

WIPO General Assembly

Forty-Ninth (23rd Ordinary) Session
Geneva, October 2 to 11, 2017

PROPOSAL OF THE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC GROUP ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Proposal submitted by the Asia and the Pacific Group

In a communication to the Secretariat received on October 4, 2017, the Delegation of Indonesia, on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, submitted the enclosed proposal in the framework of Agenda Item 9, "Composition of the Program and Budget Committee".

[Annex follows]

Submission of the Asia and the Pacific Group (the APG)

Agenda Item 9 - Composition of the Program and Budget Committee (PBC)

1. The APG noted the Legal Counsel's office explanation, during a consultation with the APG, that there were no rules governing the overall composition or election of the PBC, and that while the PBC had grown in size from 33 to 53 Members over time, there was no legal basis for the determination of the number of PBC seats, nor the allocation to each regional group. The current allocation is not fairly proportioned and representative of the relative size of regional groups in WIPO.
2. With regard to the above, the APG is inclined to invite Regional Groups and Member States to further discuss the following:
 - a) The PBC should be open to the full participation of all interested WIPO Members. The decisions made by the PBC – a key WIPO governing body - are directly relevant to all Members. All Members who wish to be involved should therefore be able to contribute in full, as neither WIPO's Rules of Procedure nor existing guidelines provide a legal basis for the current limitation on neither the number of seats in the PBC, nor the allocation of seats to each regional group.
 - b) Noting, however, that Members may need more time to consider the above, the APG proposes the following for the 2018/19 biennium:
 - i. The APG recalls the precedent for the expansion of the PBC in 2003 and 2007. We note that when the PBC had last expanded from 41 to 53 Members in 2007, each regional group (except China) was allocated two extra seats. In 2003, the APG and the African Group were allocated one more seat than other regional groups to reflect the size of the two groupings.
 - ii. As it has been 10 years since the regional group allocations at the PBC was last considered, the APG is of the view that an expansion of the PBC Membership in line with current realities is a timely step to take. Since the number of Members in certain regional groupings in WIPO has grown, the number of seats allocated to each group should also be adjusted proportionately based on equal representation principle.
 - iii. The allocation of seats in the PBC from the 2018/19 biennium should accurately reflect the WIPO Membership and relative sizes of WIPO Regional Groups, and in doing so address the imbalance in the current allocation.

COCO	Group B	Africa	CACEEC	CEBS	GRULAC	APG	China	
Total Members in group	32	53	9	19	33	44	1	191
Allocated seats for COCO	23	19	4	6	15	15	1	87
Percentage of seats within group	0.71875	0.358491	0.44444 4	0.315789	0.454545	0.340909	1	-
Group proportion of WIPO Membership	0.167539267	0.277487	0.04712	0.099476	0.172775	0.230366	0.005236	-
Number of seats if according to proportion of WIPO Membership	14.58	24.14	4.10	8.65	15.03	20.04	0.46	-
Differential	-8.42	5.14	0.10	2.65	0.03	5.04	-0.54	-
PBC	Group B	Africa	CACEEC	CEBS	GRULAC	APG	China	
Total Members in group	32	53	9	19	33	44	1	191
Allocated seats for PBC	12	10	5	7	9	9	1	53
Percentage of seats within group	0.375	0.188679	0.55555 6	0.368421	0.272727	0.204545	1	-
Group proportion of WIPO Membership	0.167539267	0.277487	0.04712	0.099476	0.172775	0.230366	0.005236	-
Number of seats if according to proportion of WIPO Membership	8.879581152	14.70681	2.49738 2	5.272251	9.157068	12.20942	0.277487	-
Differential	-3.120418848	4.706806	-2.50262	-1.72775	0.157068	3.209424	-0.72251	-