

WIPO General Assembly

Fifty-Eighth (27th Ordinary) Session
Geneva, July 8 to 17, 2025

REPORT

adopted by the WIPO General Assembly

1. The WIPO General Assembly was concerned with the following items of the Consolidated Agenda (document [A/66/1](#)): 1 to 7, 9 to 12, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23 and 24.
2. The reports on the said items, with the exception of items 9, 10(i), 10(iii), 12, 16, 17 and 19, are contained in the General Report (document A/66/11).
3. The reports on items 9, 10(i), 10(iii), 12, 16, 17 and 19 are contained in the present document.
4. Ambassador Alfredo Suescum (Panama) (Mr.), Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, presided over the meeting.

ITEM 9 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

COMPOSITION OF THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

5. Discussions were based on document [WO/GA/58/1](#).
6. The Chair opened agenda item 9 on the Composition of the Program and Budget Committee (PBC) and invited the Legal Counsel to provide an introduction.
7. Introducing the agenda item, the Legal Counsel drew the attention of delegations to document WO/GA/58/1 and recalled that the PBC was composed of 53 members. The Legal Counsel further noted that the PBC's composition was established every two years during an ordinary session of the WIPO General Assembly, with members elected by the General Assembly following informal consultations among WIPO Member States. The Legal Counsel recalled that the mandate of the current members of the PBC was to expire in the current year and that new members must be elected to serve for the next two years. The Legal Counsel informed delegations that an informal document was provided to Member States, listing the 53 members proposed to be elected to the PBC for the period from the close of the present session to the close of the next ordinary session of the General Assembly in 2027.
8. The Delegation of Japan, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the Secretariat for preparing the document under consideration. Group B acknowledged the critical role of the PBC in addressing matters related to program, budget, premises, and finance, and in ensuring, in particular, financial discipline and strategic alignment with WIPO's objectives, especially in advancing global intellectual property (IP) infrastructure and harmonization efforts. Group B submitted its nominations for PBC membership for the 2025-2027 term, reflecting the Group's commitment to maintaining the operational excellence of the PBC. As evidenced during the 2023-2025 cycle, the PBC facilitated consensus on complex issues, underscoring its effectiveness in its current form. Group B emphasized its readiness to cooperate with all delegations to ensure that the PBC would remain a driver of financial responsibility and accountability.
9. Speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group (APG), the Delegation of Pakistan acknowledged the pivotal role played by the PBC in shaping WIPO's budgetary and governance priorities. APG thanked the Secretariat for preparing the working document and noted that such governance functions must be not only inclusive, but also sufficiently participatory. APG's consistent position was that the current composition of the PBC did not reflect the realities of WIPO's existing membership. APG recalled its proposal, contained in document WO/GA/49/20, which highlighted long-standing concerns regarding the composition of the PBC. Neither the mandate nor the legal framework of the PBC required limiting its membership to the arbitrarily chosen number of 53 States; yet this had become a structurally entrenched practice, despite the expansion of WIPO's overall membership. Since the last expansion of the PBC in 2007, the size of certain regional groups changed, but the allocation of seats was not revisited. In that context, APG had the pleasure to welcome its newest member, the Federated States of Micronesia, which had recently acceded to the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization. APG therefore reiterated its call for a proportionate and equitable adjustment to the composition of the PBC. The number of seats allocated to each group should reflect current membership figures, particularly in light of the growth in certain regional groups since the last PBC expansion. APG also expressed its openness to expanding PBC membership to all WIPO Member States as well, should such a proposal be agreeable by consensus. The Group was of the view that a more representative PBC would serve to enhance transparency, improve participatory governance, and strengthen the credibility of WIPO's governance mechanisms. To this end, APG remained committed to engaging in constructive dialogue with all Member States.

10. The Delegation of Ukraine thanked the Chair and wished to underline that Ukraine was not in a position to support the nomination of the Russian Federation as a member of the PBC, as previously stated in its intervention under agenda item 11. The Russian Federation's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine had a devastating impact on its people and institutions, including the IP system. It was clearly evidenced in the reports prepared by the International Bureau, in particular document A/66/8, which would be discussed under agenda item 20. Allowing the aggressor State to participate in the strategic decision-making of the Organization, especially with regard to its program and budget, undermined WIPO's credibility and ran counter to the principles of the United Nations (UN) Charter and the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly concerning Ukraine's territorial integrity. The Delegation concluded by reiterating that it was not in a position to support the nomination of the Russian Federation to the PBC.

11. The Delegation of the Russian Federation firmly objected to yet another attempt to artificially politicize the work of WIPO, noting that the statement just made was based on false allegations that had no relation to reality. The Delegation emphasized that the Russian Federation would tirelessly counter attempts to present a distorted picture of the situation regarding the circumstances in Ukraine. The Delegation stressed that the Russian Federation acted in full compliance with international law, continued to responsibly fulfill its international obligations, and remained a reliable partner. The Delegation noted that the approach Member States had just witnessed towards WIPO's unique negotiation platform can only be regarded as disrespect, bad faith, and indifference to WIPO's urgent and relevant agenda. The Delegation categorically rejected such politicized insinuations and emphasized that the decision on the composition of the PBC was made within the regional group, and individual Member States from other groups cannot influence this decision. The Delegation also recalled the principle of reciprocity, which will unequivocally be invoked, should any attempt be made to influence the decisions of the WIPO Assemblies on the composition of the PBC.

12. Noting that there were no further requests for the floor, the Chair thanked the delegations for their statements and the concerns they raised, which would be duly reflected in the records of the meeting. He also thanked the Group Coordinators and the delegations that participated in the consultations held with a view to having the States elected to the PBC. He then read out the proposed decision paragraph as follows:

13. Following informal consultations among Member States, the following States were unanimously elected by the General Assembly as members of the Program and Budget Committee for the period starting from the close of the present session to the close of the next ordinary session of the General Assembly:

Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Hungary, India (2027), Indonesia (2026), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2027), Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan (2027), Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar (2026), Republic of Korea (2027), Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia (2026), Singapore (2027), South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland (*ex officio*), Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates (2026), United Kingdom, United States of America, Viet Nam (2026) (53).

14. Having presented the proposed decision paragraph, the Chair acknowledged the request for the floor by the Delegation of Ukraine.

15. The Delegation of Ukraine thanked the Chair for the draft decision paragraph and reiterated that it did not support the decision to elect the Russian Federation to the PBC. The Delegation emphasized that, in its view, the decision should be adopted by the General

Assembly by consensus. It noted that, at present, such consensus did not exist, as one Member State did not support the decision. The Delegation further highlighted that, given its position, there was not even consensus within the Central European and Baltic States (CEBS) Group. For that reason, the Delegation was opposed to adopting the decision and requested further consultations.

16. The Chair sought clarification from the Delegation of Ukraine to confirm whether it objected to the proposed language for the decision paragraph, noting that its statement seemed to go beyond a lack of support for the decision.

17. The Delegation of Ukraine again thanked the Chair for the draft decision paragraph and stated that, for now, its Delegation objected to the wording of the decision paragraph.

18. Noting the objection by the Delegation of Ukraine to the proposed draft decision paragraph, the Chair asked whether any other delegation wished to take the floor. Observing that it was not the case, he proposed adjourning the deliberations on the agenda item to allow for a brief informal discussion on how to proceed.

19. Resuming discussions on the agenda item, the Chair thanked the delegations for their patience. He proposed suspending consideration of the agenda item for the time being and suggested moving to the next agenda item.

20. Reopening agenda item 9 on the second day of the following week, the Chair welcomed delegations to that afternoon's session, recalling that discussions under the agenda item were based on document WO/GA/58/1 and that delegations were unable to conclude it when it was opened the previous week. The Chair was pleased to inform delegations that, following intense negotiations held since the previous week, consensus was reached on the members to be elected to the PBC. He took the opportunity to sincerely thank all Group Coordinators and the delegations for their participation and commitment during the consultations. The Chair then proposed the following decision paragraph, noting that it included two new paragraphs in addition to those presented the previous week. He emphasized that the text was circulated informally to all Member States and, to his understanding, all Member States agreed with the decision paragraph that was being displayed on the screen. The Chair proceeded to read it out:

21. Following informal consultations among Member States, the following States were elected by the General Assembly as members of the Program and Budget Committee for the period starting from the close of the present session to the close of the next ordinary session of the General Assembly in 2027:

Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Hungary, India (2027), Indonesia (2026), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2027), Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan (2027), Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar (2026), Republic of Korea (2027), Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia (2026), Singapore (2027), South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland (*ex officio*), Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates (2026), United Kingdom, United States of America, Viet Nam (2026) (53).

22. Ukraine expressed its opposition to the nomination of the Russian Federation as a member of the Program and Budget Committee for the period starting from the close of the present session to the close of the next ordinary session of the General Assembly in 2027.

23. The Russian Federation expressed its opposition to the nomination of Ukraine as a member of the Program and Budget Committee for the period starting from the close of

the present session to the close of the next ordinary session of the General Assembly in 2027.

24. Seeing no objection, the Chair declared the decision paragraph adopted and opened the floor for delegations.

25. The Delegation of Estonia thanked the Chair and announced that it had the honor to deliver the statement on behalf of the following members of the CEBS Group: Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. The Delegation stated that those CEBS Group members strongly disassociated themselves from the election of the Russian Federation as a member of the PBC for the period starting from the close of the present session to the close of the next ordinary session of the General Assembly in 2027, as a State systematically violating norms and principles of international law in the most severe form had no right to participate in the strategic decision-making of the Organization. Therefore, while the Russian Federation was continuing its military aggression against Ukraine, it could not serve as an example of a responsible partner in WIPO, and business as usual with the Russian Federation in the PBC was not an option for rule-abiding countries. Those CEBS Group members reiterated their demand to the Russian Federation to immediately end the war of aggression against Ukraine, reaffirming UN resolutions condemning the attempted annexation of Ukraine's territories. No territorial acquisition resulting from the Russian Federation's armed invasion of Ukraine and the threat or use of force should be recognized as legal.

