

## **WIPO General Assembly**

**Fifty-Sixth (26<sup>th</sup> Ordinary) Session**  
**Geneva, July 6 to 14, 2023**

### **REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF TRADEMARKS, INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (SCT)**

*prepared by the Secretariat*

1. During the period under consideration, the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) held its forty-sixth session (November 21 to 23, 2022). The session was chaired by Mr. Simion Levitchi (Republic of Moldova) and held in hybrid mode. One hundred and twenty seven delegations attended the session. The Summary by the Acting Chair of the forty-sixth session is published as document SCT/46/8 and is available at:  
[https://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/sct/en/sct\\_46/sct\\_46\\_8.pdf](https://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/sct/en/sct_46/sct_46_8.pdf).

2. The SCT elected, for the forthcoming special session of the SCT Mr. Sergio Chuez Salazar (Peru) as Chair and Ms. Marie Béatrice Nanga Nguele (Cameroon) and Mr. Simion Levitchi (Republic of Moldova) as Vice-Chairs.

#### **TRADEMARKS**

3. The SCT considered a Joint Proposal Concerning the Protection of Country Names and Geographical Names of National Significance (document SCT/43/6 Rev.), presented by the Delegations of Georgia, Iceland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Peru, Senegal, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates. The Acting Chair concluded that the SCT would continue the discussion on a revised version of that proposal at its next regular session.

4. The SCT considered a Revised Proposal by the Delegation of Jamaica for a Joint Recommendation Concerning Provisions on the Protection of Country Names (document SCT/43/9) and concluded that it would continue the discussion on a revised version of document SCT/43/9 at its next regular session.
5. Furthermore, the SCT considered another joint proposal by the Delegations of Brazil, Georgia, Iceland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Peru, Senegal, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates, namely the Joint Proposal Concerning the Protection of Country Names and Geographical Names of National Significance in the Domain Name System (DNS) (document SCT/41/6 Rev.). The Acting Chair concluded that the SCT would maintain document SCT/41/6 Rev. on the agenda of the SCT and re-open the discussion thereof upon new developments.
6. In addition, the SCT considered document SCT/43/8 Rev.3, which contained additional and updated replies to the Questionnaire on Nation-Brand Protection in Member States. By way of background, the Questionnaire, proposed by the Delegations of Ecuador and Peru at the forty-second session of the SCT, was launched online in 2020. The Secretariat compiled all the returns into a document, presented to the SCT for consideration at its forty-third session (document SCT/43/8). The Questionnaire was re-opened for additional and updated replies, following the forty-third and forty-fourth sessions of the SCT. Document SCT/43/8 Rev.3, presented at the forty-fifth session of the SCT, reflected the overall number of replies received from Member States until September 30, 2022, *i.e.*, 72 replies. Having considered this document, the SCT agreed to re-open the Questionnaire once more, for further replies by May 3, 2023, and to update document SCT/43/8 Rev.3 accordingly.
7. The SCT also considered a Revised Proposal by the Delegations of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru Concerning Topics for an Information Session on the Protection of Nation Brands (document SCT/45/6 Rev.3) and agreed to hold an Information Session on Nation Brands in conjunction with the forty-seventh session of the SCT. The program for the Information Session would comprise the following topics: Importance of nation brands in the design of public policies and strategies; Impact of nation brands on socioeconomic development; Experiences on nation brand protection; and, Current nation brand protection mechanisms.
8. Finally, the SCT considered document SCT/46/3 presenting updates on trademark-related aspects of the Domain Name System (DNS) and requested the Secretariat to keep members informed of future developments in the DNS.

#### INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS

9. The SCT considered an Updated Proposal by the Delegations of Canada, Israel, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the European Union and its Member States for a Joint Recommendation Concerning Industrial Design Protection for Designs for Graphical User Interfaces (document SCT/44/6 Rev.4) as well as a Proposal by the African Group for a Study on the Impact of Design Protection for Graphical User Interface (GUI) Designs on Innovation (document SCT/46/5). The Acting Chair concluded that the SCT would continue the discussion on both proposals at the next regular session of the SCT.

#### GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS

10. The SCT considered proposals for topics for an Information Session on Geographical Indications by the Delegations of the United States of America (document SCT/46/6), the Delegations of Colombia and Mexico (document SCT/46/7) and the Delegation of the European Union and agreed to hold an Information Session on Geographical Indications in conjunction

with the forty-seventh session of the SCT. The program for that Information Session will consist of the following topic: Trademarks and geographical indications: prior rights grounds for refusal.

11. In conjunction with the forty-sixth session of the SCT, a half-day Information Session on Geographical Indications took place. Two panels presented the following topics: (i) Geographical indication protection for services; and (ii) Geographical indication protection for non-agricultural products.

12. The program and presentations of the information session are available at:  
[https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=72488](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=72488).

*13. The WIPO General Assembly is invited to take note of the "Report on the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)" (document WO/GA/56/8).*

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