

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

Assembly

Sixtieth (34th 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, 13, 18, 22 and 23.
2. The reports on the said items, with the exception of item 13, are contained in the draft General Report (document A/68/10 Prov.).
3. The report on item 13 is contained in the present document.
4. Mr. Pascal Faure (France), Chair of the Madrid Union Assembly, presided over the meeting.

ITEM 13 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

MADRID SYSTEM

Report on the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks

5. Discussions were based on document [MM/60/1](#).
6. [CHAIR](#): Welcome. We are going to begin our work on the Madrid Union Assembly. Since our last session in July 2025, a new member has acceded to the Madrid Protocol. The Madrid Protocol entered into force with respect to Grenada on March 15, 2026. In addition, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia deposited its instrument of accession during these Assemblies. I would like to warmly welcome Grenada and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Madrid Union. We are now moving on to item 13 of our agenda, the Madrid System. We will be considering two documents, MM/A/60/1 and MM/A/60/2. This is indicated in the list of documents. We will consider these two documents separately and consecutively. Let us begin by considering the first document, MM/A/60/1, "Report on the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks." To this end, I invite Mr. Juan Rodriguez, Senior Legal Counsellor for the Madrid Legal Division of the Madrid Registry, Brands and Designs Sector, to briefly present document MM/A/60/1.
7. [SECRETARIAT](#): The Working Group held its twenty-third session in hybrid format from September 22 to 26, 2025. Ms. Gabriela Alejandra Alegría Troncoso (Chile) served as Chair and Ms. Natalia Mogol (Republic of Moldova) served as Vice-Chair of the session. The document under consideration reports on the main issues the Working Group discussed at its previous session, namely, proposed amendments to the Regulations, dependency and the possible introduction of new languages. On proposed amendments to the Regulations, in addition to recommending for their adoption the amendments set out in document MM/A/60/2, the Working Group agreed to continue discussing proposals on the issuance of certificates by designated Offices, the Republic of Moldova's proposal on international applications filed by multiple applicants and the United Kingdom's proposal to introduce centralized replacement, partial renewal and subsequent designation for pending international applications. The International Bureau was requested to conduct a survey on certificates by designated Offices and to prepare a refined proposal on the subject as well as to prepare a document in cooperation with the United Kingdom further elaborating on its proposals. On dependency, the Working Group considered the findings of a survey on the incidence of bad faith in the Madrid System and a report on intersessional consultations on dependency. It agreed to continue discussions on dependency and the possible evolution of the Madrid System at its 24th session. Finally, on the possible introduction of new languages, the Working Group agreed to continue discussing proposals to introduce Chinese, Russian, Arabic, Japanese, Portuguese and German to the Madrid System and requested updated statistics, a plan for Phase II of the Madrid Information Technology Platform project and technical information on non-Latin characters and non-Arabic numerals. The Working Group discussed a report on the introduction of a differentiated translation practice and requested a completion report and a quality assessment of those translations.
8. [RUSSIAN FEDERATION](#): The Russian Federation has the honor of giving this statement on behalf of the Group of Central Asian, Caucasus, and Eastern European Countries (CACEEC). We would like to express our gratitude to Deputy Director General (DDG) Wang and the Secretariat for preparing the report on the twenty-third session of the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System, as well as for the proposed amendments to the Regulations under the Protocol to the Madrid Agreement. The countries of my Group view the Madrid System as an important tool for trademark protection, providing applicants with an effective and affordable mechanism for obtaining legal protection in foreign jurisdictions.

We support efforts to improve the system aimed at enhancing the quality of services provided, simplifying procedures and strengthening its attractiveness for users. In this regard, we have no objections to the proposed amendments to Rules 3, 18, 25 and 27 of the Regulations under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks. Furthermore, we consider the expansion of the Madrid System's language regime, through the use of at least all United Nations languages, including Russian, to be one of the key areas for improvement. Such a step would promote accessibility, strengthen the universal nature of the system and expand its user base. For our part, we will continue to provide the Secretariat with full cooperation on this matter. CACEEC reaffirms its readiness to participate constructively in efforts to further develop the Madrid System.

9. [CHINA](#): The Chinese Delegation has no objections to the proposed amendments contained in document MM/A/60/2. China commends the Working Group's endeavors and the efforts made by the Member States to improve the Regulations. China will continue to participate actively in Madrid System related work. We believe that, as a global intellectual property (IP) system, the Madrid System should be guided by the legitimate needs of users, with future development aimed at greater fairness, rationality, and attractiveness. As the Madrid System is at a crucial juncture of its reform, in particular, users' needs must be taken into account in core issues such as the introduction of new languages and dependency. Substantive progress should be made as soon as possible to promote the sustainable and high-quality development of the system. To provide higher-quality services to users worldwide, including those in China, China stands ready to participate constructively and actively in the discussion of various rules to promote the continuous improvement of the Madrid System.

