner. This is a critical issue that must be addressed, as it contributes to the ongoing financial problems of the Lisbon Union. Therefore, to ensure transparency, the United States implores WIPO to undertake an investigation into why Lisbon System users are not paying the individual fees and asks that WIPO share the findings with all WIPO Member States before the Lisbon Working Group addresses whether the proposed extension of their irregularity response period is an appropriate solution.

15. [PORTUGAL](#): I would like to begin by congratulating you and wishing the Assembly of the Lisbon Union every success in its important work. Portugal joins the European Union in its statement. Our country has a longstanding tradition in the protection of GIs and AOs mechanisms to which we assign a strategic importance due to their contribution to the preservation of the authenticity of products, the identity of the territories, as well as the cultural and traditional heritage. Their positive impact cannot only be seen in the economy, but also in other dimensions, such as the social, cultural, and environmental dimensions. The new European framework for the protection of GIs for craft and industrial goods represents a huge advancement in the recognition and valorization of these products. We are fully convinced that this new regime will contribute to raising awareness of the systems of protection of GIs and it will also be an additional encouragement to the use of the Lisbon System. We would also like to underscore the recent creation of a voucher to support the protection of GIs in the context of the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) fund of the EUIPO, a measure that will be able to play a key role in the support to SMEs and producers for the identification, protection, and valorization of their IP assets, contributing as such to a better use of protection systems of GIs, not only at a European level but also at an international level, encouraging, therefore, more registrations under the Lisbon System. In this context, we reaffirm Portugal's commitment to continuing to collaborate actively with WIPO and with all members of the Lisbon Union, supporting initiatives that will strengthen the Lisbon System and that will promote its development and encourage a longstanding use of the System. As for the financial sustainability of the Lisbon Union, Portugal defends that the current methodology be maintained for the different unions. We consider that this safeguards fundamental principles that have oriented and guided the Organization throughout time, in particular, financial solidarity amongst the unions, as well as equal treatment amongst the different systems of IP protection.

16. [FRANCE](#): We associate ourselves with the statement of the European Union and we would like to thank the Secretariat for the presentation of document LI/A/43/1. We thank the Chair of the Lisbon Working Group, Mr. Erik Thévenod-Mottet, and his vice-chairs, and welcome the election of Mr. Csaba Baticz as Chair, and the election of his vice-chairs for the next session of the Working Group. Our Delegation wishes to express its appreciation to the Lisbon Registry for the quality of the work accomplished over the past year, its rigorous management and its constant dedication. The progress made in the development and consolidation of the eLisbon IT platform has further modernized the administration of the System, improved the quality of services rendered to members and users, and strengthened the transparency and efficiency of the procedures. These advances constitute an essential contribution to the sustainability and attractiveness of the Lisbon System. The work of the Lisbon Registry in the area of capacity-building and awareness-raising on GIs is essential to enable all members of the Lisbon System to increase and facilitate their use of the System and to increase membership. This work contributes to the valorization of territories, the preservation of traditional know-how, the sustainable development of rural territories, and the creation of value for producers in different regions of the world. Generic names are not an IP title, and we do not believe it would be in WIPO's interest to work on this subject. We support the Organization's current budgetary

methodology which is based on the principle of capacity to pay. It is essential that the components of the Organization that generate surpluses can support deficit-making activities, provided there is an overall surplus, which is the case to our knowledge. Maintaining principles of budgetary solidarity amongst unions is essential to support the implementation of WIPO's Development Agenda and to provide the means to support projects aimed at States that need assistance in protecting their local know-how through GIs. We thank the Delegation of the United States of America for its proposal to prepare a study. However, we don't see the concrete added value of such a study and we would like WIPO to continue to focus its resources on its primary objective, which is the protection and promotion of IP as a tool for development and growth. Finally, we take this opportunity to congratulate Bulgaria and to share our best wishes for success to the organizers of the event to be held tomorrow under the auspices of Italy and the Organization for an International Geographical Indications Network (ORIGIN), on the occasion of Italy's ratification of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement. Lastly, we also wish to thank DDG Ms. Wang for her action and the support provided to the Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems.