26. The Delegation of Namibia, speaking on behalf of the African Group, took note of the decision paragraph. The African Group appreciated the Chair's efforts to ensure and facilitate consensus on the agenda item and affirmed the importance of safeguarding consensus in multilateralism and the spirit of flexibility, which the African Group has always demonstrated. In the Group's view, the decision could be considered as a compromise reached under exceptional circumstances, and not as the norm, given the implications of the decision on consensus and the precedent it would set or might be viewed to set.

27. The Delegation of Denmark stated that it was delivering the statement on behalf of the following 26 member States of the European Union: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. The Delegation announced that the European Union supported Ukraine and disassociated itself from the election of the Russian Federation as a member of the PBC for the period starting from the close of the present session to the close of the next ordinary session of the General Assembly in 2027.

28. The Delegation of Ukraine aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Estonia on behalf of members of the CEBS Group and the Delegation of Denmark on behalf of member States of the European Union. The Delegation of Ukraine wished to place on record that it strongly dissociated itself from the election of the Russian Federation as a member of the PBC for the period starting from the close of the present session to the close of the next ordinary session of the General Assembly in 2027. As it previously stated, the Delegation firmly believed that a State that had initiated and continued to wage a war of aggression in blatant violation of the UN Charter and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of another Member State should not be entrusted with a role in the governance of the Organization, particularly in the PBC, which is a central body to upholding WIPO's credibility and financial integrity. The Delegation remained convinced that the PBC could function effectively, and indeed more credibly, without the participation of the Russian Federation and urged all Member States to ensure that the values and principles of the Organization were upheld and not undermined by the actions or presence of an aggressor State.

29. The Delegation of the Russian Federation noted that it was forced once again to invoke the principle of reciprocity in light of the preceding statements, expressing its objection to the nomination of Ukraine to the PBC, as mentioned in the proposed decision text displayed on the screen. Furthermore, on the basis of the principle of reciprocity, the Delegation dissociated itself from the nomination of countries of the CEBS Group and the European Union that had dissociated themselves from the nomination of the Russian Federation as a member of the PBC for 2026-2027.

30. Noting that there were no more requests for the floor, the Chair thanked the Group Coordinators and the delegations that took part in the consultations, adding that the statements just made would be reflected in the meeting's report. The Chair then closed agenda item 9.

ITEM 10 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORTS ON AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT

(i) Report by the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC)

31. Discussions were based on documents [WO/GA/58/2](#) and [A/66/7](#).

32. The Chair of the IAOC made the following statement:

“Thank you, Chair. Distinguished Ambassadors, Excellencies and Delegates.

My name is David Kanja, and I am the current Chair of the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee, or the IAOC. The Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mr. Kamlesh Vikamsey, has also joined me for this brief presentation.

“I will provide a brief overview of the important activities of the IAOC that are described in the IAOC's Annual Report, with reference WO/GA/58/2.

“The Committee has seven members who are drawn from each of the seven Regional Groups of WIPO's Member States. The Committee was fully constituted during the period covered by the Annual Report, functioned effectively according to its Terms of Reference (ToR), and provided briefings to Member States at the conclusion of each of its meetings. The Committee is a subsidiary body of WIPO's General Assembly and the Program and Budget Committee, and it serves these bodies in an independent expert advisory capacity. Its Terms of Reference include responsibilities that relate to financial reporting, risk management and internal controls, external audit, internal oversight and ethics. I will touch briefly on the activities mentioned in the Annual Report that relate to these responsibilities.

“With regard to Internal Oversight, the Committee reviewed the implementation of Internal Oversight Division's or IOD's 2024 Workplan and advised on and endorsed the Division's 2025 Workplan. The Committee also reviewed six internal audit reports, four evaluation reports, one advisory report, six pre-evaluation review reports, two management implication reports, periodic updates on the status of investigation cases, and updates on the ongoing preparations for the provision of IOD's overall opinion on internal controls. The Committee also received updates on the Peer Review of IOD's Evaluation function and self-assessment reviews of IOD's Internal Audit and Investigation functions and noted that action plans were developed for addressing the recommendations from these reviews. The Committee welcomed and appreciated the efforts made to re-orient the activities of IOD and to align the Internal Audit and Investigation functions with better

practices. The Committee looks forward to the rebuilding of the Evaluation function that will be done through filling the existing vacancies.

“With regard to External Audit, the Committee discussed with the new External Auditor, the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia, the planning for, and interim results of, WIPO’s 2024 Financial Statements and Performance Audits. The Committee noted that the External Auditor indicated that no substantial risks and issues were identified in the process of completing their audits. While not covered by the IAOC’s current Annual Report, I would like to add that during the IAOC’s recently concluded 77th Session, the Committee welcomed the External Auditor’s unmodified audit opinions in respect of both regularity and the fair presentation of WIPO’s 2024 Financial Statements and noted the comments and recommendations that were made in the External Auditor’s Long-form Audit Report. The Committee also expressed its appreciation for the thorough and high-quality examination that was undertaken by the External Auditor.

“With regard to Financial Reporting, the Committee took note of the financial position and results that are now reflected in the Organization’s 2024 Financial Statements. The Committee had extensive discussions regarding the valuation of investments, the estimation of the After Service Health Insurance (ASHI) liability, improvements of the notes to the Financial Statements, and on the use and appropriateness of new International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) accounting standards. The Committee also welcomed the implementation of the IAOC’s recommendation to review and strengthen the operation of the Advisory Committee on Investment by including independent external members. The Committee noted that the Financial Statements were of a high quality and complied with relevant accounting and reporting standards. The Committee was also informed that the Financial Statements would include a disclosure of a post-balance sheet event related to the establishment of a separate entity as a Multi-Employer Plan for the financing of employee benefit liabilities in which WIPO and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) will participate.

“With regard to Risk Management and internal controls, the Committee reviewed updates on Risk Management and Internal Controls that covered numerous areas, including Cybersecurity and Information Assurance, Procurement, effectiveness of Anti-fraud Activities, Data Governance and Human Resources Management. The Committee also discussed WIPO’s risk heat map together with the related risk responses, and was briefed about a revised Risk Management Policy, Risk Appetite Statement, and ToR for the Risk Management Group. The Committee was also assured that the Organization was using well known and accepted Internal Control and Risk Management Frameworks. The Committee also reviewed various updates on the implementation of the new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System. The Committee noted that the implementation was advancing in line with the set schedule and discussed a number of issues, including the need for a comprehensive masterplan with timelines, periodic updates and the assessment of risks together with foreseen mitigation action plans. The Committee looks forward to receiving further briefings on the subsequent stages of the project.

“With regard to the Implementation of Oversight Recommendations, the Committee followed up on the status of outstanding oversight recommendations made by the IOD, the External Auditor and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). The Committee noted that the average age of open IOD recommendations had improved and the number of open recommendations had decreased significantly in comparison to earlier periods. The Committee welcomed the continuing emphasis and commitment to the implementation of these recommendations.

“With regard to the Ethics Office, the Committee reviewed the implementation of the 2024 Ethics Office workplan and advised on the 2025 workplan. The Committee also noted that

that there was a smooth handover between the interim and the new Chief Ethics Officer, and the Ethics Office was receiving a significant number of requests for advice related to outside activities, retaliation and/or reprisals, standards of conduct, and other ethics matters. The Committee further noted that the Ethics Office's 2025 Workplan included the review of the policy on outside activities, Financial Disclosure and Declaration of Interests (FDDI) Guidelines, and the ToR of the Ethics Office. The Committee appreciated the contributions of the Ethics Office and welcomed its effective and efficient functioning.

"With regard to the Office of the Ombudsperson, the Committee met with the Interim Ombudsperson during each of its sessions and reviewed updates on her activities. The Committee noted the increase in demand for the Ombuds service, discussed the arrangements for filling the vacant position, and expressed its view that sufficient time would need to be devoted to the function in line with UN System benchmarks. The Committee supported the Ombudsperson's initiative to prepare and publish an annual report online and noted that the Ombuds Office continued to function effectively in the process of informal conflict resolution in consultation with other concerned organizational entities.

"On behalf of the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee, I would like to express my appreciation to the Director General and the Secretariat staff for their excellent support and cooperation in the execution of our mandate. I also want to thank my colleagues on this Committee for their dedication and commitment to the work of the Committee on a pro bono basis. They are Mr. Kamlesh Vikamsey, who is the Vice Chair of the Committee, Mr. German Deffit, Mr. Guan Jian, Mr. Danil Kerimi, Mr. Bert Keuppens, and Mr. Igors Ludboržs. I also want to thank Mr. Frederick Anthony Samuels, who assisted the Committee with all administrative matters, as well as the External Auditor, for the information provided to the Committee and the cooperation received.

"I thank you for your attention and stand ready to address any questions you might have."

33. The Delegation of Japan, speaking on behalf of Group B, expressed its appreciation to the IAOC for the comprehensive report, and commended the Committee for its rigorous oversight, which aligned with the high standards of transparency and accountability that the Group prioritized in multilateral institutions. Citing the reduced number of oversight recommendations (from 97 in 2022 to 23 as of March 2025), Group B felt that it demonstrated significant progress in institutional accountability. Group B also welcomed the closure of 15 recommendations during the reporting period, including long-pending items, and encouraged continued cooperation between the Committee, the IOD and the Secretariat, in an effort to resolve the remaining priorities. Affirming its continued support for the Committee's mandate, Group B thanked the IAOC for its efforts and looked forward to the continued dialogue at the established post-session briefings and information-sharing mechanisms.

34. The Delegation of Estonia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, thanked the IAOC for the information contained in the report, and said that it appreciated the open, transparent and regular opportunities to dialogue with the Committee at the end of each quarterly Information Meeting with representatives of Member States. The Group acknowledged the close cooperation between the IAOC, the IOD and the Secretariat in reviewing and discussing matters relating to internal and external audit and oversight, and valued the Committee's dialogues and meetings with the incoming External Auditor, which helped to ensure a smooth transition. Additionally, the CEBS Group expressed its appreciation for the Committee's contributions to cybersecurity management, anti-fraud systems, data governance and the implementation of the new ERP system. Nonetheless, the underperformance of the evaluation function – as previously noted by the Committee – remained a matter of concern, and the CEBS Group welcomed the development of a management action plan to address the issue. Regarding human resources management, the CEBS Group reiterated the importance of efficiently

implementing the Geographical Diversity Action Plan (GDAP) in the Committee's future work, as well as monitoring the impact of changes in the organizational structure, such as those resulting from retirement cycles or the zero post growth strategy.

