

WIPO



WCT/A/1/2

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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

GENEVA

**WIPO COPYRIGHT TREATY
(WCT)**

ASSEMBLY

**First (1st Extraordinary) Session
Geneva, September 23 to October 1, 2002**

REPORT

adopted by the Assembly

1. The WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) Assembly was concerned with the following items on the Consolidated Agenda (document A/37/1 Prov.3): 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 15, 23, and 24.
2. The report on the said items, with the exception of item 15, is contained in the General Report (document A/37/14).
3. The report on item 15 is contained in the present document.
4. Mr. Valéry J. Kudashov (Belarus) was elected Chair of the WIPO Copyright Treaty Assembly; Mr. Víctor Manuel Guizar López (Mexico) and Mr. Michael Keplinger (United States of America) were elected Vice-Chairs.

ITEM 15 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA:

MATTERS CONCERNING THE WIPO COPYRIGHT TREATY (WCT)

5. Discussions were based on document WCT/A/1/1.
6. The Chair of the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) Assembly, referring to the provisions contained in the WCT and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT), which dealt in a similar way with identical questions and issues, proposed that the WCT Assembly and the WPPT Assembly conduct their inaugural sessions in a joint session. He then noted that both Assemblies accepted that proposal. The Chair recalled that the WCT had come into force on March 6, 2002. Important progress had been achieved, and many more countries were expected to ratify the treaty in the future.
7. The Secretariat indicated that the document WCT/A/1/1 dealt with three questions. The first one referred to the officers of the Assembly. Since the Assembly was meeting in extraordinary session in 2002, it was proposed that the officers would hold office for one year until the ordinary session in 2003, when elections for officers would again be held. The second question dealt with the rules of procedure for the Assembly. It was proposed to adopt the WIPO General Rules of Procedure with two exceptions that would, if approved, become Special Rules. The first exception dealt with the definition of "delegations" and the second with the voting to be exercised by delegations. The two Special Rules had been designed in order to ensure that intergovernmental organizations which were Contracting Parties of the WCT could participate and vote in the meetings of the Assembly. The third question related to the future work of the Assembly.
8. The Delegation of Belarus supported the adoption of the proposals made in the document, subject to some editorial corrections in the Russian version, namely the replacement of the references to WPPT with references to WCT in paragraph 11 of document WCT/A/1/1.
9. The Delegation of Mexico expressed its satisfaction that the first meeting of the WCT Assembly had taken place. It endorsed the proposed Rules of Procedure for the Assembly as well as the Special Rules allowing intergovernmental organizations which were contracting parties to participate and vote in the Assemblies. It also supported the proposal relating to the appointment of the officers.
10. The Delegation of Romania stated that its country had recognized the impact of the digital environment on copyright and related rights and had ratified the WCT. It endorsed the proposals contained in the document referred to.
11. The Delegation of Malaysia stated that its country had greatly benefited from close cooperation with WIPO. It looked forward to a closer working relationship in all areas of intellectual property in the future. The Delegation fully endorsed all WIPO activities and programs for a better intellectual property regime that benefited all countries irrespective of their economic status. With the advent of new technologies, copyrighted works were being made more readily available on the Internet, which had resulted in an increase of infringed works via the medium of Internet. In that respect, the Delegation congratulated WIPO for successfully bringing the WCT and WPPT into force. Finally, the Delegation referred to the

final preparatory work by its Government for the accession to these treaties at the soonest possible time. It expressed the hope that WIPO will extend its assistance in the implementation of these two treaties to Malaysia.

12. The Assembly of the WCT approved unanimously the proposals contained in paragraphs 4, 9, 13 and 16, as well as noted the information contained in paragraph 18 of document WCT/A/1/1.

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