17. [EUROPEAN UNION](#): Allow me to react to the statements of some Member States. The European Union and its member States are fully committed to the strengthening and the promotion of the Lisbon System and to the equality of treatment for each area of IP. As regards the financial sustainability of the Lisbon Union, the European Union and its member States are convinced that it is possible to find a way to provide adequate support to the Lisbon Union while it develops, in line with the long-standing principles of cooperation and solidarity between the different WIPO unions.

18. [CUBA](#): We would like to reiterate, and we acknowledge, the importance of the good work of the Lisbon Union, as well as the importance that the Lisbon International Registration System holds for developing countries. Regarding the self-financing of the Union, we understand that it should be carried out through voluntary contributions. The big difference between the number of AOs protected by developing countries compared to the number of AOs protected by developed countries, is unquestionable. In this regard, we believe that the work carried out within the framework of the System must strike a balance and be consistent with the recommendations of the Development Agenda.

19. [POLAND](#): The Delegation of Poland fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Delegate of Ireland on behalf of the European Union member States and by the distinguished Delegate of Albania on behalf of the CEBS Group. We firmly believe that the provision of high-quality services under the global IP registration systems, including the Lisbon System, is one of the main responsibilities of WIPO. The Lisbon Agreement, as well as its Geneva Act, offers a unique framework for obtaining international protection of GIs through a centralized and simplified procedure. This is especially important for countries such as Poland, where regional production is deeply rooted in quality, tradition, and long-standing reputation. Furthermore, geographical indications play a crucial role in supporting sustainable development, promoting cultural heritage, and strengthening the competitiveness of local producers on international markets. GIs link the quality and reputation of a product to its geographical origin, providing consumers with a guarantee of authenticity, whereas producers can use the opportunity to build a recognizable brand without the need for costly individual promotion. We are of the view that the Lisbon System has strong potential for growth. Therefore, adequate resources and staff to address the workload resulting from the growing membership of the Lisbon System and the smooth functioning of the new IT platform, eLisbon, should be encouraged and sought for. We also highly appreciate substantial discussions and work held within the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System. We note the report of this Working Group and reaffirm our commitment to contribute to its work. Poland supports the proposals of the European Union for amendments to the Common Regulations. These amendments aim to streamline and simplify the procedure for the international registration of AOs and GIs, as well as to increase legal certainty in the management of applications under the

Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement. We firmly believe that recent reforms to the GI systems at the European Union level, namely the adoption of the regulation extending the system to include craft and industrial products, that entered into force in December 2025, would support the Lisbon Union's growing membership. Here, we would like to warmly congratulate Bulgaria on its accession to, and Italy on its ratification of, the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement. In conclusion, solidarity between the unions on the basis of the capacity to pay is of high importance. It promotes the protection of IP worldwide, which is the core objective of WIPO, and ensures administrative cooperation between the unions. Therefore, the Polish Delegation believes that the current allocation methodology should be maintained. Madam Chair, Poland remains committed to engaging constructively in discussions on the further development of the Lisbon System.

20. [CZECH REPUBLIC](#): The Czech Republic aligns itself with the statements delivered by the European Union and its member States, as well as by Albania on behalf of the CEBS Group. We appreciate the preparation of the Report on the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System, which provides valuable insights into the progress made and the direction of future work. The Czech Republic welcomes the proposed amendments to the Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, as recommended by the Working Group. We are convinced that these amendments will simplify procedures under the Lisbon System, enhance efficiency, and bring significant benefits to both current and future users. We look forward to continuing our discussions at the next session of the Working Group on the proposed amendments to Rules 9, 11 and 12 of the Common Regulations, as well as the procedures relating to additional requirements. We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with the WIPO Secretariat and other members on the future development of the Lisbon System's regulatory framework. The Czech Republic believes that it is important to allocate adequate resources, human and financial, to the Lisbon Registry. This is essential not only for managing new applications, but also for providing technical assistance and capacity-building support to WIPO members, thereby promoting the Lisbon System and accommodating the needs of a growing membership. In our view, the Lisbon System holds a firm and well-established place among WIPO IP systems. It offers effective protection for products that are closely linked to specific regions of member States and promotes their unique character and value. This system contributes to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage and traditional crafts, supports development of tourism, strengthens regional identity, and brings economic benefits to local communities.

