

## **WIPO Coordination Committee**

### **Seventy-Eighth (51<sup>st</sup> Ordinary) Session Geneva, September 21 to 25, 2020**

#### **EXCEPTIONAL RE-APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY DIRECTORS GENERAL AND ASSISTANT DIRECTORS GENERAL**

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. Article 9(7) of the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) provides that the Director General shall appoint the Deputy Directors General after approval by the WIPO Coordination Committee. Regulation 4.8 of the WIPO Staff Regulations and Rules also provides that the Director General shall appoint the Assistant Directors General taking into account the advice of the WIPO Coordination Committee.
2. On May 8, 2020, the WIPO General Assembly and the Assemblies of the Paris and Berne Unions unanimously decided to appoint Mr. Daren Tang as the Director General of WIPO for the period of October 1, 2020 to September 31, 2026 (see documents A/60/C.N 3993 and A/60/3, paragraph 10).
3. On August 3, 2020, the Director General-Elect issued Note C. N 4025 inviting governments of WIPO Member States to nominate its nationals as candidates for the posts of Deputy Directors General (DDGs) and Assistant Directors General (ADGs) of WIPO by September 21, 2020. The Director General-Elect further expressed that he intended to seek the approval of the WIPO Coordination Committee for the new appointments to take effect on January 1, 2021.
4. It is recalled that in the context of the election of the Director General in 2014, the WIPO Coordination Committee approved a change to the terms of office of the DDGs and the ADGs so as to coincide with the mandate of the Director General. Consequently, the terms of the

outgoing DDGs and ADGs will expire on September 30, 2020.<sup>1</sup> The outgoing Deputy Directors General and Assistant Directors General are:

- Mr. Mario Matus (Chile), Deputy Director General, Development Sector;
- Mr. John Sandage (United States of America), Deputy Director General, Patents and Technology Sector;
- Ms. Wang Binying (China), Deputy Director General, Brands and Designs Sector;
- Ms. Sylvie Forbin (France), Deputy Director General, Copyright and Creative Industries Sector;
- Mr. Minelik Getahun (Ethiopia), Assistant Director General, Global Issues Sector;
- Mr. Ramanathan Ambi Sundaram (Sri Lanka), Assistant Director General, Administration and Management Sector;
- Mr. Yoshiyuki Takagi (Japan), Assistant Director General, Global Infrastructure Sector; and
- Mr. Naresh Prasad, Assistant Director General and Chief of Staff.

5. It is further recalled that, in light of the change to their terms of office, “and to ensure sufficient time to complete the entire appointment process concerning the DDGs and ADGs (including the time necessary for vacancy announcements, internal and potentially external evaluation of candidates, and an additional extraordinary session of the WIPO Coordination Committee for approval of DDG candidates and advice on the appointment of ADG candidates) prior to their start on October 1, 2020”<sup>2</sup>, the WIPO General Assembly, the WIPO Coordination Committee and the Paris and Berne Union Assemblies, each in so far as it was concerned, approved the 2019 “Procedures for the Nomination and Appointment of Directors General of WIPO” (2019 Procedures) to ensure, *inter alia*, “that the Director General could propose the appointment of DDGs and ADGs in a timely manner so as to facilitate the transition from one Senior Management Team (SMT) to the next.”<sup>3</sup> Notwithstanding the approval of the 2019 Procedures, which were intended, in relevant part, to have provided sufficient time for the Director General-Elect to undertake the process of consultation and nomination of an SMT so that it would be in place for the commencement of his mandate<sup>4</sup>, the exceptional public health situation, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, created an unanticipated and unprecedented challenge to the process of the selection of the new Deputy and Assistant Directors General. Therefore, and as noted in C. N 4025, the deadline for nominations of candidates for the posts of DDG and ADG is September 21, 2020, following which consultations will be undertaken regarding the nominations so that the proposals of candidates for appointment to these posts may be presented to the WIPO Coordination Committee at a forthcoming extraordinary session, with appointments to begin on January 1, 2021.

6. Consequently, the present document seeks the approval of the WIPO Coordination Committee for an exceptional short-term re-appointment of the outgoing DDGs and ADGs, so as to allow them to assist the Director General-Elect in managing the transition until the new DDGs and ADGs take up their appointments.

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<sup>1</sup> See documents WO/CC/70/2, paragraph 20, and WO/CC/70/5, paragraph 39.

<sup>2</sup> See document A/59/4, paragraph 7.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, paragraph 8. It is recalled that references to Senior Management Team (SMT) in this document include only the Deputy Directors General and Assistant Directors General.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, paragraph 9.

### Proposed Re-Appointments

7. The Director General-Elect proposes the exceptional re-appointment of the following Deputy Directors General and Assistant Directors General for three months:

- (i) Mr. Mario Matus (Chile), Deputy Director General, Development Sector;
- (ii) Mr. John Sandage (United States of America), Deputy Director General, Patents and Technology Sector;
- (iii) Ms. Wang Binying (China), Deputy Director General, Brands and Designs Sector;
- (iv) Ms. Sylvie Forbin (France), Deputy Director General, Copyright and Creative Industries Sector;
- (v) Mr. Minelik Getahun (Ethiopia), Assistant Director General, Global Issues Sector;
- (vi) Mr. Yoshiyuki Takagi (Japan), Assistant Director General, Global Infrastructure Sector; and
- (vii) Mr. Naresh Prasad (India), Assistant Director General, Chief of Staff and responsible for the support of the Director General's management; meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States; the Chief Ethics Officer; and WIPO's External Offices.

8. The relevant curricula vitae of these seven DDGs and ADGs are set out in the Annexes to documents WO/CC/70/2 and WO/CC/72/2.

9. The functions related to the post of Assistant Director General, Administration and Management Sector, are proposed to be carried out, until December 31, 2020, either by a designated staff member or by an existing DDG or ADG.

### Term of Office

10. As noted in paragraphs 6 and 7 above, the Director General-Elect proposes an exceptional re-appointment for three months of seven of the current DDGs and ADGs to assist the Director General-Elect in managing the transition until the new DDGs and ADGs are appointed. The terms of office of these seven Deputy Directors General and Assistant Directors General will therefore end on December 31, 2020.

11. *The WIPO Coordination Committee is invited to approve the exceptional re-appointments as Deputy Directors General of Mr. Mario Matus, Mr. John Sandage, Ms. Wang Binying and Ms. Sylvie Forbin for the period indicated in paragraph 10, above.*

12. *The WIPO Coordination Committee is invited to give its advice on the exceptional re-appointments as Assistant Directors General of Mr. Minelik Getahun, Mr. Yoshiyuki Takagi, and Mr. Naresh Prasad for the period indicated in paragraph 10, above.*

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