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COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (CDIP): PROPOSAL TO CONVENE A DONOR CONFERENCE

document prepared by the Secretariat

1. Following consideration of recommendation two of the WIPO Development Agenda, the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) requested the Secretariat to submit to the WIPO General Assembly a detailed proposal concerning a possible WIPO donor conference (see the “Summary by the Chair”, Annex II, pages 1 and 2, of the Second Session of the CDIP). The proposal submitted in the present document provides the objectives and costs for a proposed donor conference and proposes a consultation process to determine the detailed program and timing for the convening of a conference.

A. *Objectives of the proposed Donor Conference*

2. The objectives of the proposed donor conference would be:

(i) To mobilize additional resources to WIPO through donor funding, by encouraging the establishment of trust funds or other voluntary funds within WIPO specifically for LDCs, while continuing to accord high priority to finance activities in Africa, to promote, inter alia, the legal, commercial, cultural and economic exploitation of intellectual property in these countries;

(ii) To strengthen and improve the mobilization, coordination and management of extra budgetary resources at WIPO through an exchange of ideas and best practices which may be applicable to WIPO.

B. Format and Consultation Process for the proposed Donor Conference

3. The initial outline of a proposed donor conference (see document CDIP/2/INF/2, paragraphs 39 to 42), envisaged a two-day conference. The general view of the CDIP was that if the convening of such a conference were to be approved, that it be inclusive and open to the participation of all WIPO Member States and that it should take place in Geneva. The view was also expressed that such a conference should focus primarily on the mobilization of new resources, in line with recommendation 2 of the Development Agenda, and that the conference should provide an opportunity for a more general exchange of views on resource mobilization.

4. The achievement of the objectives of the proposed donor conference depends upon the level of participation from the bilateral and multilateral donor community (in particular, donor institutions) and their readiness to support the conference objectives. The success of the conference would also depend upon a clear understanding of the expectations of potential beneficiary countries in terms of the conference's outcomes. The Secretariat would therefore propose that, if the General Assembly approves the convening of a donor conference, the Secretariat first conduct a consultation process aimed at gauging the level of current support from the donor community, as well as the views of potential beneficiaries, and based on that feedback, determine the appropriate timing for scheduling the conference, so that it successfully meets the needs of all stakeholders.

5. It is proposed that an initial phase of consultations be conducted through the relevant Permanent Missions and Representations in Geneva with a second phase of follow-up consultations in capitals and with the relevant multilateral donor institutions, as necessary. If the General Assembly approves the convening of a donor conference, this initial phase of consultation could be conducted between October and December 2008 with no additional budgetary resources required at this stage. The second phase of consultations and the hosting of a donor conference would be initiated as soon as the requisite resources are made available, through WIPO's regular program and budgetary processes. The cost of this second phase of consultations was estimated at Swiss francs 50,000 (document "Summary by the Chair", Annex II, page 1, of the Second Session of the CDIP). The issue of costs is addressed in paragraph 6 below. If these resources were made available by then, the second phase of consultations could take place between January to April 2009. Subject to a satisfactory outcome of the consultations in time, a donor conference would be scheduled to take place in the second half of 2009. The consultations would also help to inform the development of the program for the Conference.

C. Estimated Cost and Proposed Source of Financing for the Donor Conference

6. The total cost of the donor conference is estimated at Swiss francs 140,000. This total comprises the travel, daily subsistence allowances and additional travel expenses for the participation of 26 delegates (equitable regional representation will be achieved following usual WIPO practices in this respect) amounting to an estimated cost of Swiss francs 116,000.00 and the cost of interpretation and related conference services which is estimated at

Swiss francs 24,000. The cost of the consultation process outlined in paragraph 5 above is estimated at Swiss francs 50,000. Based on standard costings, this would permit eight missions to various regions. In view of the estimated cost of this activity, it is proposed that the cost of the Donor Conference be met by making the necessary adjustments to the revised program and budget for 2009.

7. The General Assembly of WIPO is invited to take note of the information contained in the present document and approve the convening of a donor conference, in 2009, as laid out in paragraphs 4 and 5, to be funded as per paragraph 6 above.

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