

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

Assembly

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

REPORT

adopted by the Assembly

1. The Assembly was concerned with the following items of the Consolidated Agenda (document [A/66/1](#)): 1 to 7, 10(ii), 11, 13, 20, 23 and 24.
2. The reports on the said items, with the exception of item 13, are contained in the General Report (document A/66/11).
3. The report on item 13 is contained in the present document.
4. Mr. Jérémie Fénichel (France), Vice-Chair of the Madrid Union Assembly, presided over the meeting.

ITEM 13 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

MADRID SYSTEM

5. Discussions were based on documents [MM/A/59/1](#) and [MM/A/59/2](#).

6. The Secretariat introduced document MM/A/59/1, which contained proposals to amend 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,” respectively) recommended by the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) for adoption by the Madrid Union Assembly, with November 1, 2025, as their date of entry into force. The Secretariat explained that the first set of proposed amendments concerned the requirement to provide an e-mail address when submitting requests for the recording of a representative, a license, a subsequent designation or changes to an international registration. The Secretariat noted that the proposal aimed to enhance access to electronic communications, reduce reliance on postal correspondence and lower operational cost and environmental impact. The Secretariat further indicated that the second group of proposed amendments related to the recalculation of individual fees. It stated that this proposal would lower the threshold for recalculation when the exchange rate dropped by more than five per cent over three consecutive months. The Secretariat explained that the adjustment would ensure that fees paid in Swiss francs more accurately reflected national or regional equivalents, ultimately benefiting users of the Madrid System. The Secretariat then introduced document MM/A/59/2, which reported on the twenty-second session of the Working Group held in hybrid format from October 7 to 11, 2024. The Secretariat indicated that a summary of the session was available in document MM/LD/WG/22/15 on WIPO’s website. While noting that the document covered all items discussed, the Secretariat highlighted two key issues. First, regarding dependency, the Secretariat reported that the Working Group considered various submissions, including a proposal from the Delegation of China and a joint proposal by several other delegations. The Working Group agreed to continue discussions and requested the International Bureau to conduct a survey on: (a) the incidence of bad faith in the Madrid System and the use of central attack in respect thereof; (b) other grounds invoked to request the cancellation of an international registration due to the ceasing of effect of its basic mark”. The Secretariat indicated that the findings would be presented at the next session. Second, on the possible introduction of new languages, the Secretariat reported that discussions continued on the possible addition of Chinese, Russian and Arabic, and on new proposals concerning Japanese, Portuguese and German. The Secretariat noted that for its next session, the Working Group requested updated information on language selection criteria, statistics, cost estimates for expanding the terminology database, and more details on the unified terminology database. The Secretariat added that the Working Group also endorsed a differentiated translation practice and asked the International Bureau to monitor translation quality. Finally, the Secretariat reported that the Working Group examined a joint proposal for an international registration language option and requested a technical assessment along with intersessional consultations.

7. The Delegation of India highlighted India’s significant and growing engagement with the Madrid System, evidenced by over 12,000 annual designations, which demonstrated its emergence as a key player in the international trademark ecosystem. The Delegation informed that in March 2025, India, in collaboration with WIPO, successfully held a joint Patent Cooperation Treaty-Madrid Roving Seminar across six major cities. That dynamic platform enhanced capacity building and stakeholder engagement, strengthening user confidence in the Madrid System, particularly among first time applicants and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). The Delegation noted that India’s commitment to digital transformation revolutionized intellectual property (IP) services, with over 90 per cent of trademark applications

now filed online, resulting in faster processing and improved user experience. The Delegation reported that to streamline trademark identification and classification, an artificial intelligence (AI) powered search engine was introduced in 2024, significantly boosting pre-filing due diligence and brand protection with a seamless digital experience. The Delegation expressed support for the proposal to mandate e-mail addresses in communications, stating that it aligned with India's digital vision. The Delegation advocated for reducing the dependency period from five years to three years, suggesting that the change would offer flexibility for right holders while retaining the basic mark requirement to ensure legal certainty. The Delegation stated that India valued linguistic inclusivity and global accessibility, supporting the addition of more languages to the Madrid System, provided such expansion was based on clear cost benefits. The Delegation affirmed India's dedication to the vision of an inclusive and technology driven global trademark system, essential for innovation and fair trade, and looked forward to collaborating with Member States and the International Bureau to develop the System for a more dynamic global economy.

