

WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

WIPO CONFERENCE

Seventeenth (14th Ordinary) Session Geneva, September 20 to 29, 1999

REPORT

adopted by the Conference

1. The Conference was concerned with the following items of the Consolidated Agenda (document A/34/1 Prov.3): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 18, 24, 26, 28 and 29.
2. The report on the said items, with the exception of item 18, is contained in the General Report (document A/34/16).
3. The report on item 18 is contained in the present document.
4. Mr. José Graça Aranha (Brazil) was elected Chair of the Conference; Mr. Valery Kudashov (Belarus) and Mr. Karl Flittner (Germany) were elected Vice-Chairs.

ITEM 18 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA:

REPORT OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT RELATED TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (PCIPD)

5. Discussions were based on document WO/CF/17/1.

6. All the delegations, which took the floor on this item, congratulated the Chair on his election, and commended the report of the Permanent Committee.
7. Many delegations expressed their gratitude for the assistance received from WIPO thus far, and expressed the wish that the assistance should continue and expand in the future.
8. The Delegation of Paraguay, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, expressed its interest in the work of the WIPO Worldwide Academy (WWA) and activities undertaken by the Secretariat on the promotion of invention and creativity, indigenous knowledge and electronic commerce. The delegation commended WIPO on its development cooperation activities and emphasized that development cooperation was a fundamental aspect of WIPO's work.
9. The Delegation of the United States of America applauded the efforts of the Permanent Committee and recognized the initiative to promote innovation and creativity in developing countries and the parallel WIPO/WTO Joint Initiative. The delegation stated that its government was committed to a wide ranging development cooperation program, particularly in support of the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement. During the past year, several of its governmental agencies had worked together to assist developing countries to build and strengthen their systems for intellectual property protection. Its government attached high priority to assistance to developing countries and countries in transition in their efforts to advance intellectual property rights protection.
10. The Delegation of Angola expressed the importance it attached to the WWA's distance learning project in disseminating knowledge on intellectual property matters throughout its country, particularly in relation to the TRIPS Agreement, traditional knowledge and electronic commerce. The delegation also expressed its hope that training materials and software could be made available in Portuguese, as this would be to the benefit of all Portuguese-speaking countries.
11. The Delegation of Argentina expressed its gratitude to WIPO for the development cooperation activities carried out in its country. The delegation also noted that, this year, many important meetings were held in its country, with the participation of WIPO experts in various events organized jointly with the national authorities. WIPO had also financed the participation of national officials in various training courses and seminars. In terms of cooperation needs, the national industrial property institute had identified the following, namely, financing and organizing training courses and seminars for legislators and judges with the participation of WIPO experts; increasing expert missions for discussing matters related to pharmaceuticals, the food industry, agriculture, etc.; increasing the availability of WIPO publications in its library; and last, but not least, financing the participation of technical officials in WIPO's committee and expert meetings.
12. The Delegation of India expressed its gratitude to WIPO for its continued support in strengthening its national regime for intellectual property protection. This included programs for modernizing the administration of intellectual property rights and creating awareness on critical intellectual property issues. The delegation also suggested that the WWA hold regular training sessions in India to assist in the dissemination of knowledge and awareness in the field of intellectual property. The delegation also welcomed WIPO's assistance in the creation of a national inventors' association which would assist in promoting innovative activity and awareness of intellectual property issues.