10. [EUROPEAN UNION](#): The European Union and its member States attach great importance to the Madrid System as one of WIPO's flagship global registration services and as a vital tool for businesses and, in particular, small and medium-sized enterprises seeking to protect their trademarks across borders. We thank the Secretariat for its continued work to keep the system efficient, accessible and responsive to the needs of its users. The European Union and its member States take note of the report of the Working Group and welcome the progress made in modernizing the Madrid System. We note, in particular, the cost-saving innovations being taken forward including the differentiated translation practice and the development of the unified goods and services database and we encourage the Secretariat to maintain high technical and translation quality standards as this work advances. We also look forward to the development of the new user-centered information technology platform. On dependency, the European Union and its member States attach importance to preserving the dependency principle which remains an integral feature of the system. At the same time, we are open to discussing a reduction of the dependency period from five to three years as a pragmatic means of enhancing legal certainty for rights holders. On the languages of the system, we remain open to continuing the discussions, including on the international registration language option. In doing so, we underline the importance of safeguarding the financial sustainability of the system and of ensuring that any further development does not weaken the use of the system's three current working languages. Finally, the European Union and its member States are pleased to join the consensus on the adoption of the proposed amendments to Rules 3, 18, 25 and 27 of the Regulations. By introducing standardized forms for cancellations, streamlining the content of provisional refusals and providing for the recording of email addresses with appropriate safeguards for personal data, these amendments will bring practical improvements in efficiency, transparency and legal certainty for users and Offices alike. Mr. Chair, the European Union and its member States remain committed to the continued development of the Madrid System for the benefit of all its members and users.

11. [ALGERIA](#): The Delegation of Algeria is honored to deliver this statement on behalf of the Arab Group. We would like to thank the Secretariat for the report with regard to this agenda item and to DDG Ms. Wang and her team for their efforts throughout the past year. We at the Arab Group congratulate the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for having deposited their instrument of

accession to the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks. Mr. Chair, the Arab Group reiterates its position with regard to the priority of introducing the Arabic language into the Madrid System as one of the official languages of the United Nations, while also considering other agreed-upon criteria for the introduction of potential new languages, with due consideration for maximizing the benefits and minimizing any potential negative effects that might result from the introduction of such new languages. In this context, we would like to point out that the Arabic language is the official language of 22 countries, 11 of which are members of the Madrid System. It is spoken by more than 455 million people. It is also one among the foremost five languages by the number of speakers around the world. Mr. Chair, the Arab Group appreciates the positive assessment contained in the documents prepared by the Secretariat regarding the possibility of addressing most of the concerns related to the introduction of new languages in the Madrid System. In this context, we would like to point out the following: the language barrier is one of the main obstacles faced by Arab countries when dealing with the Madrid System. Therefore, the introduction of Arabic as an official language would stimulate further Arab countries to accede to the system. The introduction of Arabic shall also raise the number of applications and designations within the Madrid System in Arabic and, therefore, the number of direct applications deposited abroad. In conclusion, the Arab Group reiterates its readiness to engage constructively in discussions within the Working Group with regard to the introduction of Arabic in the Madrid System and hopes that the Delegations will reach consensus on the introduction of new languages in this system.

12. [UNITED KINGDOM](#): The United Kingdom thanks the Secretariat for preparing the reports containing documents MM/A/60/1 and MM/A/60/2. The United Kingdom welcomes efforts to improve and modernize the system. We are, therefore, pleased that the proposals put forward at the last Working Group by the United Kingdom in cooperation with United Kingdom users of the system were well received. We look forward to working to implement these proposals with WIPO, Madrid members and users of the system. With regard to document MM/A/60/2, the United Kingdom can agree to adopt the proposed amendments. Finally, Chair, let me take the opportunity to express our thanks to DDG Wang Binying for her profound dedication and leadership throughout her years of service. We wish her all the best for the future.

13. [BRAZIL](#): The Brazilian Delegation appreciates the presentation of the report contained in document MM/A/60/1, and the efforts of the Working Group. Mr. Chair, after an absence of more than 80 years, Brazil returned to the Madrid System nearly seven years ago and has seen its importance gradually increase, especially with regard to the number of designations. As one of the most populous countries and one of the largest developing economies within the system, Brazil firmly believes that the inclusion of Portuguese as a working language is fully justified and would benefit the entire Portuguese-speaking community from countries already part of the system to those that are considering joining. Mr. Chair, translation and interpretation costs have fallen dramatically with the use of new tools and technologies, and this trend is likely to continue and intensify. Furthermore, the financial situation of this Organization and the Madrid Union is, as we have seen, extremely sound and perfectly capable of welcoming as a working language the mother tongue of more than 250 million people across the world. We therefore reiterate our call on the Working Group to consider approving the proposal contained in document MM/LD/WG/22/11.