8. The Delegation of China noted that the Madrid System was undergoing important reforms, and that continuing to improve the System to make it more attractive to global users was an important objective of those reforms. The Delegation stated that China believed that discussions around the introduction of new languages and the dependency principle were of great significance to the future development of the System. The Delegation expressed appreciation that during the twenty-second session of the Working Group, Member States expressed support for the differentiated translation practice, noting that would facilitate exploring the introduction of new languages. The Delegation emphasized that discussions around the dependency principle were also important, since dependency was one of the founding principles of the Madrid System. The Delegation stated that China believed reform on that subject should be careful and take into account all relevant factors to make a prudent decision. The Delegation affirmed that China would continue to take part actively in consultations and work with all parties to optimize and improve the Madrid System to provide better services to global users.

9. The Delegation of Ghana thanked the International Bureau for the consultations and engagement with the Working Group in seeking to improve the efficiency of the Madrid System through modifications aimed at making the System more user friendly. The Delegation noted that the System was undergoing a period of important reforms and recalled that the Working Group discussed a number of issues, as reflected in document MM/A/59/1, which would have an impact on the long-term development of the Madrid System. The Delegation stated that it continued to follow ongoing consultations and encouraged the International Bureau and Member States to continue dialogue, bearing in mind the interests of all stakeholders to inform the ongoing developments and improvements to the legal framework, aimed at promoting the Madrid System to provide efficient services to its global users. The Delegation expressed support for the proposed amendments to the Regulations. The Delegation noted that those proposals reflected technological developments and offered an avenue to introduce the option to include e-mail addresses, which would enable users and their representatives to gain secure online access to manage international applications and registrations, as well as reduce costs in transmission by post, among other benefits. The Delegation welcomed the ability for trademark holders to rely on a consistent and credible framework that was abreast with technological developments and able to enhance predictability and legal certainty concerning the amount of fees to be paid for IP protection. The Delegation expressed gratitude for the steps initiated to improve the Madrid System and make it more attractive to users. The Delegation reiterated its commitment to working closely with Member States in the deliberations on other pending matters.

10. The Delegation of Portugal welcomed the work done by the Working Group and endorsed the decision to recognize Portuguese, as well as Chinese, Russian, Arabic, Japanese and German, as candidate languages to the Madrid System. The Delegation reaffirmed Portugal's commitment to actively participate in the discussions, emphasizing its recognition that strengthening multilingualism contributed in a decisive manner to making the Madrid System

more accessible and inclusive by removing language barriers, which remained a common challenge. The Delegation stated that it would benefit users, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The Delegation highlighted the international registration language implementation option, which was brought up with other delegations during the previous Working Group session. The Delegation expressed interest in examining the results of the consultations undertaken by the International Bureau and in reviewing the technical assessment of those matters. The Delegation concluded by expressing Portugal's support for the proposed amendments to the Regulations as well as for their suggested date of entry into force.

11. The Delegation of Algeria, speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, reiterated the Group's position regarding the priority of introducing Arabic to the Madrid System, and emphasized that Arabic was an official language of the United Nations (UN). The Delegation referred to other criteria that could be agreed upon regarding the introduction of potential new languages, emphasizing the importance of maximizing advantages and limiting disadvantages that might accompany the introduction of new languages. The Delegation highlighted that Arabic had been adopted as the official language in 22 countries, ten of which were Madrid System members, and that it was spoken by more than 455 million people worldwide, making it one of the five most widely spoken languages globally. The Arab Group reiterated the importance of the content of the documents prepared by the International Bureau, which it evaluated positively regarding concerns pertaining to the introduction of new languages into the Madrid System. In that context, the Delegation emphasized that language barriers constituted one of the main obstacles faced by the Arab world regarding engagement with the Madrid System. The Delegation stated that introducing Arabic as an official language would provide impetus for more countries to join the System and would increase the number of registrations and designations in the System using Arabic, as well as direct filing requests deposited abroad. The Delegation reaffirmed the Arab Group's willingness to engage in positive discussions in the Working Group regarding the introduction of Arabic as a Madrid System language. In conclusion, the Delegation praised the progress made at the previous session of the Program and Budget Committee (PBC), during which Member States agreed to include that matter as one of the priorities in the PBC for the upcoming biennium. The Delegation expressed appreciation for the constructive spirit that led to such consensus.