21. [ITALY](#): GIs are much more than labels or marketing tools. They are a recognition of the unique relationship between a product, its territory, and the people who produce it. They protect products whose quality, reputation, or characteristics are essentially linked to their geographical origin. GIs preserve cultural heritage and traditional knowledge. Behind every protected product lies a history that has often been passed down through generations. By safeguarding these products, we ensure that local traditions, skills, and identities are not lost in an increasingly globalized market. GIs support rural development and economic growth. They create value for producers by allowing them to differentiate their products and obtain fair remuneration for their work. This helps sustain local communities, creates employment opportunities, and prevents the depopulation of rural areas. GIs provide guarantees to consumers in a market where authenticity and quality are increasingly valued. GIs offer transparency and trust. Consumers can be confident that the product they purchase genuinely originates from the designated region and meets specific production standards. Furthermore, GIs contribute to environmental sustainability. Many GI products are deeply connected to local ecosystems and traditional production methods that respect biodiversity and natural resources. Protecting these products often means protecting the landscapes and environments from which they originate. In today's interconnected world, GIs represent a successful model where economic development, cultural preservation, consumer protection, and sustainability can advance together. They are not only a tool for protecting products, they are a means of protecting communities, traditions, and values. It is essential to continue to support and strengthen the system of GIs so that future generations

can benefit from the rich diversity and excellence they represent. Moreover, Italy would like to underline that the financial situation of a single union should be assessed within the broader context of WIPO's overall financial health. The temporary deficit of the Lisbon Union does not, in our view, call into question the Organization's stability and sustainability. While the Lisbon System generates more limited revenues than other registration systems, its value cannot be measured solely in financial terms. It contributes to important policy objectives including the protection of GIs, support for local communities and producers, and the promotion of a more inclusive international IP framework. For this reason, we consider the existence of a common financial framework across the unions to be both appropriate and beneficial. The capacity of WIPO to allocate resources across its various activities reflects the Organization's commitment to serving the interests of all member States and ensuring that systems with an important public policy function can continue to operate effectively. Italy, therefore, supports the continued operation of the Lisbon System and the integrated budgetary approach of the Organization. We remain confident that WIPO can continue to combine sound financial management with the pursuit of its broader institutional mission.

22. [SPAIN](#): Spain would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the document and their work to strengthen the Lisbon System. We would like to underscore the importance of this System as a very efficient tool for the international protection of AOs and GIs, which are drivers of regional development, social cohesion, and the promotion of cultural heritage. In the European Union, we have taken an important step with the adoption of European Union Regulation 2023/2411, which establishes a new framework for the protection of GIs for craft and industrial products. Spain actively supported this initiative because we believe in its huge potential to boost trade and the internationalization of our local and regional products. Many potential GIs for craft and industrial products have been identified in Spain. We have approved Royal Decree 1190/2025 of December 26 which regulates the national procedures relating to the registration, modification, and cancellation of GIs for craft and industrial products of sub-autonomous territorial scope in the European Union Register, as well as certain aspects relating thereto, in accordance with European Union regulations, in order to implement this new system. For this reason, Spain considers it prudent and necessary to maintain the resources allocated for the proper management of the Lisbon System. We support the work and estimations of the Secretariat in this direction and reaffirm our readiness to work constructively with all Member States in order to consolidate its role in the international IP architecture.