14. [UNITED STATES OF AMERICA](#): The United States of America takes note of document MM/A/60/1 and we support the proposed amendments to Rules 3, 18, 25 and 27 of the Regulations under the Protocol relating to the Madrid Agreement concerning the International Registration of Marks, as set forth in Annexes I and II of document MM/A/60/2. The United States takes this opportunity to express our continued interest in advancing the proposal made by the Distinguished Delegations of Australia, Chile, Ghana, Mexico, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea along with our Delegation to modernize the Madrid Protocol by introducing flexibilities regarding the dependency and basic mark requirements. At the last Madrid Working Group, the Secretariat warned that the Madrid System is in danger of becoming obsolete. The

Secretariat noted that Madrid filings are not increasing and may decrease and that reducing the dependency period alone is insufficient to address the larger core problems stemming from the requirements for a basic mark and dependency. In light of this, and the fact that a one-size-fits-all policy no longer works, it is even more critical to update the Madrid System to accommodate the differing needs of current users and attract future users from around the world. Without flexibilities and options, the relevance and growth of the Madrid System is at serious risk. The proposal to modernize the Madrid Protocol which the U.S. cosponsored is an opportunity to allow the Protocol to be flexible so that the Madrid Contracting Parties may select from a number of options, the ones that best serve the business needs and priorities of their stakeholders. The proposal offers a practical way forward and being limited by the status quo is not a reasonable option in the view of this Delegation. The United States thanks the Member States for their continued consideration of this proposal, and we invite Madrid Contracting Parties and others to engage with us and the cosponsors to further develop, support and cosponsor this proposal.

15. [TUNISIA](#): The Delegation of Tunisia supports the statement of the Arab Group and would like to begin by announcing with deep regret the passing of Mr. Haroun Grami, Acting Director of the Trademarks Division, who was elected in September 2025 to serve as Vice Chair of the upcoming session of the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks. On the other hand, Tunisia would like to thank the Secretariat of the Organization for preparing reports, studies and statistics related to the introduction of new languages, including Arabic and for its positive engagement with Member States' proposals, which underscores WIPO's efforts to promote multilingualism and to find solutions that facilitate trademark registration and remove the barriers faced by some Contracting Parties when acceding to the Madrid System. Tunisia would like to reiterate its commitment to the introduction of Arabic in this System as an official working language to overcome the language barrier faced by Arabic-speaking users, which would support innovation and creativity and contribute to advancing economic and social development in Arab countries, noting that this request is in line with the multilingualism policy adopted at the United Nations organizations and WIPO's policy on linguistic diversity.

16. [QATAR](#): My country's Delegation would like to add its voice to the statement made by the Delegation of our sister nation, Algeria, on behalf of the Arab Group regarding the introduction of Arabic in the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks. We also take this opportunity to congratulate our sister nation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on its accession to the Madrid System. Mr. Chair, the State of Qatar reaffirms its full and continued support for the priority of including Arabic in the Madrid System, given its status as one of the official languages of the United Nations and an official language for more than 22 countries, spoken by more than 455 million people around the world. We recognize the language barrier as one of the main challenges hindering the optimal use of the Madrid System. The inclusion of Arabic will be a decisive factor in facilitating and registration applications from investors and companies of all sizes. Regarding concerns related to translation and introduction costs, the State of Qatar affirms that the rapid advancements we are witnessing today in artificial intelligence technologies and advanced machine translation tools provide effective and reliable solutions that significantly contribute to reducing these costs and minimizing any potential negative effects. Accordingly, we urge the Secretariat and the Member States that have benefited from these modern technologies to expedite the introduction of Arabic as one of the official languages of the Madrid System and to maximize the benefits for all users of the System. Thank you.

17. [ALBANIA](#): I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Central European and Baltic States (CEBS) Group. We thank the International Bureau and the Secretariat for their excellent work in preparing the documentation and facilitating the preparatory meetings. Regarding document MM/A/60/1, the CEBS Group welcomes the Working Group's approval of several practical amendments aimed at streamlining the System proceedings and making it

more user-friendly for applicants and Offices alike. However, we note that intensive discussions continue on more complex proposals that carry significant legislative, operational and IT implications for national and regional offices. This includes proposals aimed at introducing greater flexibility for trademark owners from multiple countries to file a common application as well as the proposal concerning national or regional certificates and the determination of the date of grant protection. The CEBS Group looks forward to continuing this discussion constructively at the next meeting alongside the review of a new proposal introduced by the United Kingdom for which we await the International Bureau's clarifying documentation on its practical implementation. On multifaceted and complex debates surrounding the proposed introduction of new languages into the Madrid System, as well as the ongoing issue of dependency, the CEBS Group notes that no further steps or progress were achieved. We maintain that any future adjustment to the core architecture of the System, particularly regarding language expansion or structural dependency, must thoroughly evaluate technical, financial and operational feasibility to preserve the efficiency and sustainability of the Madrid Union. We stand ready to engage in further discussions on these matters at the next session.