12. The Delegation of France took note of the report prepared by the International Bureau and expressed support for the amendments recommended by the Working Group. The Delegation reiterated that France was in favor of maintaining the principle of dependency as it stood. Any changes in that principle which might be contemplated should focus on its effects and scope; consideration could also be given to reducing the duration of the dependency period. The Delegation noted that discussions on the automatic nature of central attacks could also present a credible alternative and remedy the uncertainty for right holders. Fine-tuning the central attack principle could help to prevent excessive recourse to central attack requests. The Delegation emphasized that any decision on the linguistic expansion of the Madrid System should not affect the use of current languages and should be based on a combination of objective criteria combined with the practice of multilingualism within the UN.

13. The Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea noted that the twenty-second session of the Working Group discussed issues regarding the possible amendment to the Regulations concerning the entitlement requirement for international applications submitted by joint applicants. The Delegation expressed the view that the Working Group should conduct sufficient discussions with Member States and Offices regarding the proposed amendments to Article 6 of the Protocol. Additionally, the Delegation stated that in relation to the introduction of any new Madrid System languages, it was necessary to do a comprehensive review of the technical issues, including the enhancement of the terminology databases, cost issues, and machine translation questions.

14. The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed its appreciation for the valuable efforts of the Working Group to improve and clarify the Regulations for the benefit of Member States and users. The Delegation expressed support for the proposed amendments to the Regulations, viewing them as an essential step forward to enhance the effectiveness of the Madrid System. The Delegation supported the proposed amendments to Rules 3 and 20bis of the Regulations and indicated that those amendments would significantly streamline communications and provide greater certainty for all parties. The Delegation also endorsed the amendments to Rules 24 and 25 of the Regulations and noted that those changes were crucial for enabling consistent and reliable electronic communications between the International Bureau and the holders of international registrations. The Delegation recognized that electronic communications were the most efficient, cost effective and timely method for correspondence. The Delegation stated that those amendments would reduce the risk of delays, help users meet critical deadlines, and provide secure direct access to manage their international applications and registrations. Finally, the Delegation affirmed its commitment to the ongoing legal development of the Madrid System and expressed readiness to implement those important amendments to the Regulations.

15. The Delegation of Spain acknowledged that technical works and studies were essential to WIPO, stating that Spain actively participated in the working groups for the WIPO-administered IP systems, especially the Madrid System. The Delegation emphasized that the adequate functioning and sustainability of the System were primary concerns for Spain. The Delegation noted that in the last few sessions of the Working Group, debates took place on the possibility of modifying the principle of dependency, which led to a constructive exchange and dependency being considered as an essential function of the Madrid System. The Delegation observed that interesting proposals regarding that principle led to a fruitful debate with broad participation, though much ground remained to be covered. The Delegation applauded the bilateral consultations held with stakeholders, noting that they allowed for significant progress which Spain would follow with great interest. Finally, the Delegation highlighted that one of the most interesting and important topics for Spain was the expansion of the linguistic regime of the Madrid System. The Delegation noted that while a decision was yet to be reached, Spain applauded the Working Group's willingness to conduct a debate on multilingualism in the Madrid System considering it a clear step forward favoring the expansion and development of the System for the benefit of the Contracting Parties.

16. The Delegation of Sudan reiterated the importance of introducing Arabic to the Madrid System, noting it was an official language of the UN. The Delegation stated that increasing the number of languages would attract further users to the System and would enable more trademark holders to deposit and manage their filing requests and registrations in their mother tongue. The Delegation added that the expansion of the linguistic regime would also enable all registration holders abroad to better manage their registrations. The Delegation noted that it would also increase interest among Arab countries to join the Madrid System, given that there were currently only ten Member States from the Arab region who were members of the Madrid System. The Delegation looked forward to deriving maximum benefit from the introduction of further languages and finding ways to decrease expenses and make the System more affordable.

17. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia expressed support for proposals that would enhance the efficiency of the Madrid System and attract further users, particularly the reduction of the dependency period to three years, which the Delegation believed would make the system more attractive globally. The Delegation pointed out that the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) was finalizing the process to join the Protocol, in further efforts to develop its own IP system in harmony with the Saudi Vision 2030. The Delegation stated that it was looking forward to the introduction of Arabic to the System, which would make it more comprehensive and further enlarge its user base. The Delegation highlighted the importance of joining the international registration system to further enhance legal certainty and efficiency. The

Delegation reiterated Saudi Arabia's interest in active participation in the Madrid System and its willingness to cooperate with Member States and the International Bureau in supporting all initiatives that were conducive to simpler procedures and further enhancement of the System globally.