35. The WIPO General Assembly took note of the "Report by the WIPO Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC)" (document WO/GA/58/2).

(iii) Report by the Director of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD)

36. Discussions were based on documents [WO/GA/58/3](#) and [A/66/7](#).

37. The Director, IOD, stated that it was a privilege to present the 2024 Annual Report and emphasized that oversight was about trust and values, not just compliance. She noted that 2024 was a year of continuity and change, marking the third year of the Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP), and IOD remained committed to supporting WIPO's strategic goals through independent and constructive oversight. Thirty-seven oversight reports were issued, covering audits, evaluations, validations, and investigations. Those reports provided opportunities to assess, learn, and improve. IOD's work spanned various operational areas, including cybersecurity, Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) translation services, health insurance validation, and the Nigeria office audit. The Director, IOD, highlighted the completion of all planned audits and validations for 2024 and shared insights into the impact of IP, primarily through initiatives supporting women entrepreneurs, WIPO Fellowship Programs, and WIPO Academy Programs. The Director, IOD, mentioned the streamlining of key organizational controls from 76 to 40 and thanked the Sectors for their collaboration. Regarding investigations, the Director, IOD, reported that a total of 66 matters were addressed in 2024, including 45 new complaints, highlighting a significant improvement in operational efficiency, with the average resolution time for new cases reduced to under two months. Additionally, she emphasized the adoption of a more nuanced and constructive approach, whereby many issues were resolved informally, in alignment with IOD's commitment to fairness and internal justice. She added that 37 new recommendations were added to the audit management system and 66 were closed, leaving 30 open recommendations, six of which were from the External Auditor. The Director, IOD, expressed her appreciation for the 87 per cent satisfaction rate received through post-engagement surveys and reaffirmed IOD's commitment to continuous improvement. She underscored the Division's readiness to further contribute to WIPO's strategic goals in 2025, including the implementation of recommendations from recent peer reviews and the continued enhancement of its evaluation and investigative functions. Notably, she confirmed that IOD remained on track to deliver an annual report on WIPO's governance, risk management, and internal control environment, an important milestone in the Organization's pursuit of greater transparency and accountability. In conclusion, the Director, IOD, thanked the Director General, the IAOC, the Sector Leads, and the WIPO colleagues for their support.

38. The Delegation of Japan, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the Director of IOD for the report and commended the Division on its independent and professional work. Group B emphasized the importance of internal controls and prudent resource use for WIPO's success, and appreciated the comprehensive oversight activities, including five internal audit reports, four evaluation reports and 18 investigation reports. The Group noted the closure of 66 recommendations and the reduction to 30 open recommendations by year's end and welcomed the fact that IOD's operational independence was fully maintained throughout the reporting period, with no restrictions on access to records, personnel, or premises. The Group also welcomed the maintenance of IOD's operational independence and encouraged the Secretariat to prioritize the timely implementation of the remaining 30 open recommendations. The Group further acknowledged the report's value in providing insights into WIPO's oversight activities and referenced the Group's previous statements from the PBC.

39. The Delegation of Estonia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, thanked the Director

of IOD for the annual report and commended the work done, expressing the belief that the report contributed to improving the Organization's effectiveness and transparency. The Group recalled its statements from the thirty-ninth session of the PBC, welcoming the closure of 66 recommendations. It acknowledged IOD's outreach activities and networking efforts. However, it expressed concern about the challenges in filling key vacancies within IOD, which could affect its effectiveness. The Group trusted that steps were being taken to mitigate those risks.

40. The WIPO General Assembly took note of the "Annual Report by the Director of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD)" (document WO/GA/58/3)."

ITEM 12 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORTS FROM WIPO COMMITTEES

(i) The Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR)

41. Discussions were based on document [WO/GA/58/4](#).

42. The Secretariat introduced document WO/GA/58/4, containing the report on the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) and presented an overview of the recent work. The Secretariat noted a paradox in which the Committee seemed to be trapped. On the one hand, in-person and online participation increased, a possible indicator of real and shared interest of Member States and observers in the topics under discussion and of high expectations both from institutional representatives and from professionals regarding the resolution of issues of relevance to copyright and creative industries within an international forum. On the other hand, it had become more difficult to make decisions that would advance the work. The Secretariat noted that, whether in relation to launching a preliminary study at the initiative of certain delegations or to taking decisions to make a step forward on one of the Committee's longest-standing issues, the absence of meaningful outcomes could generate a certain sense of frustration. That was particularly noted in the context of the lack of specific results after years of discussions on the draft WIPO treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations, a matter on which the Committee was working for more than a quarter of a century. The question was raised as to whether the ongoing lack of progress could be attributed to the current practice of holding only one or two meetings per year, which might not provide an adequate framework for negotiations of such technical complexity. Reflections were invited on whether it might be wise to reconsider the modalities of discussion or even the very rationale of the treaty itself. It was questioned whether the Committee had embarked on a path with no end and whether the treaty in its current form could lead the Committee in an unclear direction. On the agenda of the Committee there was a second key issue, limitations and exceptions. It was recalled that a mandate was established by the General Assembly in 2012, even though substantive work had started earlier. Since then, considerable progress was made. Thematic studies and typologies had contributed to shed light on the debate, while three regional meetings and one international conference had enabled the exchange of views and the identification of a roadmap for future progress and, finally, practical guides were under development to support national implementation of limitations and exceptions. Despite those efforts, differing expectations among Member States, over the last sessions, led to some misunderstanding regarding the scope and goals of that agenda item. There was a need to clarify expectations and perhaps the time had come to consider exploring other possibilities for reaching common ground to bring the Member States together. The discussions on copyright in the digital environment were still in the starting blocks of the Committee, even though the topic was introduced ten years before, at the initiative of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC). The rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) increased the relevance of adding those breakthrough topics as standing items on the agenda, in line with the requests of a growing number of Member States. Encouraged by those considerations, the Secretariat

organized information sessions. Following two sessions on AI, a further session was requested for the SCCR meeting scheduled for December. Many other pressing issues were competing for space on the agenda and that it was difficult to bring together all necessary dynamics to reach consensus. It was perceived that the progress within the Committee stalled, leading to a waste of energy and resources, while wasting valuable opportunities, despite the efforts of some delegations to breathe new vitality into the work. At a time when copyright was facing major stakes in a rich and complex period, cross-cutting analysis and reports of real-world experience from professionals and institutional circles were needed. The question was raised as to whether the SCCR remained the central venue for the search for solutions and agreements within the safeguard of consensus. The Secretariat reiterated its support to Member States as they reflected on the evolving situation and said that rebuilding trust among all stakeholders was essential in that endeavor. Despite diverse national situations and approaches, common ground could be found to enable the Committee to advance constructively and benefit from the opportunities offered by regular SCCR meetings on pressing key issues. Attention was also drawn to the report of the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC), included among the documentation for the Assemblies. The service, supported by the expanding membership of the Marrakesh Treaty and a network of over 150 authorized entities, facilitated access to more than one million books in accessible formats for print - disabled persons who were the beneficiaries of the program.

43. The Delegation of Pakistan, speaking on behalf of APG, thanked the Chair and the Secretariat for the preparation of the report and for their support in facilitating the work of the Committee. The Group attached immense value to the work of the SCCR and its balanced advancement and reiterated its support for the conclusion of a fair and inclusive broadcasting treaty. APG recognized the need to narrow gaps and build consensus in line with the WIPO General Assembly mandate and called for continued constructive engagement from all delegations during future sessions, while noting that discussions should not prejudice whether the Committee would be able to recommend convening a diplomatic conference. The Group reiterated its longstanding support for meaningful work on exceptions and limitations, particularly those for libraries, archives, museums, educational and research institutions, and persons with disabilities. Ensuring the preservation of and access to knowledge remained a key priority for APG. The limitations and exceptions agenda was essential to enabling inclusive access to knowledge, education and culture, especially in developing countries. APG welcomed the Committee's consensus to continue discussions on that issue, and to support endeavors to advance the implementation of the work program. APG emphasized the increasing relevance of discussions on copyright in the digital environment, especially the evolving implications of generative AI (GenAI) on copyright and expressed its support for the continuation of information sessions and discussion on the topic. The Group noted the interest expressed in discussing other topics in the SCCR. While it remained open to dialogue, there was a need to ensure that the Committee's workload was balanced and aligned with the needs of all Member States. In conclusion, APG reaffirmed its full support and the constructive engagement of its members in the Committee's work, and reiterated its commitment to a fair, inclusive and responsive copyright system.

44. The Delegation of Japan, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the Secretariat for the report contained in document WO/GA/58/4. Group B emphasized the importance of advancing discussions on the draft treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations, with a view to addressing the illegal use of program-carrying signals. It underscored that sufficient time should continue to be allocated to that standing agenda item to achieve a meaningful agreement within the Committee. With respect to limitations and exceptions, Group B reiterated that work should follow the scope and parameters identified in the work program adopted at the forty-third session of the SCCR, reaffirming its commitment to engaging in further constructive discussions. Furthermore, Group B welcomed the informative exchanges during the information session on GenAI as it related to copyright. Considering the rapidly evolving technological landscape, Group B considered balanced discussions among Member States and stakeholders

— covering both opportunities and challenges — to be highly valuable, and expressed its anticipation of the follow-up information session at the forty-seventh session of the SCCR.