18. [INDIA](#): Respected Chair, India appreciates the Madrid Union's ongoing contributions to strengthening the International Trademark System and commends the Working Group's effort to simplify registration. India remains among the leading designated Contracting Parties receiving over 13,766 designations in 2024-25, a reflection of global users' confidence in the Indian market and India's commitment to effective trademark administration. Respected Chair, procedural efficiency remains a key concern for India, which is cautious about mandating certificates of protection for designated Offices. Since existing statements of grant of protection already effectively confirm rights, India supports further evidence-based discussion informed by the International Bureau's user needs survey before any regulatory changes. Legal certainty and user friendliness remain central to India's engagement with procedural reforms. India supports the Republic of Moldova's proposal to simplify entitlement requirements for joint applicants, requiring only one to meet the Office of Origin criteria while others meet entitlement with any Contracting Party. Benefitting small and medium-sized enterprises while preserving the framework's integrity, India also supports reducing the dependency period from five to three years, while maintaining that the basic mark requirement remains essential against bad faith filings. Inclusivity extends to linguistic accessibility as well. India backs the principle of multilingualism and supports gradually adding working languages based on the feasibility, cost and operational readiness, reflecting the system's diversity and strengthening its global relevance. Respected Chair, India remains committed to the evolution of the Madrid Protocol and looks forward to working with all Member States toward outcomes that strengthen the multilateral IP system.

19. [SAMOA](#): Samoa reaffirms its deep appreciation to WIPO for the continued cooperation extended since our accession to the Madrid Protocol. The participation in the Madrid System has strengthened Samoa's IP framework, enhanced service delivery and supported the growth of our small but very dedicated IP Office. We reiterate our acknowledgment of these benefits with sincere gratitude. Samoa supports the proposed amendments to expand the number of working languages recognizing that increased linguistic accessibility will further improve efficiency, inclusiveness and modernization across the Madrid System. At the same time, Samoa wishes to offer technical comments concerning internal system connectivity. As the Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS) platform advanced toward IPAS 4, ensuring seamless integration between Madrid procedures and our national IPAS environment remains essential. For small offices, such as ours, system compatibility directly influences operational efficiency and service quality. We therefore kindly request WIPO's continued technical assistance to support Samoa through this transition, particularly in strengthening internal connectedness with IPAS as new regulatory changes take effect. Samoa remains committed to constructive engagement and looks forward to deepening its partnership with WIPO for the continued development of our national IP system.

20. PORTUGAL: We would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing documents MM/A/60/1 and MM/A/60/2. Portugal aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union and supports the statement made by Brazil. Portugal highly commends the work carried out by the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System and welcomes the progress made in modernizing this essential instrument for businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), that seek to protect their trademarks across borders. Portugal expresses its support for the proposed amendments to Rules 3, 18, 25, and 27 of the Regulations, as set forth in document MM/A/60/2. We reiterate our firm commitment to continue actively participating in discussions on the introduction of new languages, including Portuguese, an official language of nine countries on four continents, spoken by more than 278 million people worldwide. We believe that strengthening multilingualism will contribute decisively to making the Madrid System more inclusive and accessible by removing language barriers that remain common challenges in its use. It is essential to advance the deliberative process in a transparent and inclusive manner, based on objective criteria, taking into account the real needs of users and evolving demand, including in that process an analysis of the language option for international registration. Portugal recognizes that, despite the challenges involved in introducing new languages, the benefits significantly outweigh the initial costs, which are largely mitigated by technological advances and methodological innovations already underway, including specialized translation practices and the development of a unified database of products and services.

21. UKRAINE: The Delegation of Ukraine aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Distinguished Delegation of Albania on behalf of the CEBS Group. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to DDG Madam Wang Binying for her leadership, professionalism and support for the effective functioning of the Madrid System. Ukraine warmly welcomes the appointment of Ms. Natalia Mogol from the Republic of Moldova as Chair of the twenty-fourth session of the Madrid Working Group and we are confident that under her able leadership and expertise the work of the Working Group will be continued in a constructive and balanced manner. Ukraine also thanks the Secretariat for their diligent work and preparation of the document MM/A/60/1 and MM/A/60/2. Ukraine welcomes practical efforts of the International Bureau and Member States aimed at simplifying the Madrid System, improving legal clarity and making the system more user-friendly for applicants, holders and offices. Ukraine also expresses strong support for further discussion of the proposal by the distinguished Delegation of the Republic of Moldova to amend Rule 8(2) of the Regulations. We consider that this proposal would improve accessibility and facilitate cross-regional cooperation by simplifying joint filings from multiple jurisdictions. We encourage all Delegations to give this proposal positive and constructive consideration in the future work of the Working Group. Ukraine also notes positively the further work of the International Bureau in cooperation with the Delegation of the United Kingdom on the proposals concerning centralized replacement, partial renewal and subsequent designation for pending international applications and looks forward to constructive discussions on these practical issues. Turning to the issue of language expansion within the Madrid System, Ukraine reiterates its firm position that any such decision must be guided by objective criteria, clear statistical data and demonstrated need from users. In this regard, Ukraine reiterates that we see no justification for the introduction of the Russian language into the Madrid System. Mr. Chair, Ukraine must again draw attention to the misuses of the Madrid System. New international registrations continue to appear in the WIPO Madrid Monitor with applicant or holder addresses falsely indicated as being located in the Russian Federation although they relate to the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine including Crimea, Sevastopol and other occupied territories. Ukraine highly appreciates the steps already taken by the International Bureau, including the introduction and expansion of the relevant disclaimers. However, these cases show that disclaimers are an important step, but they cannot be the final solution. Ukraine therefore calls for further effective technical and organizational measures to ensure that Madrid System publications, records and related data cannot be used to legitimize Russia's attempted annexation or distort the internationally recognized borders of Ukraine. Ukraine remains committed to a balanced, efficient and modern Madrid System that serves