18. The Delegation of Qatar thanked the International Bureau for its collaboration with its country. The Delegation was pleased to observe the progress made thus far and took note of actions taken to promote economic growth and to increase the scope of the System. The Delegation stated that Qatar fully supported the proposals put forward by the Arab Group for the promotion of Arabic within the System, especially regarding the introduction of Arabic as a Madrid System language. The Delegation reiterated Qatar's support for the System, noting that it promoted a balanced IP ecosystem for the registration of marks and IP, which it hoped would benefit all stakeholders.

19. The Delegation of Morocco emphasized that the introduction of Arabic into the Madrid System was extremely important among the different languages that were also part of the System. The Delegation stated that it would allow for more Arabic speaking countries to join the Madrid System and would increase the number of applications submitted to the System. The Delegation expressed support for the introduction of Arabic as a Madrid System language and endorsed the proposal that Arabic should be adopted as a language for the international registration of marks.

20. The Delegation of Brazil expressed support for the statement made by the Delegation of Portugal regarding the inclusion of Portuguese in the Madrid System in line with promoting linguistic diversity in the multilateral IP system. The Delegation noted that Portuguese was currently spoken by more than 260 million people on four continents, making it the fifth most broadly spoken language and the third most used language in the southern hemisphere. The Delegation highlighted that Portuguese was spoken in countries with dynamic economies on different continents and possessed economic and cultural relevance. The Delegation cited Brazil as an example, where the registration of marks once again grew in 2024, increasing by ten per cent, which was above the global average. The Delegation reported that Brazil had achieved 440,000 registrations. The Delegation expressed confidence that including Portuguese would contribute to strengthening the Madrid System and enhancing its dynamism without being particularly expensive for the System. The Delegation emphasized that Portuguese had significant potential without incurring high costs. For those reasons, the Delegation reiterated Brazil's support to increase the number of new languages in the Madrid System to include Portuguese.

21. The Delegation of Japan referred to paragraph 8 of document MM/A/59/2, stating that Japan, in the spirit of promoting the Madrid System, had the honor to submit a new proposal to introduce the Japanese language as a Madrid System language for consideration by the Working Group during its twenty-second session, which took place in October of the previous year. The Delegation explained that, should the Japanese language be introduced into the Madrid System, it would eliminate language barriers to filing international applications and managing international registrations for Japanese users, including SMEs, which was expected to result in further use and development of the Madrid System. The Delegation noted that while multilingualism should be respected from the viewpoint of increasing users' accessibility to the System, it must not increase the burden on users. The Delegation recalled that during previous sessions of the Working Group, valuable concerns were raised regarding the potential additional burden that an increase in the number of languages might place on users upon receiving notifications issued by the Offices of designated Contracting Parties in new languages unfamiliar to them. The Delegation stated that to address those important concerns, Japan had been pleased to propose, together with seven other countries, a new temporary implementation option for introducing new languages into the System during the twenty-second session of the Working Group. The Delegation explained that the proposal was aimed at attracting new users

while not increasing the burden on existing users. The Delegation concluded by affirming that looking ahead to the next session of the Working Group, Japan remained committed to engaging actively, pragmatically, and constructively in discussions on the further development of the Madrid System, including the possible introduction of new languages.