45. The Delegation of China thanked the Secretariat for the presentation of the report and expressed appreciation to the SCCR Chair and the Secretariat for their continuous efforts in promoting progress on the relevant agenda items. The Delegation stated its support for the SCCR in continuing discussions on the protection of broadcasting organizations, limitations and exceptions, and other agenda items, reaching an agreement on substantive issues regarding the protection of broadcasting organizations, and laying a foundation for convening a diplomatic conference. The Delegation indicated that in-depth studies should be conducted to promote meaningful discussions on limitations and exceptions, and stated its intention to enhance communication with WIPO and other related parties, particularly in relation to copyright in the digital environment and GenAI.

46. The Delegation of Estonia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, thanked the Chair of the SCCR, the Vice-Chair, the facilitators, and the Secretariat for their work and efforts during the previous year, including the preparation of the General Assembly. While taking note of the Committee's report, the CEBS Group reiterated its firm commitment to advancing towards the conclusion of a meaningful treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations that adequately reflected technological realities and ensured appropriate and effective protection against signal piracy. The CEBS Group long supported the convening of a diplomatic conference and considered that the Committee was approaching readiness for final negotiations. It remained committed to concluding the work with a successful outcome, a future-oriented treaty that would meet the needs of broadcasting organizations and accommodate the challenges posed by the digital environment and rapid technological developments. The CEBS Group looked forward to considering the Chair's revised text at the following session of the SCCR and hoped that it would pave the way for a robust and balanced legal instrument providing equal protection for transmissions over computer networks, while contributing to the global fight against signal piracy. Regarding limitations and exceptions, the CEBS Group recognized the essential role of libraries, archives and museums in disseminating knowledge, information and culture, as well as in the preservation of the shared history. The Group attached high importance to the work of educational and research institutions, and to ensuring access to copyright protected works for persons with disabilities. The CEBS Group reiterated that it did not support pursuing an internationally legally binding instrument in that area, but remained open to exploring non-binding instruments and best practice tools that could help Member States implement effective and context-sensitive exceptions and limitations at the national level. The CEBS Group welcomed the continued exchange of information on the intersection of copyright and AI, appreciated the information session on GenAI held at the forty-sixth session, and looked forward to the follow-up information session at the forty-seventh session of the SCCR. Furthermore, it reiterated that, should the SCCR agenda be expanded in the future, the artists' resale right would be a valuable and relevant topic to consider as a standing item. The Group stated that it was in the process of analyzing the proposals put forward under the agenda item on copyright in the digital environment, and reiterated its commitment to engaging constructively in those discussions. In closing, the Group reaffirmed its continued commitment and active engagement in supporting the progress of the Committee's work in a balanced and inclusive manner.

47. The Delegation of Ecuador, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, thanked the Secretariat for the detailed introduction of the SCCR report. The Group noted the importance of the Committee's work in striving to reach consensus on issues of great significance for Member States in the GRULAC region, particularly in improving education and protecting cultural heritage, as well as for educational purposes and persons with disabilities. GRULAC welcomed the decision to include two sessions of the SCCR in the calendar and emphasized that such practice should continue to promote broad, representative and productive discussions. It expressed particular interest in discussions on copyright and the digital environment,

underlining the importance of continuing those discussions to find common solutions for the benefit of societies and rights holders. GRULAC appreciated the contribution of civil society and its constructive engagement in the Committee's work and reiterated its commitment to promoting equitable access to culture and knowledge, which were fundamental pillars for the development of societies.

48. The Delegation of Namibia, speaking on behalf of the African Group, thanked the Secretariat for preparing and presenting the SCCR report and took note of its contents. The African Group emphasized that the report should clearly reflect the Committee's affirmation that its work was guided by the 2012 General Assembly mandate and the work program adopted at the forty-third session of the SCCR. The Group attached great importance to limitations and exceptions. In the previous two sessions of the Committee in 2023 and 2024 and at the previous General Assembly, the African Group raised concerns about the slow pace in meeting the 2012 General Assembly mandate to work towards an appropriate international legal instrument on limitations and exceptions for libraries, archives, museums, and education and research. It called for the initiation of text-based negotiations on the proposed draft instrument to effectively advance that important subject and deliver concrete results. The African Group valued balance in negotiations and expressed its commitment to advancing discussions on the broadcasting treaty and limitations and exceptions in parallel. The Group reiterated its strong support for the proposal by the Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire calling for a study on the rights of audiovisual authors and the mechanisms for their compensation for the exploitation of their work. While acknowledging that extending the scope to audiovisual performances might be considered later, the African Group fully endorsed focusing on authors for the time being and supported situating the study within the SCCR, whose mandate directly aligned with the objectives of that initiative.

49. The Delegation of the European Union and its member States affirmed its commitment to progressing towards concluding a worthwhile treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations that responded to the technological realities of the twenty-first century. The Delegation stated its readiness to engage in further discussions on the text to progress towards convening a diplomatic conference and concluding a meaningful treaty that would ensure appropriate and effective protection to broadcasting organizations in their fight against piracy of their signals at international level. The Delegation expressed its readiness to continue engaging constructively in discussions on exceptions and limitations, in particular on the basis of the work program agreed at the forty-third session of the SCCR. It stressed that libraries, archives and museums played a crucial role in the dissemination of knowledge, information and culture along with the preservation of history. It also underscored the importance of supporting educational and research institutions and persons with disabilities. However, as consistently expressed in the past, the Delegation reiterated that it could not support work towards a legally binding instrument at the international level. The focus should rather be on WIPO support and capacity building for WIPO Member States to improve their national legislation within the existing international copyright framework, including reflection on possible non-binding instruments. The Delegation anticipated discussions on the document to be prepared by the Chair and the Vice-Chair. Considering the challenges raised by technological developments, the Delegation welcomed pursuing the exchange of information on copyright and AI. In terms of other agenda items, the Delegation took note of document SCCR/43/7, which proposed to include copyright in the digital environment in the standing agenda of the SCCR. The Delegation considered that achieving meaningful progress on the two current standing agenda items, the broadcasting treaty and exceptions and limitations, should be the priority for the Committee, before adding any new permanent agenda item. Should the SCCR agenda be expanded to cover additional items in the future, the Delegation would recommend including the topic of the artists' resale right on the permanent agenda. The Delegation also indicated its readiness to continue exchanges of information on issues related to the draft work plan for copyright in the digital environment.

50. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing the document, noting that the dedication of the Secretariat would help advance the important work of the Committee. The Delegation reiterated its continuous commitment to participate constructively in discussions concerning important agenda items of the Committee, including broadcasting organizations and the resale right. The Delegation observed that the SCCR became the most authoritative agenda-setting forum to host international discussions on copyright issues concerning GenAI including, but not limited to, fair compensation for the use of copyrighted works for the purpose of AI training and the copyrightability of AI outputs. The Delegation congratulated the Committee for successfully conducting the second round of the information session on GenAI and copyright during the forty-sixth session of the Committee. The Delegation noted that the panel discussion of the information session provided a valuable opportunity to review and share the Republic of Korea's policies with Member States and to learn up-to-date approaches to AI and copyright in other jurisdictions. The Delegation anticipated the next information session to exchange ideas and recent policy measures in a rapidly evolving digital environment.

51. The Delegation of Colombia thanked the Secretariat for introducing document WO/GA/58/4. The Delegation announced that Colombia deposited its Marrakesh Treaty instrument with the Director General on May 28, 2025, and was working on its implementation through a technical follow-up workshop. The Delegation urged Member States to join forces to reach consensus on the key issue of the draft broadcasting organizations treaty, and it encouraged the SCCR to continue working on the issue of copyright in the digital environment with the goal of making it a standing item on the agenda. Regarding other agenda items, including the resale royalty right, rights in the audiovisual sector and rights of theater directors, the Delegation stated that it would follow the discussions with great interest. The Delegation commended the work of the SCCR Secretariat and its Chair in favor of copyright.

52. The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of APG and expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for their diligent preparation and presentation of the report. The Delegation attached great importance to the overall work of the SCCR and took note of the report as contained in document WO/GA/58/4. Concerning the broadcasting treaty, the Delegation anticipated continued discussions on the updated text in the forty-seventh session of the Committee. It emphasized the importance of that revised text in helping to bridge existing differences and moving the Committee closer to fulfilling the 2007 General Assembly mandate. It remained committed to the development of a fair and balanced international instrument with a scope limited to traditional broadcasting organizations and a signal-based approach. The Delegation stressed that limitations and exceptions for libraries, archives, museums, educational and research institutions, and persons with other disabilities, were critical to individual empowerment and the collective development of societies. The Delegation looked forward to further discussions on that matter, in particular on the document to be prepared by the Chair and Vice-Chair for consideration at the next session of the Committee. The Delegation also highlighted the importance of continuing to share and learn from best practices on the other items on the Committee's agenda. Numerous Member States highlighted their commitment to developing a fair and balanced instrument for protecting broadcasting organizations and the importance of developing instruments on exceptions and limitations, *inter alia*, for reinforcing the role of libraries in facilitating access to knowledge and cultural preservation. The Delegation expressed concern regarding recent events affecting IP infrastructure in its country and stated that the attacks of June 15 and June 17, 2025 damaged broadcasting facilities and the library of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran, affecting access to copyrighted materials and cultural resources. The Delegation indicated that those events contradicted IP protection principles and urged WIPO and its Member States to condemn actions that undermined cultural, educational and scientific institutions.

53. The Delegation of the Russian Federation expressed its gratitude to the Secretariat for preparing and presenting the report on the work of the SCCR. The Delegation appreciated the results of the work of the Committee and supported continuing its work on limitations and exceptions to copyrights, the use of copyright in the digital environment, and the protection of the rights of stage directors. In particular, the Delegation noted the importance of the Committee's work in exploring approaches to protecting the rights of directors at the international level, stating that theatrical productions were still often used by third parties without the consent of stage directors and without remuneration, and such cases occurred due to insufficient effectiveness of the legal mechanisms for IP protection provided by international and national legislation. The Delegation expressed hope for continued active work on this issue and for holding informal consultations with the Secretariat, interested industry representatives, experts, and Member States during the intersessional period to develop a questionnaire on the modalities of protecting the rights of stage directors in various jurisdictions. Furthermore, the Delegation thanked the Secretariat for organizing an information session on copyright and GenAI during the forty-sixth session of the Committee and welcomed the decision to hold a similar meeting during the next session. Additionally, the Delegation emphasized the importance of intensifying work on the draft WIPO Treaty on Broadcasting Organizations in a more substantive manner to expedite the finalization of the text, and stressed that the Treaty should aim to establish the main directions and principles for the protection of broadcasters' rights. The Delegation noted the need to adapt the work of the Committee to the development of frontier information technologies (IT) in the context of copyright and related rights, and to the interests and needs of Member States. The Delegation confirmed its readiness to continue actively and constructively participating in the work of the Committee.