users across all regions and fully respects the principle of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Member States.

22. [SAUDI ARABIA](#): The Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would like to express its appreciation to the Secretariat of the Organization for preparing the two documents related to this item and for the efforts made in developing the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks and enhancing its efficiency and responsiveness to users' needs. The Delegation welcomes the progress made in the work of the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System and the proposals aimed at improving the administrative and operational procedures of the system, thereby contributing to enhancing its effectiveness and ease of use. In this context, the Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is pleased to note that the Kingdom has deposited its instrument of accession to the Madrid Protocol, reflecting its commitment to strengthening its integration into the international IP system and supporting efforts to develop services provided to innovators, business owners, and trademark holders. The Delegation also appreciates the ongoing discussions regarding the introduction of new languages to the Madrid System and emphasizes the importance of continuing to consider including Arabic among the languages of the system, given its positive impact on enhancing inclusivity and enabling a wider range of users worldwide to benefit from the system's services. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia affirms its readiness to contribute constructively to future discussions on the development of the Madrid System and to work with Member States and the Secretariat of the Organization to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of the system.

23. [GUINEA-BISSAU](#): Good day to all. The Delegation of Guinea-Bissau would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, on your election and thank the Secretariat for the preparation and presentation of the documents before us. We would align ourselves with the statement made by Brazil and Portugal with regard to the addition of Portuguese to the Madrid System. Mr. Chair, Portuguese is the fifth most spoken language in the world with 250 to 300 million speakers. It is the official language of nine countries covering four continents. In my view, this in itself justifies the addition of Portuguese to the Madrid System. This will allow small and medium-sized Lusophone companies to securely protect their marks.

24. [INDONESIA](#): Indonesia thanks the Chair of the Working Group and the International Bureau for the comprehensive report on the twenty-third session of the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System. My Delegation welcomes the constructive progress achieved on a number of important issues aimed at enhancing the efficiency, accessibility and user friendliness of the Madrid System. In particular Indonesia supports the continued work on the proposed amendment to the Regulations including efforts to improve legal certainty and transparency through the possible issuance of certificates of protection and clearer indication of the effective date of protection. We also appreciate the decision to conduct further consultations and a survey before any amendments are finalized, ensuring that future reform remains evidence-based and responsive to the needs of Contracting Parties. Regarding discussion on dependency, Indonesia believes that this issue deserves careful consideration taking into account the need to strike an appropriate balance between simplifying procedures for users and preserving the integrity and legal certainty of the Madrid System. We, therefore, support continuing discussion within the Working Group. Indonesia also welcomes the ongoing discussion on the possible introduction of additional languages into the Madrid System. We believe that multilingualism can contribute to a more inclusive and accessible international trademark system. At the same time, any expansion should be guided by objective criteria, technical feasibility, financial sustainability and the long-term efficiency of the system. Furthermore, Indonesia appreciates the effort of the International Bureau to modernize the Madrid Information Technology Platform, improve translation practices and develop a unified database for goods and services. This initiative has the potential to enhance the quality, consistency and cost effectiveness of Madrid System operations. Mr. Chair, Indonesia remains committed to engaging constructively in the Working Group to support the continued

modernization and balanced development of the Madrid System ensuring that it remains efficient, inclusive and responsive to the evolving needs of all Contracting Parties.

