

Advisory Committee on Enforcement

Eighteenth Session
Geneva, June 2 to 4, 2026

ADMISSION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AS AD HOC OBSERVERS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Annexes to this document concern five non-governmental organizations that have requested to be granted ad hoc observer status to the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE), according to the Rules of Procedure of the ACE (paragraphs 8-14 of document WO/GA/28/4).

2. *The ACE is invited to approve the representation in sessions of the Committee of the non-governmental organizations referred to in the Annexes to this document. [Annexes follow].*

AMERICAN APPAREL & FOOTWEAR ASSOCIATION (AAFA)

2. American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) is a tax-exempt non-profit association established on June 29, 1933 in Tennessee, United States of America. It is the national trade association representing apparel, footwear and other sewn product companies, and their suppliers.

3. AAFA's objectives include, among others:

- Producing meaningful programs and activities that will advance or improve business practices for its members;
- Safeguarding and advancing the interests of members by presenting the challenges and consensus of the apparel, footwear, accessories, and other sewn products industries to the media and to appropriate legislative, administrative, and regulatory bodies, and by developing a working relationship with appropriate government bodies; and
- Enhancing cooperation with other regional, national, and international organizations; government agencies.

4. The Association advocates for the protection of intellectual property (IP) rights; builds awareness of the dangers of counterfeits to businesses, consumers, workers, and the environment; and educates the industry on how to overcome shared challenges that cause lost sales and irreparable damage to brand reputation. It has advanced a series of policy recommendations aimed at curbing counterfeiting, promoting equitable digital trade, balance across best practices, and disrupting key elements of the Devalue Chain of Counterfeits.

5. The list of AAFA Board of Directors and Executive Committee Members follows:

- Mr. Joe Preston, Chair;
- Mr. Danilo Amoretty, Vice Chair;
- Mr. Christopher Volpe, Treasurer;
- Ms. Sally Gilligan, Secretary;
- Ms. Halide Alagöz, Past Chair;
- Mr. Peter Charles, Executive Committee;
- Ms. Sarah Clarke, Executive Committee;
- Mr. Allan Ellinger, Executive Committee;
- Ms. Katherine Gold, Executive Committee;
- Mr. David J. Katz, Executive Committee;
- Ms. Sarah McMullin, Executive Committee;
- Mr. Todd Soller, Executive Committee;
- Mr. Chris Alt, Director;
- Mr. Michael Barton, Director;
- Ms. Meera Bhatia, Director;
- Mr. Mark Burstein, Director;
- Mr. Shawn Curran, Director;

- Mr. Ted Dagnese, Director;
 - Ms. Abbey Doneger, Director;
 - Mr. Bill Ells, Director;
 - Mr. Oscar Feldenkreis, Director;
 - Mr. Mark Gitomer, Director;
 - Mr. Jeffrey David Goldfarb, Director;
 - Mr. Edward A. Gribbin, Director;
 - Mr. Rick Horwitch, Director;
 - Ms. Lydia Ke, Director;
 - Mr. Jason Kra, Director;
 - Mr. Alan Luchette, Director;
 - Mr. Luis Marquina, Director;
 - Mr. Gregg Meyer, Director;
 - Mr. David J. Miller, Director;
 - Ms. Allison Murphy, Director;
 - Ms. Melissa Nelson, Director;
 - Mr. Raj A. Palakshappa, Director;
 - Mr. Stuart Pond, Director;
 - Mr. David Savman, Director;
 - Mr. James Schwartz, Director;
 - Mr. Avedis Seferian , Director;
 - Mr. Josue Solano, Director;
 - Ms. Deborah Weinswig, Director;
 - Ms. Lisa Williams, Director; and.
 - Ms. Paula Zusi, Director
6. A full list of AAFA members is available at: <https://www.aafaglobal.org/AAFA/About/>
7. For further information, see: <https://www.aafaglobal.org>.

[Annex II follows]

ANTI COUNTERFEITING GROUP (THE)

8. Anti Counterfeiting Group (The) (ACG) was incorporated in the United Kingdom on January 31, 1986 and operates as a not-for-profit association based in High Wycombe, United Kingdom.

9. ACG's mandate is to address challenges relating to counterfeiting and IP enforcement through cooperation, information-sharing and policy engagement. Its activities include facilitating dialogue among stakeholders, contributing to the development of legislative and regulatory frameworks, and supporting measures aimed at preventing and reducing counterfeit activities.

10. The group has a diverse membership composed of companies engaged in manufacturing, distribution and retail, as well as legal practitioners and service providers specialized in IP protection.

11. The list of ACG Board of Directors follows:

- Mr. Philip Lewis, Director General;
- Mr. Paul Stephen Dicken, Chair;
- Ms. Nicola Consterdine, Vice Chair;
- Mr. Mark Robert Ruffels, Co-Vice Chair;
- Ms. Victoria Clair Louise Baxter, Director;
- Ms. Louise Mary Butler, Director;
- Ms. Rachel Louise Dews, Director;
- Mr. Darshak Kacha, Director;
- Mr. Giles Samuel Lane, Director;
- Ms. Danielle Prince, Director;
- Ms. Emma-Jane Tritton, Director; and
- Ms. Claire Etain Wood, Director.

