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WIPO General Assembly

**Fifty-First (24th Ordinary) Session
Geneva, September 30 to October 9, 2019**

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

submitted by the Asia and the Pacific Group

In a communication to the Secretariat received on September 19, 2019, the Delegation of Singapore, on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group, submitted the enclosed proposal in the framework of Agenda Item 10 "Composition of the Program and Budget Committee".

[Annex follows]

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

Agenda Item 10 - Composition of the Program and Budget Committee (PBC)

1. The APG notes the office of the Legal Counsel's explanation, during a consultation with the APG, that there were no rules governing the overall composition or election of the PBC, and while the PBC had grown in size from 33 to 53 Members, there was no legal basis for the determination of the total number of PBC seats, nor the allocation of seats to each regional group. The APG further notes that the current allocation of seats in the PBC is not fairly proportioned and representative of the relative size of regional groups in WIPO.
2. The APG therefore invites Regional Groups and Member States to 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:
 - i. The APG recalls the precedent for the expansion of the PBC in 2003 and 2007. We note that when the PBC 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 more than 10 years since the regional group allocations in 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 the equal representation principle, while reaffirming that every regional group should be represented in the PBC and the Coordination Committee.
 - iii. The allocation of seats in the PBC from the 2020/2021 biennium should thus accurately reflect the WIPO Membership and relative sizes of WIPO Regional Groups, and in doing so address the imbalance in the current allocation.

Allocation of Seats in the PBC among Regional Groups for Biennium 2018-2019¹

S/No	Item	Group B	Africa	CACEEC	CEBS	GRULAC	APG	China	Total
1.	Total Members in group	32	53	10	18	33	45	1	192
2.	Current allocated seats for PBC	12	10	5	7	9	9	1	53
3.	Percentage of the group Members represented in the PBC ²	37.50%	18.87%	50.00%	38.89%	27.27%	20.00%	NA	-
4.	Group percentage of WIPO Membership ³	16.67%	27.60%	5.21%	9.38%	17.19%	23.44%	NA	100%
5.	Group percentage of PBC Membership ⁴	22.64%	18.87%	9.43%	13.21%	16.98%	16.98%	NA	100%
6.	Number of PBC seats if according to proportion of WIPO Membership based on 53 seats ⁵	8.83	14.63	2.76	4.97	9.11	12.42	NA	53
7.	Differential (between Row 6 and Row 2)⁶	<u>-3.17</u>	<u>4.63</u>	<u>-2.24</u>	<u>-2.03</u>	<u>0.11</u>	<u>3.42</u>	NA	-

¹ This Annex is based on the table contained in document WO/GA/50/14 dated 21 September 2018 and has been updated for clarity.

² Based on: (number of current allocated seats for group in the PBC)/(total number of Members in group) x 100%

³ Based on: (number of Members in group)/(total number of WIPO Members) x 100%

⁴ Based on: (number of current allocated seats for group in the PBC)/(total number of seats in the PBC) x 100%

⁵ Based on: (group percentage of WIPO Membership) x (total number of seats in the PBC)

⁶ Based on: (number of PBC seats if according to proportion of WIPO Membership based on 53 seats) - (current allocated seats for PBC). A negative number means a regional group is overrepresented by that amount of seats on the PBC.

[End of Annex and of document]