25. [POLAND](#): Poland fully supports the statements delivered by Ireland on behalf of the European Union and by Albania on behalf of the CEBS Group. The Polish Delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the comprehensive report and the work that has been done by the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System and its Chairs. We greatly value the ongoing cooperation with WIPO. In June this year, WIPO in collaboration with the Polish Patent Office, successfully held a workshop and in-person consultations on the Madrid System for businesses and trademark practitioners. We appreciate the value of such initiatives which strengthen users' confidence in the Madrid System and help promote its benefits among businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises in our region. This interesting and interactive workshop was a unique opportunity to get insights, guidance and practical tips from WIPO's colleagues, Ms. Debbie Roenning, Director of the Madrid Legal Division and Mr. Benoît Apercé from the Madrid Information and Promotion Division, on many Madrid System-related topics, including filing of international trademark applications through Madrid e-Filing as well as the tools and resources that are available to applicants to protect their brands across borders. Mr. Chair, Poland supports the changes made to the Protocol to the Madrid Agreement that enhance the efficiency of the system and will attract further users. We are in favor of maintaining the principle of dependency and remain open to discussing the topic of reducing the dependency period. On the introduction of new languages to the Madrid System, Poland remains open to continuing the discussions. My Delegation is of the view that any decision on broadening the linguistic regime of the Madrid System should be based on objective criteria and should not entail any negative impact or burden on users, including any financial implications of such possible decisions. Mr. Chair, taking this opportunity, my Delegation would like to express sincere words of gratitude to DDG Wang Binying for her invaluable contribution to WIPO, especially to the strengthening of the Madrid, the Hague and the Lisbon Systems. We wish DDG Wang all the best in her future endeavors.

26. [DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA](#): The Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expresses thanks to the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks and to the Secretariat for having contributed to the preparation of the report for the meeting. The twenty-third session of the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System, held in September last year, discussed a series of proposals for amendments to the Regulations proposed by the Working Group and the dependence on international registration. In particular, the Regulations were modified to contribute to the resilience of the Madrid System, including the provisional rejection and the international registration by the International Bureau and the notification by the relevant registration authority of the amendment within two months, even if there is no record of the name of the applicant against registration and products or services related to the temporary rejection. The Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea regards that the Working Group should conduct a full survey in cooperation with registration organs and users and the Madrid System to further expand the regional scope of the system application and to increase the resilience and unification of the system management.

27. [LITHUANIA](#): Lithuania aligns itself with the statements delivered by the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its member States, by Albania on behalf of the CEBS Group and by the Delegation of Ukraine. Lithuania would like to express its sincere appreciation to the Secretariat and to the Member States for the continuous efforts and progress made in the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks. Lithuania would also like to express its sincere appreciation to WIPO and in particular to the Madrid Registry, for its outstanding training, awareness-raising and capacity-building activities. We highly value the excellent cooperation between WIPO and the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania, including the seminar and practical workshop on the Madrid System and the eMadrid platform held in Vilnius this year. The event

brought together representatives of businesses, patent and trademark attorneys, IP professionals and legal practitioners providing valuable practical insights into international trademark protection and the effective use of WIPO's digital services. It clearly demonstrated the benefits of close cooperation between WIPO and national IP offices in supporting enterprises seeking to expand into international markets. Lithuania highly appreciates WIPO's continued commitment to delivering high-quality technical assistance, training and outreach activities. Such initiatives make a tangible contribution to strengthening national IP ecosystems, enhancing users' understanding of international registration systems and fostering the competitiveness of businesses in the global economy. Finally, we support the balanced and evidence-based approach endorsed by Member States regarding the possible introduction of additional languages in the System, including the continued assessment of user demand, operational feasibility, service quality and financial implications. Any future decisions in this area should be guided by objective criteria and should not place an undue financial or administrative burden on Madrid System users. In this context, Lithuania reiterates that while the Russian Federation continues its unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine and persists in violating international law, Lithuania remains firmly opposed to the introduction of Russian as a language of Madrid System. We see no compelling evidence of user demand that would justify such a step, particularly in light of its potential operational and financial consequences for the System.

28. [EGYPT](#): The Egyptian Delegation endorses the statement made by the Algerian Delegation on behalf of the Arab Group. We would like to thank the Secretariat for the documents presented to us and for the efforts made over the past year to continue developing and modernizing the Madrid System. In this regard, we wish DDG, Ms. Wang, every success in the tasks ahead. The Egyptian Delegation also extends its congratulations to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on its accession to the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks. Mr. Chair, the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System has been considering the inclusion of Arabic, Chinese, and Russian, all of which are official languages of the United Nations, into the Madrid System for more than eight years. The Egyptian Delegation believes that the valuable studies conducted by the Secretariat during those years prove beyond any doubt the Madrid System's technical and logistical capacity to accommodate the inclusion of new languages, as well as a positive assessment of the ability to address concerns related to the inclusion of those languages. We believe that agreeing to the phased introduction of new languages is the optimal solution, as it will contribute to the growth of the Madrid System and achieve its wider dissemination in the business world, in addition to supporting users of the System in our Arab countries, reducing processing times for registration and designation applications, and addressing delays in the registration and publication of trademarks and associated rights, while also taking into account the opportunities available for more Arab countries to join the System, thereby making the Madrid System more effective and attractive to users.