54. The Delegation of Mexico restated its commitment to an international copyright system that was fit for purpose, in view of recent changes. With regard to negotiations on the broadcasting treaty, the Delegation stated the importance of moving towards a legally binding treaty focusing on signal protection, and that a technical and focused approach would be ideal to help seek broad consensus, protect the balance of the system, and offer a tangible response to a long-identified problem. At the same time, the Delegation underscored the important role the Committee should play in the analysis of copyright in the digital environment. The Delegation observed that emerging technologies, including AI, were rapidly transforming the dynamics of content production, distribution and consumption, directly impacting those who created, interpreted and shared culture. It was the Committee's responsibility to ensure that legal frameworks evolved rather than falling behind technological developments. The Delegation restated its support for the adoption of the work plan proposed by GRULAC, which offered a clear roadmap for structuring the debate, gathering the relevant information, advancing towards the right solutions and strengthening the multilateral nature of the Committee as the legitimate space for deliberating on the challenges faced by IP systems in the digital environment. The Delegation emphasized that protecting creators, guaranteeing clear rules and facilitating equitable access to new technologies were compatible and necessary objectives. The Delegation stated it would continue to participate constructively in those discussions.

55. The Delegation of the United States of America thanked the Secretariat for preparing document WO/GA/58/4 and expressed its support for the statement made by the Delegation of Japan on behalf of Group B. The Delegation reiterated the critical importance of WIPO's work, particularly with respect to normative work, including the SCCR, remaining a Member State-driven process in accordance with the requisite timelines. With regard to the protection of broadcasting organizations in the digital age, the Delegation underlined its support for the update of such protection under the terms of the 2006/2007 WIPO General Assembly mandate, which called for a signal-based approach to provide protection for the activities of broadcasting organizations in the traditional sense. The Delegation noted that the text of the current draft exceeded the General Assembly mandate by including articles that provided a new exclusive right of fixation and protected signals used to make stored programs available to the public.

The Delegation stated that, to remain consistent with the mandate of the General Assembly, the scope of rights to be granted by the proposed instrument should be limited to providing traditional broadcasting organizations with a single exclusive right to authorize simultaneous retransmissions to the public of their linear broadcast signals, and that the single right approach was the most prudent manner to address the core problem of signal piracy while still being able to achieve consensus at the international level. Each jurisdiction would remain free to provide additional more specific rights in their national laws as they saw fit. Significant questions and concerns were raised at the forty-sixth session of the SCCR by several regional groups and Member States, including the United States of America, regarding the proposed instrument's objectives, rights to be granted and scope of protection. The lack of consensus on those fundamental issues made clear to the Delegation that much more work remained on improving and focusing the text of the instrument to make it acceptable to all Member States. The Delegation continued to support the work to update the international legal protection for traditional broadcasting organizations against signal theft in the digital age. The Delegation looked forward to constructively engaging in the continued work of improving the text on the substantive provisions of the instrument at the next session of the SCCR. Regarding exceptions and limitations, the Delegation stated that the current international framework for copyright exceptions and limitations provided sufficient flexibility, consistent with well-established international standards, for countries to adopt any new or revised exceptions and limitations to address their own social, cultural and economic policies. Accordingly, the Delegation believed that an informed discussion of exceptions and limitations within the SCCR could be useful to Member States interested in tailoring their national exceptions and limitations to their domestic needs and circumstances. Such an informed discussion could facilitate the development of high-level principles and objectives, or best practices, to assist Member States in crafting and improving national copyright exceptions and limitations for libraries, archives, museums and educational and research institutions, as well as for persons with disabilities.

56. The Delegation of Japan, speaking in its national capacity, expressed its gratitude to the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the facilitators and the Secretariat of the SCCR for their continued efforts in advancing the discussion on each agenda item. The Delegation considered the protection of broadcasting organizations to be the most important and highest-priority agenda item. At the previous SCCR session, there were meaningful discussions among experts from various Member States. The draft broadcasting organizations treaty still contained unclear points, and there were different views among Member States on the fundamental issues. To reach an agreement, a flexible approach was needed, allowing each Member State to join the treaty while taking into account national and regional circumstances. Further discussions were needed to move forward to the next step. Therefore, that agenda item should remain a standing item with sufficient time allocated for discussion during future SCCR sessions to reach a meaningful consensus on the fundamental issues. Furthermore, the Delegation thanked the Secretariat for organizing the information session on copyright and GenAI, and welcomed the opportunity to hear a variety of insightful presentations from different speakers, including government representatives. It noted that, at the following information session, it would be beneficial to exchange information on AI and copyright between various Member States to learn about policy trends, litigation and other experiences in different countries and regions. The Delegation reaffirmed its readiness to make constructive contributions to the discussions at the SCCR sessions.

57. The Delegation of India aligned itself with the statement made by APG. It thanked the Committee for the detailed discussion on the protection of broadcasting organizations and for presenting the draft broadcasting treaty during the forty-sixth session of the SCCR. The Delegation remained committed to working towards a balanced treaty that protected the rights of broadcasters, provided Member States with flexibility to implement obligations through adequate and effective legal means, and supported the development needs and public interest concerns of the Member States. The Delegation commended the Committee's continued work on limitations and exceptions as mandated by the General Assembly in 2012, and supported

the preparation of a document for discussion at the forty-seventh session of the SCCR, emphasizing the need to build on past efforts without duplication. The Delegation appreciated GRULAC's efforts in introducing the draft Work Plan on Copyright in the Digital Environment, which highlighted key issues such as fair remuneration, platform transparency, AI impact on copyright, and negotiation imbalances between the creators and digital service providers. When it established the SCCR in 1998, the General Assembly mandated the Committee to examine copyright, related rights and digital technology from the perspective of both right holders and the public. The Delegation supported retaining that important topic on the Committee's agenda and looked forward to discussing GRULAC's revised work plan at the forty-seventh session of the SCCR. The Delegation commended the Secretariat's efforts in organizing information sessions on copyright and AI in previous SCCR meetings. The rise of AI made the proposed discussion even more important, and that topic deserved detailed attention under the SCCR. The Delegation hoped the SCCR would engage in a meaningful discussion on both the opportunities and challenges that AI brought to the field of content creation, including recent disputes, transparency, fair compensation for creators, and the protection of artists' personal attributes. The Delegation appreciated the WIPO Toolkit on Artists' Resale Rights and indicated its support for including the topic on artists' resale rights in the SCCR agenda to advance discussions on fair remuneration for artists globally, especially for indigenous artists, and to promote greater equity in the copyright system. The Delegation reiterated the importance of protecting theater directors' rights and proposed that the Secretariat conduct a comparative study of the best practices across the jurisdictions to identify the most suitable models for their protection. The Delegation commended the work of the author of the revised version of the Scoping Study on Public Lending Right (PLR). The document served as a valuable and comprehensive reference for Member States in designing PLR schemes and in understanding the scope and legal framework of PLRs across various jurisdictions. The Delegation supported the proposed study on the rights of audiovisual authors with a focus on ensuring their ongoing remuneration, particularly in the digital and on-demand service landscape. The study should examine legal models, the impact of digital technology and the role of collective management to identify practical solutions for their compensation and sustainable creativity. The Delegation looked forward to further discussions on the proposal made by the Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire in the following session of the SCCR.

58. The Delegation of Morocco thanked the Secretariat for its efforts within the framework of the SCCR. The Delegation wanted to focus on the resale right and encouraged regional groups to discuss that right as they wanted to recognize the value of works, their reputation, and their economic rights. Previously and during the forty-sixth session of the SCCR, the Delegation proposed organizing a regional meeting on the resale right, bringing together African states, especially since Morocco enacted a new law on the resale right. The Delegation proposed to host a regional meeting to focus on the resale right to exchange experiences. Such regional meetings were an opportunity to enhance the performance of collective management organizations (CMOs) and to enforce national laws and international conventions. It would also enable those organizations to sign solid contracts.

59. The Delegation of Malawi aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation commended the Secretariat for the thorough preparation and presentation of the report under discussion and for organizing an informative session on copyright and AI in which Malawi actively participated. The Delegation welcomed the progress made on the draft WIPO broadcasting organizations treaty as well as in the work concerning limitations and exceptions. It looked forward to continued deliberations at the forty-seventh session of the SCCR, informed by all relevant existing documentation. The Delegation reaffirmed its strong support for the proposal of Côte d'Ivoire's to commission a study on audiovisual authors' rights and the mechanisms for remunerating the exploitation of their works. The Delegation urged Member States to maintain momentum in the discussions on the artists' resale right and to elevate that issue to a substantive item on the SCCR agenda to

advance fair remuneration for artists globally. It expressed interest in a constructive engagement with the Member States on the issues on the SCCR agenda.

60. The Delegation of Kenya aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for preparing and presenting the report on the SCCR, as contained in document WO/GA/58/4. The Delegation commended all delegations for their continued dedication and efforts to advance the work of that important Committee in line with its mandate. The Delegation expressed support for the conclusion of a broadcasting treaty that was fair and balanced and took into account the interests and concerns of all Member States. It equally supported the conclusion of an appropriate international instrument on limitations and exceptions, in line with the WIPO General Assembly mandate of 2012 and the work program adopted at the forty-third session of the SCCR. While the Delegation remained concerned about the slow progress in advancing the work on broadcasting as well as on limitations and exceptions, it looked forward to working with other delegations to accelerate progress on those two agenda items while ensuring that they advanced in tandem. The Delegation expressed strong support for the proposal by the Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire, and assured the General Assembly of its constructive approach and support to achieve mutually acceptable outcomes in subsequent sessions of the SCCR.