23. [RUSSIAN FEDERATION](#): The Delegation of the Russian Federation aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the CACEEC Group. We would like to express our gratitude to DDG Ms. Wang Binying, and the Secretariat for preparing the Report on the Seventh Session of the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System. We would also like to thank the Director of the Lisbon System, Ms. Alexandra Grazioli, for her constant willingness to provide support to the Member States of the Lisbon System on any issue related to its functioning. For the Russian Federation, it is of paramount importance to ensure an appropriate and effective protection for AOs and GIs. Our country is known for its abundant cultural heritage and traditions, which are directly linked to the unique natural conditions of our territory. We are consistently working on improving awareness among the population on the national and international systems for the protection of regional brands. ROSPATENT carries out regular in-person and remote seminars which are supposed to improve the understanding of these IP subjects. In almost every region of Russia, we already have AOs and GIs that have been registered. Moreover, we were also very glad to welcome all the visitors who came to the exhibition on the Russian Folk Arts and Crafts, *Gzhel*. This was organized in February 2026 on the sidelines of the seventh session of the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System. During this event, we presented examples of traditional porcelain products which reflect the rich historical heritage of this craft, its unique creative identity and the contemporary state of the art. Such events are a visual demonstration of the practical value of AOs and GIs as instruments for the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage. We would also like to note the importance of continuing to work on the development of the Lisbon System as well as the

expansion of its membership. We believe it is necessary to develop the practice of regular exchanges of experience and national approaches between offices. This facilitates the improvement of efficiency of the functioning of the System and strengthens its practical value for users. We pay particular attention to further sustainable development of the Lisbon System for the interest of all its users. The Russian Federation has consistently advocated for the maintenance of the principle of solidarity among unions and does not see grounds for reviewing the current practice, as this will have a direct impact on the Lisbon System. We would also like to appreciate the efforts of the International Bureau to improve the flexibility and practical applicability of the Lisbon System. At the same time, we draw your attention to the need to improve the legal certainty regarding the status of protection on the territories of the Contracting Parties. At the same time, we must once again reiterate that we are deeply concerned and firmly condemn the destructive actions of the European Union and its member States regarding the registration and protection of the rights of Russian applicants and rights holders of AOs and GIs, in particular, the appellation of origin *GzheI* that we have already mentioned, which contradict the norms of international law in the field of IP. In conclusion, we would like to note that the Russian Federation is willing to engage in constructive dialogue on the further improvement of the Lisbon System in the interest of all its users.

24. [GHANA](#): We support the current methodology for allocation of income and expenditure by union which has been practiced by this Organization since 2007. This methodology is based on the principle of the capacity to pay. It is in line with our strong belief that those parts of the Organization that produce benefits should support activities that generate deficits provided there is an overall surplus. The Lisbon System, as an enabler of rural development, is in line with WIPO's mandate to protect IP.

25. [ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN](#): My Delegation takes note of the Report on the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System and expresses its appreciation to the Chair, the members of the Working Group and the Secretariat for their constructive efforts. GIs and AOs are an integral part of the international IP system. They protect more than commercially valuable names. They preserve traditional knowledge and local know-how, safeguard cultural heritage, strengthen consumer confidence and enable producers and local communities, particularly in the rural areas, to benefit from the reputation and distinctive qualities of their products. All intellectual property rights (IPRs) including GIs and AOs deserve appropriate recognition and support within the WIPO framework. The allocation of resources amongst WIPO's unions should not be determined solely by the revenue generated by each registration system. It should also take into account the distinct legal character, strategic importance, development contribution and specific operational needs of each union. In this regard, the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the progress achieved by the Lisbon System, including its growing membership, increased use and continuing improvements in operational efficiency. We support the allocation of adequate human and financial resources to the Lisbon Registry to ensure the effective administration and further development of the System, as well as the provision of technical assistance, capacity building and awareness raising activities, particularly for developing countries. My Delegation, therefore, reaffirms its full support for the Lisbon System.

26. [ALGERIA](#): My Delegation reaffirms its support for the Lisbon System and the important contribution to the protection of GIs and local development. We also support maintaining the current methodology for the allocation of income and expenditure among the unions, which has proven to be balanced, effective and consistent with the principle of financial solidarity within WIPO.