22. The Delegation of the Russian Federation supported steps taken by the Secretariat to improve and enhance the convenience of the Madrid System, making it more attractive to applicants and users. The Delegation also advocated for the continuation of work to expand the language regime of the System in the context of introducing at least all official UN languages as working languages of the Madrid System. The Delegation confirmed that for its part, the Russian Federation would continue to provide comprehensive assistance to the International Bureau regarding the introduction of Russian language into the Madrid System. The Delegation emphasized its firm belief that multilingualism is one of the core assets of the UN system, noting the particular importance of embedding it within the strategic directions for the Madrid System's improvement. The Delegation further indicated that it did not object to the proposed amendments to Rules 3, 20*bis*, 24, and 25 of the Regulations under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement, noting that the proposed changes would create new opportunities for users of the Madrid System to interact promptly and in a timely manner with the International Bureau, including *via* email. Regarding the issue of dependency, the Delegation stated that the Russian Federation consistently favored "freezing" the application of paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) of Article 6 of the Protocol. The Delegation stressed that out of all possible options under consideration, the "freezing" option was the only one that fell within the competence of the Assembly of the Madrid Union that did not require convening a diplomatic conference. The Delegation noted that suspending of the dependency principle would be a temporary solution for a reasonable period, sufficient to conduct an analysis of its impact on applicants, trademark holders, and the Madrid System as a whole. In that regard, the Delegation stated that it continued to favor conducting a comprehensive analysis of the potential advantages and disadvantages of reducing the dependency period or abolishing it altogether. The Delegation concluded by stating that the Russian Federation looked forward to continuing constructive and fruitful cooperation within the Working Group with a view to further improving the Madrid System.

23. The Delegation of Malawi stated that the documents and proposals presented, particularly those outlined in document MM/A/59/2, reflected the commendable effort to advance the legal framework of the Madrid System. The Delegation indicated that Malawi fully supported the proposed amendments to the Protocol as discussed by the Working Group. The Delegation welcomed efforts to address dependency, including the proposals to narrow the grounds for cancellation of international registrations due to the ceasing of effect of the basic mark, as well as the consideration of reducing the dependency period to three years. The Delegation emphasized that those amendments were critical to enhancing the flexibility and resilience of the Madrid System, ensuring that it remained responsive to the needs of trademark holders and promoted global trade. The Delegation also endorsed the exploration of introducing new languages to the Madrid System as proposed in document MM/LD/WG/22/13 Rev. The Delegation affirmed that Malawi remained committed to the ongoing development of the Madrid System and looked forward to contributing to future discussions to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness.

24. The Delegation of Samoa supported the proposed changes to the Madrid System that would expedite and increase the integrity of the System without loss to revenues generated. The Delegation expressed its belief that most of the proposals would achieve such goals, and it endorsed the proposals before them. However, with regard to the proposed recalculation of individual fees, the Delegation noted that Samoa's Madrid Registry continued to contribute steadily to the national economy, and expressed concern about the proposed new formula, as it believed that the sustainability of registers might be affected. The Delegation indicated that it would not support the proposed recalculation unless that shortfall was addressed. The Delegation noted that most IP Offices had a high staff turnover in their Madrid Registry, and

therefore new staff required capacity building. The Delegation expressed gratitude to the IP Office of the Philippines for responding positively to Samoa's request for capacity building.

25. The Delegation of Kazakhstan stated that the Madrid System was an important instrument to protect trademarks at the international level. The Delegation observed that businesses, particularly SMEs, were making use of the System to access new markets. Therefore, the Delegation expressed support for simplifying procedures and making the System more transparent and user friendly. The Delegation welcomed the reduction of administrative burdens and the use of digital communication in the international registration system, noting that it would make the System more effective and accessible for all participants. The Delegation indicated that Kazakhstan actively implemented digital solutions within its national system for the protection of IP and was interested in international processes also becoming simpler and easier to use, while emphasizing the importance of considering the situation of different countries when implementing new requirements, particularly those where digital infrastructure was developing. The Delegation noted that assistance from WIPO in that regard would be particularly valuable. Regarding document MM/A/59/2, the Delegation indicated that it was following the discussions closely and supported the idea of having more flexibility, particularly when it came to reducing the dependency period, emphasizing the importance of continuing dialogue while bearing in mind the practices of different countries. The Delegation stated that Kazakhstan was ready to provide its statistics for a survey carried out by the International Bureau and welcomed steps to improve the translation of terminology, particularly the use of automated technologies while also maintaining quality. The Delegation concluded by affirming Kazakhstan's willingness to actively participate in future discussions on the legal development of the Madrid System and its openness to cooperation on that front.