61. The Delegation of Brazil thanked the Secretariat for its work and for introducing and preparing the report on the SCCR. It supported the statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC. The Delegation restated its commitment to a constructive SCCR agenda, with work focusing on copyright that protected the rights of artists and creators in the technological context. It also repeated the proposal to maintain two annual sessions of the SCCR to advance the discussions on copyright in the digital environment. Rapid technological development required an inclusive and participatory approach to updating normative and conceptual frameworks. The Delegation strongly supported the proposed work plan on the digital environment presented by GRULAC and proposed that the topic should be a standing item on the agenda of the Committee. The Delegation also reiterated its support for the agenda on limitations and exceptions, recognizing it as key to maintaining balance in the system, particularly for educational and scientific institutions, and as a means to guarantee access, particularly in developing countries.

62. The Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group and commended the Secretariat for the report. The Delegation recalled that in 2023 it had submitted a draft proposal to the SCCR for a study on the rights of audiovisual authors and their remuneration for the exploitation of their works, with a view to highlighting existing models of legal protection for audiovisual authors around the world and their remuneration. That initiative resulted from several factors, namely the lack of effective recognition of creators' rights, the absence of reliable data on their working conditions, and the need for concerted support to strengthen their status. The project aimed to document national realities, identify legal, institutional, and economic obstacles, and propose specific areas of work for better protection and promotion of those key actors in cultural industries. The Delegation renewed its appeal to all Member States to actively support that proposal, which was fully aligned with the goals of the SCCR and the global trend to strengthen copyright. The Delegation thanked all delegations that supported its proposal and remained open to exchanges on that matter.

63. The Delegation of Namibia aligned itself with the statement of the African Group. The Delegation expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for the comprehensive presentation of the report. It was keenly interested in the work of the Committee, particularly for its impact on the creative sector as a driver of shared prosperity, and remained optimistic that through the normative agenda of WIPO, IP and copyright, in particular, would serve as an enabler of inclusive development, and not as a barrier. Regarding limitations and exceptions, the progress made over the years warranted the transition of the discussions to text-based negotiations that

aimed at concluding an international legal instrument on limitations and exceptions to copyright in the context of libraries and archives, educational and research institutions, as well as persons with other disabilities. That would give effect to the General Assembly decision of 2012. The Delegation reaffirmed its commitment to actively engage in all discussions related to that agenda and to support collective efforts aimed at strengthening the global copyright framework, which was not a barrier to socioeconomic development but an enabler.

64. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia supported holding two SCCR sessions in 2026 regarding the protection of broadcasting organizations, because that would bridge gaps among Member States and would pave the way for a diplomatic conference on that matter. It was important to balance the right of the public while respecting limitations and exceptions. It was necessary to focus on protecting signals against piracy without over-expanding the scope of that protection. On limitations and exceptions, it was crucially important to reach a legally binding instrument, striking a balance between the rights of right holders and the needs of beneficiaries. That was very important in developing states and least-developed countries (LDCs) to ensure access to knowledge, innovation and creativity. The Delegation also welcomed the holding of the high-level information session on copyright and AI, which highlighted challenges imposed by AI in the field of copyright protection. It also supported the proposal of the Delegation of Canada regarding a study on the protection of copyrights for technical standards, as it reflected technological developments and would enrich the discussion regarding the legal framework of protection.

65. The Delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela supported the statement made by the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, condemning the aggressions perpetrated by Israel, which were inconsistent with international law and cost the lives of Iranian scientists, academics and creators, acts that posed a threat to innovation, creativity and IP.

66. The Delegation of South Africa aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation thanked the SCCR for its diligent work and the Secretariat for preparing the report. The Delegation acknowledged the progress by the SCCR and supported the continuation of the Committee's work. However, given the issues on the SCCR agenda, it was imperative for the SCCR to continue holding two sessions a year permanently to constructively negotiate core issues. The SCCR agenda was overburdened and therefore the SCCR was unable to make the necessary progress on other core and emerging issues. The Delegation noted the general concern regarding the progress of the agenda items of the SCCR and the lack of political will to address and finalize those longstanding items, such as the conclusion of a treaty on broadcasting and commencing normative work on limitations and exceptions. The Delegation appreciated the SCCR's engagement with limitations and exceptions to copyright, particularly for libraries and archives, educational and research institutions, and persons with disabilities. The Delegation encouraged the SCCR to expedite its work on those issues and reaffirmed its commitment to actively contribute to the discussions at future sessions of the SCCR. The Delegation stressed the importance of copyright exceptions and limitations as an integral part of the international copyright system for as long as it existed. Limitations and exceptions played an important role in balancing the rights of creators of works with the rights of the public to access the works. The WIPO General Assembly acknowledged in 2012 the desirability of norm-setting work on limitations and exceptions, with a special focus on limitations and exceptions for educational, teaching and research institutions and persons with other disabilities. However, except for the successful agreement of the Marrakesh Treaty in 2013, at that time WIPO's fastest growing legal instrument, discussions at the SCCR did not yield satisfactory results on key issues such as exceptions for libraries, archives and museums, as well as for education and research institutions, and persons with other disabilities. The Delegation supported the draft proposal by the African Group for the implementation of the Work Program on Exceptions and Limitations that was adopted at the forty-third session of the SCCR, and that proposal should gain traction with a view to commencing norm-setting work. The Delegation supported the item on artists' resale rights as part of the substantive agenda of

the SCCR. It also supported the Study on the Rights of Audiovisual Authors and their Remuneration for the Exploitation of their Works and called for the inclusion of performers in the study. That request was blocked by certain Member States. The Delegation reiterated the importance of the inclusion of performers of audiovisual works, especially for future work in that area. It took note of the Report and hoped that the SCCR would continue its critical work on all relevant issues. The Delegation remained committed to working towards a balanced international copyright framework that fostered creativity, inclusivity, innovation and access to knowledge for all.

67. The Delegation of Algeria aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for its comprehensive report on the SCCR and its presentation. The Delegation also thanked the Chair of the SCCR for dedicated efforts and effective leadership in guiding the work of the Committee. The Delegation reaffirmed its support for a balanced and inclusive approach to copyright and related rights, ensuring that the interests of all stakeholders, creators, users, and the broader public were duly taken into account. That included the area of broadcasting, where the Delegation recognized the importance of safeguarding public interests, protecting rights holders and ensuring appropriate limitations and exceptions. In that regard, the Delegation strongly restated its support for the implementation of the work program on limitations and exceptions adopted at the forty-third session of the SCCR. The effective implementation of that work program, which aligned with the mandate granted by the WIPO General Assembly, was essential to ensuring access to knowledge, education and research, particularly in developing countries. Therefore, the Delegation highlighted the importance of advancing work on limitations and exceptions and called for the beginning of text-based negotiations on that crucial issue, to achieve tangible outcomes as soon as possible. The Delegation supported the proposal presented by the Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire.

68. The Delegation of Cameroon aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group and thanked the Secretariat for the report. The Delegation supported the decisions and recommendations established by the Committee and conveyed to the Assembly. It stressed that equal attention should be paid to the various items on the agenda, including the negotiations on the adoption of a broadcasting instrument as well as an instrument on limitations and exceptions. To that end, it was important that, as other delegations stated, the Committee worked to promote synergy in that area with a view to fulfilling its mandate with impartiality. That implied that the Committee avoid any limiting conditions on negotiations, without prejudging the nature of the text that would be adopted in accordance with the mandate. The Delegation called for the commencement of text-based negotiations on a draft instrument on limitations and exceptions for education, research, archives, and museums, to gradually move towards its adoption simultaneously with the broadcasting treaty, voicing the expectation that this would happen at the upcoming sessions, and invited all parties to engage positively in such a path. The Delegation took note of the constructive interactions held at the last sessions regarding the broadcasting treaty and communicated interest in engaging in further discussions on an improved text that included valuable comments made by the African Group and other parties. The Delegation restated its support for the proposal submitted by the Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire on the study on the rights of audiovisual authors and the mechanism by which they were paid for the exploitation of their work. The Delegation reaffirmed its readiness to work constructively with all delegations to reach a consensus on the previously mentioned subjects. It commended the achievements embodied in the Marrakesh Treaty and underlined Cameroon's readiness to engage in that work.

69. The Delegation of Botswana aligned itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group and thanked the Secretariat for preparing and presenting the report of the SCCR. The Delegation expressed concern on the slow progress of work of the SCCR, particularly regarding limitations and exceptions and the protection of

broadcasting organizations, and it hoped that, in subsequent sessions, the Committee would find common ground and agree on how to substantively progress those longstanding agenda items. The Delegation supported the inclusion of the artists' resale right on the substantive agenda of the SCCR to ensure a harmonized approach to dealing with the topic. The Delegation appreciated the information session on copyright and AI as shared in the previous session and requested that more such opportunities be available to the Member States. The Delegation confirmed its commitment to participating constructively in the work of the SCCR.

70. The Delegation of France aligned itself with the statement made by Group B and the European Union, thanked the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the SCCR for their dynamic conduct of the Committee's work and welcomed the ongoing Secretariat's ongoing efforts to ensure its smooth running. The Delegation encouraged the Committee to accelerate constructively the work on the draft WIPO broadcasting organizations treaty, especially based on the new version of the draft treaty text which would be presented at the next session. It also encouraged Member States to continue their conversations on limitations and exceptions and restated its interest in including the resale royalty right in the standing agenda for the Committee. The Delegation welcomed the decision to keep the analysis of copyright in the digital environment on the agenda of the forty-seventh session of the SCCR.

71. The Delegation of Eswatini aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation noted with appreciation the continued work of the SCCR and commended the Committee's sustained focus on limitations and exceptions, especially for libraries, archives, educational and research institutions, and persons with disabilities. Those were essential areas in which a balanced international framework could promote access to knowledge, particularly for developing countries. The Delegation also acknowledged the evolving discussions around copyright in the digital environment. The proposal to make it a standing agenda item was timely and reflected the growing urgency to address copyright challenges in a fast-changing world and digital landscape. The Delegation applauded the Secretariat for organizing the information session on GenAI and copyright, and supported the decision to hold a follow-up session to deepen Member States' collective understanding and to identify the appropriate policy responses.

