

Special Union for the International Registration of Marks (Madrid Union)

Assembly

Fifty-Ninth (26th Ordinary) Session
Geneva, July 8 to 17, 2025

REPORT ON THE WORKING GROUP ON THE LEGAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE MADRID SYSTEM FOR THE INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION OF MARKS

prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”), held its twenty-second session from October 7 to 11, 2024. Mr. Dustyn Taylor (Australia), Vice-Chair of the Working Group acted as Chair. After his departure, Ms. Elizabeth Jones (United Kingdom) was elected Acting Chair for the remainder of the meeting. The Summary by the Acting Chair of the twenty-second session of the Working Group is contained in document [MM/LD/WG/22/15](#).
2. The Working Group elected Ms. Gabriela Alejandra Alegría Troncoso (Chile) as Chair, and Ms. Natalia Mogol (Republic of Moldova) as Vice-Chair of its twenty-third session.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS

3. In addition to the proposed amendments to the Regulations Under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks (hereinafter referred to as “the Regulations” and “the Protocol”), as set out in document MM/A/59/1, the Working Group agreed to continue discussing, at its twenty-third session, a proposal by the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova on possible amendments to the Regulations regarding the entitlement requirement in international applications filed by multiple applicants (document [MM/LD/WG/22/4](#)).

DEPENDENCY

4. The Working Group considered contributions on dependency made by several delegations and observer organizations (document [MM/LD/WG/22/5 Rev.](#)) and discussed a proposal made by the Delegation of China to narrow the grounds for the ceasing of effect of the basic mark that would lead to the cancellation of the international registration (document [MM/LD/WG/22/14](#)).

5. The Working Group continued discussions on the proposal made by the Delegations of Australia, Chile, Ghana, Mexico, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, and the United States of America to amend the Protocol and introduce flexibilities regarding dependency and the basic mark requirement (document [MM/LD/WG/21/8 Rev.2](#)), as well as on the possibility of amending Article 6 of the Protocol to reduce the dependency period to three years (document [MM/LD/WG/20/5](#)).

6. The Working Group agreed to continue discussing dependency and requested the International Bureau to conduct a survey among Offices and users of the Madrid System on the incidence of bad faith and other grounds leading to the cancellation of international registrations due to the ceasing of effect of the basic mark. For this purpose, the International Bureau has invited Offices and users to reply to a questionnaire. The findings of this survey will be presented to the Working Group at its next session.

7. Additionally, at the request of the Working Group, the International Bureau is conducting intersessional consultations with interested members and observers on the various proposals under consideration to identify possible elements of convergence on this issue.

THE POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF NEW LANGUAGES

8. The Working Group continued discussions on the proposals to introduce Chinese, Russian and Arabic (documents [MM/LD/WG/16/7](#), [MM/LD/WG/16/9 Rev.](#) and [MM/LD/WG/17/10](#), respectively), as languages of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks (hereinafter referred to as “the Madrid System”). Additionally, the Working Group discussed new proposals to introduce Japanese, Portuguese and German (documents [MM/LD/WG/22/10](#), [MM/LD/WG/22/11](#) and [MM/LD/WG/22/12](#), respectively) as Madrid System languages.

9. In the spirit of promoting multilingualism in the Madrid System, the Working Group agreed to continue discussing the proposals referred to in paragraph 8, above, and requested that the International Bureau update, for its next session, information concerning possible language selection criteria presented in document [MM/LD/WG/22/6 Rev.](#)

10. The Working Group discussed a technical proposal to enhance the terminology database the International Bureau uses to translate international registrations and recordings (document [MM/LD/WG/22/7](#)). The Working Group requested, for its next session, a cost estimate for enhancing the database in Arabic, Chinese, German, Japanese, Portuguese and Russian, as well as a detailed explanation of a possible new unified terminology database that would serve to make this information available to the public.

11. Considering the high quality of automated translation, the low demand for information in languages not used to notify Contracting Parties and with a view to reducing costs incurred by the International Bureau, the Working Group endorsed the introduction of a differentiated translation practice that would limit human post-editing to translations required to notify designated Contracting Parties. The Working Group requested the International Bureau to monitor the implementation of this new practice with a view to ensuring that the necessary quality of the translations is maintained, and to provide data on the accuracy of machine-translation at future sessions.

12. The Working Group discussed an implementation proposal for the possible introduction of new Madrid System languages made by the Delegations of Brazil, Cabo Verde, Germany, Japan, Mozambique, Portugal, the Republic of Korea and Sao Tome and Principe, called the “international registration language option” (document [MM/LD/WG/13 Rev.](#)). The Working Group requested the International Bureau to prepare a technical assessment of this proposal for its next session, and, where useful, to conduct intersessional technical consultations with Contracting Parties, other WIPO Member States and user organizations on all subjects discussed under the possible introduction of new languages.

13. *The Madrid Union Assembly is invited to take note of the “Report on the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks” (document MM/A/59/2).*

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