26. The Delegation of Estonia, speaking on behalf of the Central European and Baltic States (CEBS) Group recognized the work to improve the efficiency of the System and to introduce adequate modifications to make the System more user friendly. In that context, the Delegation expressed gratitude for discussions on the future development of the Madrid System and its simplifications based on the updated roadmap offered by the International Bureau as a basis for discussions. The Delegation stated that the CEBS Group saw value in discussing in more depth the topic of dependency, especially in the context of the possible amendment of Article 6 of the Protocol to reduce the dependency period to three years, as well as other amendments needed with a view to modernizing the provisions of the Protocol. The Delegation indicated that the Group would be open to considering the possibility of convening a diplomatic conference related to the matter, based on the conviction that a tangible and workable outcome was possible that would benefit Madrid System users. The Delegation affirmed the Group's readiness to further engage in those discussions. The Delegation noted that the CEBS Group had actively participated in the discussions and technical consultations on the possible introduction of new languages into the Madrid System. In that context, the Delegation expressed gratitude to the International Bureau for presenting statistical information as well as various concepts related to the topic. The Delegation stated that at that stage, further work was needed with a view to achieving better clarity and finding a consensual approach to some of the technical measures related to the implementation plan, including cost estimates, source of funding, and quality assurance in the process of introducing new languages. At the same time, the Delegation reiterated that further discussion on introducing new languages should be based on objective criteria and should not put any of the Madrid System users in an inferior position in comparison to users who could directly benefit from this development. The Delegation emphasized that the CEBS Group would not be able to support any decisions that could have a negative impact on Madrid System users, especially through possible financial implications. The Delegation also reiterated that introducing new languages into the System would be perceived as a benefit for the specific language users. Based on the above considerations and taking into account the current geopolitical context, the Delegation stated that the CEBS Group was, for the time being, not in a position to support the introduction of the Russian language.

27. The Delegation of Guinea-Bissau supported the proposals made by the Delegations of Portugal and Brazil to include Portuguese as one of the Madrid System languages. The Delegation stated that it would increase not only the number of applications but also raise awareness amongst other Portuguese speakers to join the System, which the Delegation considered to be very important to the IP system.

28. The Delegation of Ukraine aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Estonia on behalf of the CEBS Group. The Delegation welcomed the roadmap of the future development and simplification of the Madrid System and supported ongoing discussions aimed at improving user experience and legal clarity. In that context, the Delegation strongly endorsed further in-depth discussions on the issue of dependency. The Delegation recognized the value of continuing the dialogue on the possible amendment to Article 6 of the Madrid Protocol and specifically supported discussions on the proposal set out in document MM/LD/WG/21/8 Rev.2, which provided comprehensive coverage of discussions from the past 20 years. The Delegation also expressed strong support for further discussions of the proposal by the Republic of Moldova to amend Rule 8(2) of the Regulations. The Delegation noted that, as stated during the twenty-second session of the Working Group, the proposal would improve accessibility and facilitate cross-regional cooperation by simplifying joint filings from multiple jurisdictions. The Delegation encouraged all delegations to give the proposal positive and constructive consideration. Turning to the issue of language expansion within the Madrid System, the Delegation reiterated its firm position that any such decision must be guided by objective criteria, clear statistical data, and demonstrated user needs. The Delegation emphasized that the introduction of a new language must not negatively impact the efficiency or cost effectiveness of the Madrid System for existing users. In that regard, the Delegation stated that it saw no justification for the introduction of the Russian language into the Madrid System, noting that, as reflected in the most recent statistical data provided by the International Bureau, there was limited demand for such a development from actual users of the System. Moreover, given the current geopolitical context and the ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine, the Delegation emphasized that proposals lacking technical merit but pursued for political purposes should not be allowed to distort or undermine the integrity of global IP services. The Delegation therefore urged the International Bureau and Member States to refrain from advancing any such proposal in the absence of consensus and robust evidence. The Delegation affirmed that Ukraine remained committed to a balanced, inclusive, and modern Madrid System that serves the needs of users across the regions and that it looked forward to continued engagement in constructive and technically grounded discussion on its future resolutions.