13. The Delegation of Cuba supported the activities proposed for development cooperation. The delegation also commended WIPO for the legislative assistance provided to developing countries, and suggested, bearing in mind that the majority of developing countries would have to implement the TRIPS Agreement either fully or in part as from January 1, 2000, that the International Bureau might consider the introduction of support machinery for the examination of legislation relating to the WTO.
14. The Delegation of the Dominican Republic expressed its appreciation of efforts made by WIPO in strengthening its development cooperation activities; in particular, the delegation noted that the International Bureau had met all its country's requests for technical assistance, particularly in relation to the strengthening of the national intellectual property office and the training of technical staff. The delegation also stressed the need to increase the financing of national experts to participate in the meetings of the various WIPO committees, in order to enhance their involvement in the decision-making process in these committees.
15. The Delegation of Mexico was pleased with the inclusion of a module entitled "Introduction to Intellectual Property" in the curriculum of the WWA. The delegation also stated that, since distance should cease to be an obstacle to learning, as stated by the Director General, the Mexican Institute for Industrial Property (IMPI) had recently launched a satellite distance learning diploma. The program, in which WIPO officials have participated, would begin next week with the involvement of an estimated 2,800 pupils in 80 universities and institutes of higher learning, including several situated in various countries in Central America. In this regard, the delegation suggested that in addition to distance learning programs on the internet, similar satellite learning programs could also be introduced by the WWA at postgraduate level.
16. The Delegation of France stressed the importance of the high-level quality of cooperation activities that took place during the previous year. In this context, the delegation mentioned the cooperation between WIPO and WTO and referred to the high quality of work undertaken by the two Organizations. France, it stated, is closely working with all development cooperation activities *vis-à-vis* the developing countries not only because of its existing Trust Fund in WIPO but also through participation in the development of human resources in different developing countries. In cooperation with the French National School for Judges and the WWA, a seminar will be organized for judges from developing countries that have the Civil Law system, in the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement. The seminar is scheduled to take place in Paris next February. The second type of activity that is being pursued in the interest of developing countries is a pilot project for the training of individuals to facilitate access to databases through the use of modern information systems. This initiative is undertaken in cooperation with two other French-speaking offices, which can prepare information that can be translated into other languages and be accessible to other countries. The delegation encouraged WIPO to continue to cooperate and work very closely with the French Government.
17. The Delegation of Portugal indicated that it has been closely involved in cooperation for development activities within WIPO. Portugal would continue to be associated with such activities, in particular, with Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa. Portugal is open and very interested in upgrading the scope of its cooperation and requests WIPO to increase cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa.
18. The Delegation of Colombia acknowledged the efforts undertaken by the Secretariat to focus its work on cooperation for development and the training of experts and professionals in

developing countries. Colombia had received technical assistance for the national industrial property and copyright offices. For this reason, the delegation called upon WIPO to pursue the efforts of the WWA program and the development of human resources, as they constitute a major support for those countries that are preparing to implement the TRIPS Agreement. Through the WIPO cooperation for development program, Colombia has modernized its system by the establishment of a specialized intellectual property legal branch.

19. The Delegation of Brazil congratulated WIPO for the activities which it had carried out in cooperation with developing countries in this important period of the history of intellectual property. Brazil would like to reinforce its cooperation with developing countries and through its National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI); Brazil is ready to join WIPO's efforts in this area by giving support to other developing countries in several areas including the promotion of innovation.

20. The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago stressed the importance of some of the new directions that have been added to the cooperation for development program and particularly the use of intellectual property as a development tool as countries move from the stage where they have a limited number of people with awareness of intellectual property towards a stage where the masses of the people understand that the system is there for them to use and that each of them, as creative individuals, should find a way to express that creativity and use it fully to the advantage of all.

21. The Delegation of Egypt expressed its appreciation for the tangible assistance received from WIPO for the advancement of intellectual property in its country. In this context, the delegation mentioned the training of Egyptian experts in the WWA, and the seminar organized by WIPO in March of 1999 in Egypt. The delegation stated that the training of judges, customs, law enforcement officials, and the staff of the intellectual property office was a priority for Egypt, and that WIPO's assistance would be needed in that respect. The delegation was confident that the assistance available from WIPO would include all Arab and developing countries as well as the Least Developed Countries. Major developments were occurring in intellectual property in Egypt. As a result of the growing number of trademark and industrial design applications, a computerized databank has been established with the assistance of sister countries. The delegation hoped that WIPO would make a special contribution to the endeavor to establish trademark and industrial design registration offices in different parts of the country. A large amount of money has been set aside for this project.

22. The Delegation of Costa Rica underlined the importance that its Government attached to the role of an effective intellectual property system in promoting inventive activity. In this context, the delegation expressed its gratitude to WIPO for the assistance received, in particular for the initiatives taken in terms of training women in intellectual property issues. As pointed out by its Vice Minister during the meeting of Permanent Committee on Intellectual Property, Costa Rica attaches special importance to the technical training of officials and lawyers in the field of intellectual property.