29. [COLOMBIA](#): The Colombian Delegation thanks the Secretariat for preparing documents MM/A/60/1 and MM/A/60/2. Mr. Chair, the Working Group agreed at its 2025 session to recommend to the Assembly the adoption of amendments to Rules 3, 18, 25, and 27 of the Regulations under the Madrid Protocol, with entry into force scheduled for November 1, 2026. The Delegation welcomes these proposals insofar as they contribute to strengthening the modernization, traceability, and operational security of the Madrid System, particularly regarding electronic management and the standardization of procedures. In this respect, it considers the mandatory use of official forms for the cancellation of the appointment of representatives to be favorable, as this reinforces legal certainty and the clarity of recorded representations. It also considers the harmonization of Regulations related to the address of the opponent in opposition proceedings to be pertinent, as it eliminates internal inconsistencies in the Regulations and facilitates their compatibility with national legislation on the protection of personal data. Finally, the Delegation supports processing changes to the email addresses of account holders and their representatives as formal recordings with the International Bureau, preserving the

confidentiality of the information and strengthening the reliability of electronic communications within the System. The Delegation reaffirms its willingness to continue participating constructively in efforts to strengthen the Madrid System, always striving for a balance between modernization, legal certainty, and operational viability for the Offices and users of the System.

30. [ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN](#): The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to express its sincere appreciation to WIPO and to the Secretariat of the Madrid Union for their valuable efforts in preparing the proposed amendments to the Regulations under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement. These amendments represent an important step toward enhancing the efficiency, transparency and user friendliness of the Madrid System for both Member States and its users. Our Delegation is pleased to express its support for the proposed amendments to Rules 3, 18, 25 and 27 of the Regulations and would like to offer the following observations. First, with regard to the proposed amendment to Rule 3, requiring the use of an official form for requests concerning the cancellation of the appointment of a representative, our Delegation believes that this amendment will contribute to the standardization of administrative procedures, reduce inconsistencies arising from non-uniform requests and facilitate more efficient processing by the International Bureau. It will also enhance procedural consistency and improve the quality of services provided under the Madrid System. Second, concerning the proposed amendment to Rule 18, which removes the requirement to indicate the opponent's address in notifications of provisional refusal based on opposition, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers this to be essentially an editorial amendment reflecting the current practice of the International Bureau. It improves the clarity and consistency of the Regulations without imposing any additional administrative burden on users, national IP Offices or the International Bureau. Third, regarding the proposed amendment to Rule 25, explicitly recognizing changes to the email addresses of the holders or representatives as recordable changes, our Delegation considers this to be an important measure for further advancing the digitalization of the Madrid System and facilitating communication between users and the International Bureau. Likewise, clarifying that the payment information should be provided only where applicable will enhance legal certainty and reduce potential ambiguities in implementation. Finally, with respect to the proposed amendment to Rule 27, limiting notifications concerning changes to email addresses to the holder or, where appointed, to the representative, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that this amendment appropriately reinforces the principle of privacy protection, information security and the safeguarding of users' personal data within the Madrid System. Mr. Chair, in conclusion, the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the proposed amendments to the Regulations under the Madrid Protocol. We are of the view that these amendments will collectively enhance the efficiency, transparency, consistency of administrative procedures and further promote the digital transformation of the Madrid System. Accordingly, our Delegation supports their adoption and their entry into force on November 1, 2026.

31. [RUSSIAN FEDERATION](#): The Russian Delegation is compelled to begin its statement by exercising its right of reply. WIPO has never made a decision to expand the language regime based on political attitudes toward the states where a given language is used. Languages are included solely because they are used by applicants; languages do not belong to states. It is evident that English is not the language of the United Kingdom alone, French is not the language of France alone, and Spanish is not the language of Spain alone. The same is true of the Russian language, which is widely used far beyond the borders of the Russian Federation. It is one of the world's major languages, spoken and used by several hundred million people in numerous countries around the world. If political criteria begin to be applied when making decisions regarding the development of a language regime, it ceases to be a tool for ensuring access to the system and becomes an instrument for political influence. Such an approach is incompatible with WIPO's mandate. Users of the Madrid System should not bear the costs simply because certain Delegations artificially link the use of a particular language to political circumstances. The sole criterion for considering the inclusion of a new language should be its practical benefit to applicants, and with regard to the introduction of the Russian language, such a benefit is undeniable. Furthermore, we recall the principle of the applicant's free will, whereby