12. A full list of ACG members is available at: <https://a-cg.org/membership/members>

13. For further information, see: <https://a-cg.org>

[Annex III follows]

ANTI COUNTERFEITING TRADE AFRICA & GREATER MAGHREB (ACTA-GM)

14. Anti Counterfeiting Trade Africa & Greater Maghreb (ACTA-GM) is an independent non-profit association established under French Law Number 1901.

15. ACTA-GM is dedicated to strengthening IP protection and combating counterfeiting, piracy, illicit trade and related infringements throughout Africa, the Greater Maghreb and the Mediterranean region. It works closely with public institutions, customs administrations, law enforcement authorities, judicial bodies, IP offices, right holders, international organizations and professional associations in order to promote effective cooperations, enforcement, coordination, awareness and capacity building in the field of intellectual property.

16. The Association carries actively develops and supports initiatives relating to:

- IP enforcement and anti counterfeiting strategies;
- Copyright and neighboring rights protection, including awareness related to digital piracy and audiovisual content;
- Capacity-building programs and technical training for customs, enforcement authorities and stakeholders;
- Consumer and youth awareness initiatives, notably through educational programs dedicated to promoting respect for IP rights; and
- Regional and international cooperation between institutional and private stakeholders involved in the protection of IP rights.

17. The list of ACTA-GM Executive Bureau Members follows:

- Ms. Nihel Bernard, President;
- Mr. Samy Yahiaoui, Treasurer; and
- Ms. Fatiha Benzemmouri, Secretary General.

18. For further information, see: <https://actagm.com/>

[Annex IV follows]

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN PUBLISHERS (AAP)

19. Association of American Publishers (AAP) was established in New York, United States of America, in July 1970 as a New York Not-For-Profit Corporation Law (“N-PCL”). AAP’s main objective is to represent the interests of its members on matters of law and policy in the United States and abroad, pursuant to the strategic direction set by the Board of Directors.

20. In particular, AAP represents its members on matters of law and policy, advocates for outcomes that incentivize the publication of creative expression, professional content, and learning solutions. Its portfolio of work includes litigation, legislation, regulatory proceedings; treaties, fair trade agreements, and other international instruments; and industry negotiations, programs, and information services.

21. As of January 2026, AAP represented 119 publishing member companies which comprise of the leading consumer, educational professional, and scholarly publishers in the United States.

22. The list of AAP Board of Directors follows:

- Mr. Tyrrell Mahoney, Chair;
- Mr. James Milne, Ph.D., Vice Chair;
- Mr. Youngsuk ‘YS’ Chi, Treasurer;
- Mr. Brian Murray, Immediate Past Chair;
- Ms. Maria A. Pallante, President and Chief Executive Officer;
- Ms. Tonya Agurto, Director;
- Ms. Corinne Burton, Director;
- Mr. Greg Greeley, Director;
- Ms. Christie Henry, Director;
- Mr. Nhaim Khoury, Director;
- Mr. Garrett P. Kiely, Director;
- Mr. Matthew Kissner, Director;
- Ms. Penny Ladkin-Brand, Director;
- Mr. Nihar Malaviya, Director;
- Ms. Sabrina McCarthy, Director;
- Ms. Kirsty Melville, Director;
- Mr. Michael Paull, Director;
- Ms. Julia Reidhead, Director;
- Mr. Greg Samios, Director;
- Mr. David Shelley, Director;
- Mr. Tom ap Simon, Director;
- Mr. Jasper Simons, Director;
- Mr. Blaise R. Simqu, Director;
- Mr. David Stafford, Director;

- Mr. Peter Warwick, Director; and
 - Mr. Jon Yaged, Director.
23. A full list of AAP members is available at: <https://publishers.org/who-we-are/our-members/>
24. For further information, see: <https://publishers.org/>

[Annex V follows]

UNION OF EUROPEAN PRACTITIONERS IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (UNION-IP)

25. Union of European Practitioners in Intellectual Property (UNION-IP) was established in Brussels, Belgium, on December 9, 1961 as an international non-profit association. UNION-IP's mandate to study problems relating to the protection of intellectual property (IP) and to the profession of the members of UNION-IP in the European field, to come to conclusions on these problems and to convey these conclusions to the authorities and other interested parties as recommendations or opinions or as drafts.

26. UNION-IP aims at working continuously on current developments in Intellectual Property (IP) in Europe, especially by making early submissions during the preparation of proposed laws and treaties with the intention of influencing them. Additionally, it devotes itself to the improvement of professional and personal understanding between European practitioners in the Intellectual Property field in different countries and different branches of the profession and is active in all fields of IP including enforcement, IP prosecution and litigation.

27. The association represents more than 300 members composed exclusively of natural persons whose principal professional occupation is in the field of patents, trademarks, designs, copyright, or related fields. Members practice either independently or as employees and must have their seat of professional activity within Europe. This diverse and cross-sectoral membership base positions UNION-IP as a privileged observatory in the IP sector.

28. The Executive Committee consisting of the delegates of the member Countries is the decision-making body while the Bureau handles the day-to-day administration of the association.

29. The list of UNION-IP Bureau Members follows:

- Mr. Reinier Wijnstra, President;
- Ms. Monia Baccarelli, Vice President;
- Mr. Laurent Overath, Secretary General;
- Ms. Catriona Smith, Rapporteur General;
- Mr. André Werner, Treasurer; and
- Mr. Fabian Edlund, Past President.

30. For further information, see: <https://union-ip.org/>

[End of Annex V and of Document]