72. The Delegation of Kazakhstan expressed its gratitude to the Secretariat for the work done and for the effective leadership, as well as for preparing the report on the work of the SCCR. The Delegation also thanked the Chair of the Committee for the active engagement in productive dialogue and the inclusive environment for conversation. The Delegation expressed support for the recommendations, especially the continuation of the work of the Committee on such key issues as the protection of the rights of broadcasting organizations, limitations and exceptions for libraries and research organizations, the use of copyright in the digital environment, copyright and GenAI technology, as well as the resale right and the protection of theatre directors. The Delegation also expressed its support for organizing two SCCR sessions in 2026, which reflected its increasing interest in protecting those rights in the digital environment and in an area where technology was changing. The Delegation confirmed that it was prepared to participate in future conversations and supported efforts to strengthen the international cooperation in that area.

73. The Delegation of Panama aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC. It thanked the Secretariat for introducing the report of the SCCR. The Delegation also thanked the author of the Study on the PLR, requested by Panama, Malawi and Sierra Leone, for the presentation during the previous session of the Committee. It welcomed the progress made in implementing the Marrakesh Treaty and recognized the work done by the WIPO Secretariat and the ABC. Panama already authorized institutions working actively on the production and promotion of works in accessible formats, which was a significant step forward in guaranteeing access to information, knowledge and culture for persons with visual disabilities. The treaty was a key tool to provide for their needs

and for meaningful inclusion in culture and education within Panama's society. For all those reasons, the Delegation encouraged WIPO to maintain two annual meetings of the Committee to allow sufficient time to discuss all the issues on the agenda, which were all very important for Panama. The Delegation restated the importance of authors and creators in cultural, social and economic development, as their contribution not only enriched national identities, but also drove key industries for sustainable development.

74. The Delegation of Samoa expressed its appreciation for the work carried out by the Secretariat and aligned itself with the statement made by APG regarding the agenda item under discussion. The Delegation believed that the work should nevertheless be balanced against the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Committee on IP and Genetic Resources (GRs), Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Folklore (IGC) for the protection of TK and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs), to ensure that such developments would not enable further misappropriation or exploitation of TK and TCEs. Accordingly, the Delegation would continue to advance its position regarding the current negotiations, reaffirming its full support and intention to engage constructively in the work of the SCCR.

75. The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago applauded the outstanding work of the SCCR. The Delegation was pleased to indicate that Trinidad and Tobago was in the process of extending the duration of the term of protection for copyright and neighboring rights so that persons would enjoy economic and moral rights in their work during their life and for a period of seventy years thereafter. Trinidad and Tobago was involved in a WIPO regional AI and IP project for Latin America and the Caribbean on Empowering AI Innovation for Policymakers, IP offices, and Innovators, to determine how technology could be best leveraged to support the local innovation ecosystems. Pursuant to the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty, the authorized entity of the country, the National Library and Information Systems Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (NALIS) worked with WIPO's ABC, to complete the conversion of local educational texts into accessible format copies for beneficiary persons. The Delegation applauded the focus of the SCCR and expressed optimism that those discussions would culminate in the conclusion of a balanced international instrument for broadcasting organizations in the near future.

76. The Delegation of Nepal, speaking on behalf of the Group of LDCs, supported exceptions and limitations to copyright for education, libraries, archives, and persons with disabilities, emphasizing that a balanced copyright system to promote both creativity and access in low-resource environments remained vital. It encouraged substantive progress on exceptions and limitations to patent rights, which were essential for LDCs to access knowledge and technology, consistent with Articles 30 and 31 of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (the TRIPS Agreement). The support of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) could be instrumental if its focus were expanded to include more comprehensive approaches to technology transfer (TT), utilization of IP flexibilities and new projects with LDCs as beneficiaries. The Delegation called for the adoption of approaches that preserved appropriate policy space for LDCs, giving them leeway to pursue development paths suitable to their national context and needs. It stressed the increased need for capacity building and flexibility that took into account the varying stages of development of countries and facilitated the protection and leveraging of the assets and strengths of LDCs to buttress local value addition. The Delegation valued the institutionalization of equitable benefit-sharing, mainstreaming cooperation and development, ensuring access to global IP data and systems, support for digitalization and enhanced support to LDCs.

77. The Representative of the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organizations (IFRRO) thanked the SCCR Chair and the Secretariat for their excellent work. The Representative noted that in recent years, the Secretariat conducted extensive work on exceptions and limitations, including regional consultations, studies and toolkits. That work was comprehensive and showed that well-designed exceptions and limitations with precise context,

including a compensation mechanism, could already achieve the objectives established in the international copyright treaties, with the necessary safeguards of the three-step test enshrined in the Berne Convention. The IFRRO looked forward to the future work of the SCCR and to working with the Secretariat and all stakeholders involved on the envisaged further toolkits.

78. The Representative of the Intellectual Property Latin American School (ELAPI) reaffirmed its position that copyright is a human right and the need to observe the three-step rule. It was essential to avoid a system of limitations and exceptions that overstepped its original intent and ultimately restricted the rights of people. It was necessary to maintain the issue of limitations and exceptions as a standing item on the SCCR agenda. Artists and performer organizations continued to face challenges and emphasized the need for an integrated approach encompassing legal, economic and technological aspects, particularly in light of AI developments. The Representative affirmed that ELAPI would provide its cooperation to help advance progress on those issues.

79. The Representative of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) expressed appreciation for all the work carried out by the Secretariat in relation to drafting a new broadcasting treaty. The draft text presented at the forty-sixth session of the SCCR was highly commendable. The Representative observed that the model developed in the SCCR would correspond to the worldwide need for the protection of broadcasters and hoped that the text would be finalized in good time. The Representative accordingly requested that the sixty-sixth Assemblies consider favorably directing that a diplomatic conference be convened to adopt the broadcasting treaty in the following 12 months.

80. The Representative of the Copyright Research and Information Center (CRIC) observed that protection for broadcasting organizations was a priority of the SCCR. The issue was under discussion for twenty-eight years since the first session of the SCCR in November 1998. Broadcasting piracy reached unprecedented levels on the internet. To maintain that important social communication tool, protection for traditional broadcasting organizations, including cablecasting organizations, required urgent updating. Transmission technology developed significantly and the situation surrounding the broadcasting system among Member States varied widely. The Representative advocated for seeking harmonization through consensus, based on the principle that an international treaty should establish minimum standards rather than maximum requirements. The Representative hoped Member States would not hesitate to proceed to a diplomatic conference.

81. The Representative of Knowledge Ecology International (KEI) observed that an agreement on broadcasting could have been reached earlier if there was willingness to limit the agreement to signal piracy protection. The disagreements regarding post-fixation rights on information not copyrighted by broadcasters hindered progress. Broadcasters were distinct from artists and performers and the current landscape also included platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, Twitch, Spotify, Netflix and Amazon Prime. The Representative outlined three ways to bring the negotiations to a conclusion: making it clear that the agreement would not affect post-fixation rights; limiting its scope to sports or live events where piracy concerns were most prevalent; or removing the item from the agenda owing to lack of consensus. On limitations and exceptions, the Representative suggested that consensus might be possible on archiving and preservation, where country differences were minimal and cultural preservation interests were significant. For other areas, the Representative proposed that model laws might be more appropriate, offering flexibility to accommodate different needs and adapt to technological changes. The SCCR should review the modalities used in the past and older model laws, including the role of Member States in their negotiation, and the Secretariat could provide valuable insights on that history. WIPO could reach consensus on a treaty on the artists' resale right if it were limited to physical works of art. The Representative stated that work on AI was the most important issue facing IP offices and suggested reviewing recent European Union developments in the Health Data Space regulations and holding information

sessions on the role of metadata for copyrighted works in identifying rights holders and managing remuneration.

82. The Representative of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) firmly supported the work of the SCCR towards adopting a WIPO broadcasting organizations treaty. The Committee began discussing the protection of broadcasting organizations in 1998 and after more than twenty-five years of negotiations, a comprehensive and flexible text was finally reached. As the Chair noted at the end of the forty-sixth session, some Member States believed that the text was ready for final negotiation at a diplomatic conference, while others considered that more discussion was needed. The Representative hoped that any reservations could be constructively addressed at the upcoming session of the SCCR and remained confident that continued dialogue would lead to consensus in the Committee. The SCCR should maintain its original format of two full sessions per year so that adequate time could be dedicated to the negotiation of the treaty. Furthermore, WIPO Member States should finalize the text and recommend that the WIPO General Assembly convene a diplomatic conference in 2027. The Representative wished the SCCR every success and expressed the full support of the EBU to the Member States.

83. The Representative of the Global Expert Network on Copyright User Rights spoke on behalf of network members, in other words, copyright academics from around the world. The Representative noted that the statement delivered by the Secretariat was remarkable. Both the broadcasting and the limitations and exceptions topics were under discussion since the 1996 Diplomatic Conference that created the Internet Treaties. The broadcasting issue had been removed from that Diplomatic Conference, and the Agreed Statement to Article 10 of the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) had called for more work on updating limitations and exceptions for the digital environment. Both issues had been on the SCCR agenda since its creation by the General Assembly in 1998 and the increased participation in the Committee and the lack of rapid progress reflected the importance and contested nature of some of those issues. The Representative joined KEI in suggesting that the possible conclusions on those two issues were clear and achievable. With respect to limitations and exceptions, the goal of the SCCR should align with the 2012 General Assembly decision, which stated that the goal was to work towards an appropriate international legal instrument or instruments, apart from thematic events or toolkits. The Representative commended the SCCR's adoption of the work program at its forty-third session, which outlined concrete steps toward that goal and included innovative modalities such as intersessional work. The work program did not prejudice the nature of the instrument and in their statements, both the European Union and the United States of America agreed to work on at least soft law instruments. Stakeholders in favor of the limitations and exceptions agenda, including libraries, archives, museums, and educational and research institutions, considered such soft law instruments to be helpful, and such view suggested that there was a possible and achievable landing point. The Representative stated that there would be little opposition to the text of the broadcasting treaty if the fixation and post-fixation rights were removed. Broadcast rights should not exceed copyright protection for the same materials, with at least the same limitations and exceptions applying. Given the extensive SCCR agenda, the desire for innovative modalities to concentrate discussions, such as special sessions devoted to particular topics, might be needed to reach the landing zones. The Representative expressed willingness to work with delegations on those and other issues.