29. The Delegation of Poland fully supported the statement delivered by the Delegations of Estonia, on behalf of the CEBS Group, and Ukraine. The Delegation was of the view that more in-depth discussions and considerations should be given to the topic of dependency, especially in the context of a possible amendment of Article 6 of the Protocol to reduce the dependency period to three years and other amendments aimed at modernizing the Protocol. Concerning the possible introduction of new languages into the Madrid System, the Delegation acknowledged that further discussion and information were needed, as reflected in the Summary by the Acting Chair of the Working Group from its previous session. The Delegation cited examples such as information on possible selection criteria, cost estimates of the terminology database, as well as technical assessment and intersessional technical consultations with Contracting Parties, WIPO Member States and user organizations on all subjects discussed under the possible introduction of new languages. The Delegation stated that such data, information, and the results of technical assessment and consultations should be thoroughly considered to reach a clear understanding and consensual approach. In that context, the Delegation emphasized that the possible introduction of new languages should be based on objective criteria and should not entail any negative impact or burden for the current Madrid System users, including any financial implications of such possible decisions. The Delegation also expressed belief that introducing new languages into the Madrid System should be perceived as a benefit. Therefore, the Delegation stated that Poland was not ready to agree

to the introduction of the Russian language, taking into account the Russian Federation's unjustified full-scale aggression against Ukraine that had lasted over three years, and the aggressor State's violation of fundamental principles of international law and the UN Charter.

30. The Delegation of Lithuania aligned itself with the statements delivered by the Delegations of Estonia, on behalf of the CEBS Group, and Ukraine and thanked the International Bureau and Member States for the continuous efforts and progress made in the Working Group. Considering the rapidly expanding digital environment, global businesses and their needs, the Delegation expressed Lithuania's support for initiatives and further discussions on modernization of the Madrid System. The Delegation stated that Lithuania was in favor of reviewing Article 6 of the Madrid Protocol and could support reduction of the dependency period to three years. The Delegation fully aligned itself with the positions of those who argued that further discussion on introducing new languages into the System should be based on objective criteria and should not negatively impact Madrid System users, especially considering possible financial implications of such changes. The Delegation underlined that as long as the Russian Federation continued its unprovoked and unjustified war against Ukraine and violated international law, Lithuania strongly opposed and would not be in any position to accept the introduction of the Russian language as a new language into the Madrid System.

31. The Delegation of Latvia fully supported the statement delivered by the Delegation of Estonia on behalf of the CEBS Group. The Delegation indicated that it would not reiterate all the points already mentioned to be concise. Regarding the introduction of new languages, the Delegation stated that it was not surprising that Latvia agreed with the CEBS Group and with various other delegations on the introduction of the Russian language. The Delegation confirmed that Latvia was also not able to support that proposal, taking into account the ongoing war in Ukraine, and noted that its position would likely not change. The Delegation offered a different suggestion, noting that with the rapid advancements in AI and new technologies, particularly regarding large language models, it might be crucial for WIPO to strategically assess resource allocation and investigate the possibility of integrating innovative AI driven solutions. The Delegation suggested those solutions could provide a broader possibility to incorporate all or almost all languages into the Madrid System, which the Delegation believed would be much more financially sustainable in the future and could benefit users most. The Delegation suggested that approach could be taken into consideration.

32. The Delegation of the Russian Federation, exercising its right to reply, stated that the delegates had once again witnessed the artificial linking of issues related to the improvement of the Madrid System with matters of war and peace. The Delegation noted that it was a recognized fact that the most discriminated group in Ukraine was Russian-speaking citizens, adding that the Russian language was legally banned in all spheres, including media, art, education, culture, and daily life. The Delegation characterized that as discriminatory rhetoric and stated that such rhetoric was now being heard at WIPO in relation to expanding the language regime of the Madrid System. The Delegation pointed out that, meanwhile, the Constitution of Ukraine guaranteed the free development and use of the Russian language and other national minority languages in the country. The Russian delegation also drew attention to the fact that the position of Ukraine was supported by the CEBS Group and its members. The Delegation emphasized that the populations of many of these countries also spoke Russian and considered it their native language. The Delegation noted that those States without evidence were talking about the interests of users as the only goal of the Madrid System, but in reality, in the opinion of the Delegation, they behaved in a completely opposite way. The Delegation stated that those countries paid lip service to the interests of users as the sole purpose of the Madrid System but, in practice, acted in a completely opposite manner by blocking the development of the Madrid System, including through the expansion of its language regime and the inclusion of Russian, which, in the Delegation's view, would benefit the users who are their own citizens. The Delegation expressed regret over that approach.

33. The Madrid Union Assembly:

(i) adopted the amendments to Rules 3, 20bis, 24, 25 and 35 of the Regulations Under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, as set out in Annexes I and II to document MM/A/59/1, with November 1, 2025, as their date of entry into force; and

(ii) took 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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