27. [EUROPEAN UNION](#): By means of a written statement, the Delegation of the European Union notes the following: Chair, the European Union and its Member States would like to exercise their right of reply. The European Union and its member States would like to address the statement made by the Russian Federation as regards the refusal of the effects by the

European Union of the international registration of the appellation of origin AO-1397 ГЖЕЛЬ (*Gzhel*). The International Bureau of WIPO notified the Commission that the name *Gzhel*, applied by the Russian Federation, had been recorded as an AO in the International Register of Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications under the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on 3 October 2024. Regulation (European Union) 2023/2411 of the European Parliament and of the Council, providing for European Union-level protection of geographical indications designating craft and industrial products became applicable only from 1 December 2025. Conversely, as there was no protection in place in the European Union for geographical indications designating craft and industrial products during the period open for refusal under Article 15 of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, the protection in the European Union of the AO *Gzhel* was refused. In addition, in accordance with Article 5s (1) of Council Regulation (European Union) No 833/2014, the 14th sanction package against the Russian Federation adopted on 24 June 2024 by the European Union, competent institutions under Union law, including the Commission, are not allowed to accept new applications for registration of geographical indications filed by Russian nationals or natural persons residing in the Russian Federation or by legal persons established in the Russian Federation.

28. [AMERICAN ARAB INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ASSOCIATION \(AAIPA\)](#): Madam Chair, Your Excellencies, dear participants, the American Arab Intellectual Property Association (AAIPA) would like to express its gratitude to participate in the works of the seventh session of the Lisbon System. At the outset, we would like to profusely welcome Bulgaria's accession to, and Italy's ratification of, the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, which is a step that represents the positive implementation of this international system, which is a vital system. We are following very closely the efforts undertaken to develop the Common Regulations, especially with regards to the amendments that aim at improving the provision of protection, which we consider a major pillar to strengthen the capacity of the System and to guarantee the rights of AOs. In this context, AAIPA would like to confirm that we fully support the efforts to develop the Lisbon System, which would be compatible with the current challenges, while emphasizing that we achieve a balance in these amendments, which would be compatible with the requirements and have to be transparent and clear. To extend the protection of the GIs and AOs, to strengthen both cultural and economic development, and to strengthen cooperation to support developing countries in benefiting from the mechanisms of the Lisbon System to protect their cultural and quality products. Finally, AAIPA commits itself once again to working hand-in-hand with the Secretariat and all the parties concerned to contribute to the establishment of a strong international system that would achieve common goals for all.

29. [EGYPTIAN COUNCIL FOR INNOVATION, CREATIVITY AND PROTECTION OF INFORMATION \(ECCIPP\)](#): Madam Chair, Your Excellencies, dear participants, it gives me great honor to be with you today on behalf of the Egyptian Council for Innovation and Protection of Information (ECCIPP) and we convey our greetings to the efforts that are undertaken by WIPO in supporting and caring for the innovators around the world. In the Council, we firmly believe that innovation and invention are both the major motor for economic development to achieve sustainable development in our digital era. Our participation today coincides with our vision to create an environment for the inventors and innovators while concentrating specifically on the electronic system and protecting IP for very sensitive and innovative information. In this context, we would like to emphasize the following points. First, the full commitment to work with WIPO to strengthen and raise awareness about the need to protect inventions in the technological and technical modern fields. Secondly, we are mindful to build bridges of cooperation between the various institutions and international organizations that would contribute to exchanging experiences and developing legal frameworks that would guarantee the protection of digital rights and innovative rights in view of the increasing challenges. Thirdly, we call upon strengthening the international efforts to protect information and data that are related to technical innovation, which would guarantee the continuity of incentivizing researchers and inventors in our region. Finally, we renew our full support to the great WIPO Development Agenda, emphasizing the readiness of the Egyptian Council for Innovation to play

an active role in formulating a prosperous future for IP, both at the regional and international levels, and we emphasize, Madam Chair, the importance of supporting the Arabic language in the various programs and conventions so that we can disseminate the culture of IP in countries that speak Arabic.

30. [CHAIR](#): I thank all Delegations for the statements made and now I would like to propose the following decision paragraph:

31. The Assembly of the Lisbon Union took note of the “Report on the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System” (document LI/A/43/1).

32. [CHAIR](#): As I see no objection, it is so decided. Thank you so much. With this decision, we have concluded the work of the Lisbon Union Assembly.

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