23. The Delegation of Sweden commended WIPO on its ongoing efforts and new initiatives, particularly in relation to human resource development, collective management of copyright and related rights, and the intellectual property implications of electronic commerce. The delegation recalled that cooperation between Sweden and WIPO in the area of cooperation for development activities had existed over the last 15 years covering both industrial property and copyright. On the basis of Sweden's experience in intellectual property courses organized jointly with WIPO in Stockholm, the delegation identified the

following very important issues: the promotion of collective administration of copyright; the digital agenda and its importance for developing countries; and the role of the WWA and the importance of higher learning in the field of intellectual property. In this context, the delegation enquired whether and to what extent there was interaction between WIPO and the International Association for the Advancement of Teaching and Research in Intellectual Property (ATRIP).

24. In response to the question posed by the delegation of Sweden, the Secretariat recalled that at the ATRIP meeting in Geneva, in July 1999, the WWA provided the logistical support needed and the meeting identified a number of agenda items for cooperation between the WWA and ATRIP.

25. The Delegation of the Republic of Uganda expressed its full support for WIPO's cooperation for development program. It also thanked the Director General of WIPO, together with his team at the International Bureau for the dynamism with which they have executed this program, especially during 1999. The delegation wished to pay special tribute to the Africa Bureau, which has been ever willing to give technical assistance whenever requested. The delegation reported that the WIPO introductory course on TRIPS held in Uganda in August 1999 was very highly appreciated and noted, with appreciation, that WIPO has always taken on board the recommendations made during seminars, symposia etc., especially in relation to the need for wider sensitization of various stakeholders in the field. The delegation wished to recommend that the momentum be maintained, and assured the Director General of Uganda's full support for this and other programs.

26. The Delegation of Ghana stressed the great importance it attaches to WIPO's work and was particularly appreciative of the program for development cooperation. The delegation commended the Secretariat for the excellent implementation of the program. It was pleased to add that Ghana has benefited, and continues to benefit, immensely from the program, particularly in terms of legislative and technical assistance, and in the area of human resource development. WIPO had organized numerous advisory missions to Ghana, on various subjects, but particularly in the area of legislative drafting. The delegation also expressed its keen interest in WIPO's work on traditional knowledge, electronic commerce, promoting innovation and creativity, folklore, the WIPONET and the Global Information Network. The delegation further expressed its gratitude to the Secretariat for including Ghana in the pilot project for distance learning. In its view, the program held tremendous potential in fostering capacity building in the area of intellectual property. In concluding, the delegation emphasized that WIPO would continue to play a leading role in supporting the efforts of its member States in creating the necessary conditions for encouraging creative and innovative activity. In its view, sustainable national development cannot be achieved without the promotion of creativity and innovation in which the vital role played by intellectual property cannot be over-emphasized.

27. The Delegation of Paraguay congratulated the Chair and officers, and expressed confidence that the work of the conference would be successfully completed. It commended the Director General of WIPO and the staff of the International Bureau for the work done on the preparation of the current meeting, and also for the quality of the working documents submitted. It thanked WIPO for the assistance received, and expressed its wish that the same assistance might continue and indeed be increased in the future, emphasizing the importance of the development cooperation activities having been directed also towards the training of the human resources of new groups such as judges, customs and police officials, members of parliament and teachers. The delegation added that the main objectives of development

cooperation should continue to be the training of human resources, the strengthening of institutions, legal assistance and public awareness of the advantages offered by intellectual property as a factor of economic, technological and cultural development. The delegation also highlighted the new vision that the International Bureau had given to the WIPO Worldwide Academy, and hoped that future projects, such as distance learning, would be designed with the requirements and resources of developing countries in mind. The delegation pointed to the particular importance that the Government of Paraguay attached to the promotion of innovation and creativity, and said that greater development would be achieved in that field if the work were done jointly by the Government, the universities, research centers and WIPO. It also emphasized the importance that its Government attached to the protection of traditional knowledge, and expressed its interest in WIPO increasing its efforts in that direction. The delegation noted the revolution that electronic commerce had brought about in international legislative activity, and congratulated WIPO on the progress achieved in the consultations and preparatory work done from September 1999 onwards, pointing in particular to the recent Conference on Electronic Commerce and the ambitious program presented in the program and budget for the 2000-2001 biennium. It suggested that WIPO should explore the possibility of working with the WTO on the development of protection for electronic commerce. The delegation ended with an expression of its commitment to work towards the achievement of the objectives pursued by WIPO in accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by its Member States.

28. The Conference took note of the suggestions and proposals made by all delegations.

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