the applicant determines his or her own nationality and files an application with the relevant authorities. Moving on to the substance of the agenda item under consideration, the Delegation of the Russian Federation would like to express its gratitude to the DDG Wang Binying and the Secretariat for preparing and presenting the report on the twenty-third session of the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System, as well as the proposed amendments to the Regulations under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement. We associate ourselves with the statement made by CACEEC and reaffirm our commitment to the further development of the Madrid System as a universal international mechanism for the registration and administration of trademarks. In this regard, we support the steps being taken by the Secretariat to improve the functionality and convenience of the Madrid System and make it more attractive to applicants and users. We attach particular importance to the consistent development of a multilingual policy within the Madrid System. We believe that expanding its language regime to include, at a minimum, all official languages of the United Nations, including Russian, will help to enhance the system's accessibility, broaden its user base, and strengthen its universal character. For its part, the Delegation of the Russian Federation stands ready to continue providing the Secretariat with comprehensive assistance in introducing the Russian language into the Madrid System. Furthermore, we have no objection to the proposed amendments to the Regulations under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks. With regard to the ongoing discussion of the issue of the dependence of international registration on the basic mark, the Russian Federation has consistently advocated freezing the application of certain provisions of Article 6 of the Madrid Protocol. Of all the possible options considered, freezing is the only one that falls within the competence of the Madrid Union Assembly and does not require the convening of a diplomatic conference. At the same time, the lack of growth in the number of applications filed under the Madrid System is a cause for concern. We believe that this trend is caused, among other things, by the failure of certain states to fulfill their international obligations in good faith; in particular, there are illegitimate unilateral restrictive measures on the part of the European Union that discriminate against applicants on the basis of nationality. We look forward to continuing constructive discussions within the Working Group and to the ongoing improvement of the Madrid System for the benefit of all its users.

32. [UNITED STATES OF AMERICA](#): With respect to languages in the Madrid System, we have heard some references to multilingualism. However, this Delegation notes that multilingualism is not relevant to operational systems for which a subset of Member States are members. Additionally, it is unclear at this point whether the addition of languages to the Madrid System would improve or perhaps alternatively hurt the financial sustainability of the System. The health of the Madrid System remains an important consideration. Before the Madrid Working Group determines whether any languages should be added into the System, the Working Group must identify and agree upon objective criteria that will be used to make this determination. This Delegation notes that establishing objective criteria is essential, especially when weighed against any potential increased costs that would be incurred by expanding the current trilingual language regime of the Madrid System. There have to be established objective criteria and a systematic approach to making these decisions. And before any decisions regarding the potential addition of languages are to be made, there must be a detailed and transparent plan that identifies potential costs, funding sources, implementation steps, maintenance requirements, quality control measures and milestones for measuring progress and success which the Working Group must review and discuss.

33. [HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM \(HEP\)](#): Our statement focuses primarily on the Madrid System, as you mentioned earlier. We support strengthening the multilateral system and expanding its languages, as mentioned in the Working Group report. We recognize the need to modernize the platform to ensure that the system remains inclusive and contributes to the global competitiveness of businesses.

34. [CHAIR](#): I see no further requests for the floor on this part of the agenda item. So, I would like to thank all the Delegations for their contributions and their statements. The Assembly has taken due note thereof. Before concluding on this part, on behalf of the Chair, we would like to express our condolences to the family and the co-workers of Mr. Haroun Grami, Acting Director of the Trademarks Division of the Standard Setting and Industrial Property Institute of Tunisia, who was elected as Vice-Chair of the Madrid Working Group. To conclude on the point that we're considering, I propose the following decision paragraph which is contained in the document concerned. I will read it:

35. The Assembly of the Madrid Union 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/60/1).

36. [CHAIR](#): I see no objection. It is so decided.

Proposed Amendments to the Regulations Under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks

37. Discussions were based on document [MM/A/60/2](#).

38. [CHAIR](#): We go on to the second item on the agenda, document MM/A/60/2, "Proposed Amendments to the Regulations under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks." I invite Mr. Juan Rodríguez to briefly introduce this document as well.

39. [SECRETARIAT](#): Document MM/A/60/2 recommends the adoption of amendments to Rules 3, 18, 25, and 27 of the Regulations for entry into force on November 1, 2026. The amendments include requiring the use of an official form to cancel a representative's appointment, which would reduce processing times and minimize errors. The amendments would also explicitly include changes to email addresses of holders and representatives as recordable changes, with a consequential amendment specifying that notifications of these recordings be sent only to the holder or the representative, for privacy reasons. Additionally, the proposed amendments include two editorial changes, deleting the reference to the opponent's address in provisional refusal notifications which became obsolete in November 2023 and clarifying that fee payment information is required only where applicable as certain requests for recording do not require fees.

40. [CHAIR](#): I now give the floor to Delegations. Since several statements were made during the first round with regard to the questions that have just been presented, I would invite you to offer only additional comments or new statements. The floor is open. I see no new requests for the floor. I, therefore, propose that we move to conclusion with the decision paragraph that appears in the document concerned. I will read it:

41. The Madrid Union Assembly adopted the amendments to Rules 3, 18, 25 and 27 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/60/2, with November 1, 2026, as their date of entry into force.

42. [CHAIR](#): There is no objection. The decision is adopted.

[End of document]