84. The Secretariat responded to the remarks on the report of the SCCR, noting that the interventions made by Member States and observers appeared to converge broadly in the same direction and that delegations repeated their interest in advancing the work of the SCCR. The key challenge was how to translate that interest into practical progress. The Secretariat reaffirmed its firm commitment to support Member States in identifying points of convergence and agreement, which Member States were seeking in all sincerity. Particular attention was drawn to the accelerating emergence of advanced technologies, such as AI, which required the international community to be prepared to address the associated upcoming challenges.

Hesitation driven by fear of risk could hinder progress. The Secretariat was ready to assist Member States in their endeavor to conclude the next session of the SCCR, scheduled for early December, with a shared sense of achievement, marked by having taken a step in the right direction and having brought renewed dynamism and optimism to the discussions.

85. The WIPO General Assembly:

(i) took note of the “Report on the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights” (document WO/GA/58/4); and

(ii) directed the SCCR to continue its work regarding all ongoing issues reported on in document WO/GA/58/4.

(ii) The Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP)

86. Discussions were based on document [WO/GA/58/5](#).

87. Introducing document WO/GA/58/5, containing the report on the work of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP), the Secretariat noted that it described the progress of discussions at the thirty-sixth session of the SCP, held from October 14 to 18, 2024, in hybrid format. During that session, the Committee continued to address the following five topics: (i) exceptions and limitations to patent rights; (ii) quality of patents, including opposition systems; (iii) patents and health; (iv) confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors; and (v) transfer of technology. The Member States participated proactively in the Committee’s work by sharing information, making presentations and engaging in discussions in a constructive spirit. The efforts and contributions made by the participants led to the adoption of a full set of activities for the future work of the SCP relating to all five of the aforementioned agenda items for its thirty-seventh and its thirty-eighth sessions. The thirty-seventh session of the SCP would be held from November 3 to 7, 2025, in hybrid format. The Secretariat invited the WIPO General Assembly to take note of the information contained in document WO/GA/58/5.

88. The Delegation of Japan, speaking on behalf of Group B, noted that it was grateful to the Secretariat for the comprehensive report contained in document WO/GA/58/5. It commended the SCP’s continued work on advancing critical issues for the international patent system and welcomed the progress made during the thirty-sixth session of the SCP, notably on AI-driven patent examination tools, as well as on Standard-Essential Patents (SEPs) and fair, reasonable, and non-discriminatory (FRAND) licensing policy exchanges. The sharing sessions organized under the SCP provided Member States with valuable insights and perspectives for deepening discussions on patent systems in advanced technological fields. Those sessions greatly contributed to enhancing collective understanding of the challenges and opportunities presented by emerging technologies and fostered a more informed and constructive dialogue among Member States. Particular attention should be paid to the SCP’s future work plan, including the expert exchange on legal policy options for AI inventorship and patentability criteria, which would, *inter alia*, clarify jurisdictional approaches to AI-generated inventions, such as the Device for the Autonomous Bootstrapping of Unified Sentience (DABUS) cases, as well as the sharing sessions on university inventorship and TT challenges, which were critical for harmonizing cross-border collaborative research frameworks. Group B remained committed to the SCP’s mandate as the cornerstone of a robust, future-oriented patent regime, and stood ready to contribute technical expertise and share best practices from national offices on various issues, including AI-assisted prior art searches. It would fully support the SCP’s work, advancing its priorities while working for an equitable and innovation-friendly global IP ecosystem.

89. The Delegation of Estonia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, said that it welcomed the work of the SCP and the progress made with the five topics on the agenda. The quality of

patents, especially relating to AI, and the confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent attorneys, remained the main areas of interest for the CEBS Group. To support enhancing cooperation among the Member States, and confident that the knowledge- and work-sharing could further improve patent-granting processes, the CEBS Group was interested in sharing experiences and exchanging information on the use of AI as regards the patentability of inventions and as applied to the examination of patent applications. High-quality patents were essential to ensure that the patent system incentivized innovation, facilitated knowledge transfer and rewarded new developments. A well-functioning patent system was a priority, since it facilitated the socio-economic development of countries and regions. The CEBS Group was grateful to the Secretariat for providing the draft reference document on the exception regarding the extemporaneous preparation of medicines (SCP/36/3) and thanked the Member States for their inputs to that document. Noting that the document contained valuable information outlining the origin, objectives and goals of the exception and the result achieved by implementing it at a national and regional level, the CEBS Group said that the implementation of the exception had not caused any significant issues and related litigation remained rare. In its view, analysis of the legal frameworks, conditions and scope of the exceptions across jurisdictions offered valuable insights for WIPO Member States. The CEBS Group commended the Secretariat for providing an update on the constraints faced by developing countries and LDCs in making full use of patent flexibilities, and on the impact of those constraints on access to available medicines that were particularly essential for public health, as outlined in document SCP/36/6. The issue of patents and health was at the center of the CEBS Group's concerns. The Group was committed to advancing a shared understanding of policies and initiatives that would promote innovation in health technologies and improve access to medical products. The CEBS Group stood ready to continue engaging in ongoing discussions and exchanges of best practices within the Committee, with a view to maintaining a balance between promoting innovation and ensuring access to medicines. It was grateful to the Secretariat for preparing the compilation of court cases in document SCP/36/7 and noted that the national rules on maintaining confidentiality of communications with patent advisors, especially in court proceedings, varied across countries. The Group strove for a harmonized international approach and the establishment of minimum standards in the area of confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors, to protect such communications from forced disclosure and to reduce legal uncertainty. It would support an approach that respected differences between legal systems while ensuring that communications with foreign patent advisors received the same protection as those under national law. The Group was ready to enrich the future discussions of the SCP by addressing new and relevant topics related to patents. It attached particular importance to topics such as innovation, IP management and technology commercialization and transfer, and called on the Committee to avoid duplicating or overlapping with the work of other fora in that regard. In conclusion, the CEBS Group remained committed to constructive engagement and supported the work of the Committee.

90. The Delegation of China welcomed the research, information-sharing and exchanges undertaken by the Committee and Member States to advance progress on the five topics on the SCP agenda. It supported the future work plan to discuss issues such as AI and SEPs. The Committee was an important platform for discussing the international patent system. China would continue to engage in the Committee's discussions in a constructive manner, and in exchanges of information on recent developments and best practices.

91. The Delegation of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, thanked the Chair, the Secretariat and the members of the SCP for their continuous efforts and the progress made since the previous WIPO General Assembly. There were constructive discussions and progress on all five of the main topics on the SCP agenda, as discussed in the report. Of those topics, the quality of patents, including opposition systems, was of particular importance to the European Union. High-quality patents could guarantee a proper balance between the interests of inventors, industry and other stakeholders on the one hand, and society as a whole on the other hand. The European Union was committed to

advancing the Committee's work, especially with regard to AI. Further work in that area would be beneficial to all countries, irrespective of their level of development, as it would enhance the credibility, reliability and stability of the international IP system. The European Union welcomed presentations by external experts on the use of AI technology for the generation of new technical solutions in research and development (R&D) processes, as well as sharing sessions on the use of various tools, including AI, for effective patent examination procedures and any challenges faced by IP offices in developing, deploying and using such tools. The European Union continued to believe that, in addition to contributing to the technical quality of patents, the Committee should serve as a forum for the discussion of the differences between existing patent law systems, as well as the future harmonization of substantive patent law. It attached particular importance to the confidentiality of communication between clients and their patent advisors, including initiatives to continue updating the compilation of court cases with respect to the client-patent advisor privilege, and to technology transfer. The voluntary transfer of technology was the best way of developing the economy and increasing the level of cooperation between patent holders and patentees, and, consequently, increasing innovation and competitiveness. The European Union would be interested in holding further sharing sessions and roundtable discussions on policy experiences related to SEPs and FRAND licensing within the framework of the SCP. It looked forward to the presentation, at the thirty-seventh session of the SCP, of a dedicated web page containing a compilation of SEP-related legislative and policy measures that were adopted by Member States, including notable case law. It was vital to ensure a comprehensive and balanced approach to the issue of patents and health by maintaining effective incentives for researchers, patent licensing, and broad, affordable and equitable global access to safe and effective vaccines, diagnostics and treatments. The existing international rules on IPRs, including patent flexibilities, provided an adequate framework for that. The European Union had reached a preliminary agreement on a regulation to establish a TRIPS-compliant European Union-wide compulsory licensing system, which would complement existing licensing regimes at the national level in each member State of the European Union. The European Union was particularly interested in extending the regular updates on publicly accessible databases containing patent status information on medicines and vaccines.

92. The Delegation of India welcomed the Secretariat for its meticulous work in preparing the Committee's documents. The active transformation of the IP landscape in India was underway, with legislative changes, policy initiatives and judicial announcements. In 2024, more than 100,000 patent applications were filed in India, with resident filings accounting for over 60 per cent. With a view to strengthening its IP ecosystem through both national reforms and international cooperation, India recruited over 700 patent examiners in the past six years. The recent amendments to the rules reflected the broader goal of creating a balanced, inclusive and innovation-driven patent framework. A key feature of the amendments was the certificate of inventorship, which would institutionalize the formal recognition of inventors and their contribution to innovation. India appreciated the expert exchange session on patentability criteria and AI inventorship, which were complex and rapidly evolving areas. The sharing sessions on the use of advanced tools, including AI, would be timely and important, especially as many IP offices continued to navigate the opportunities and challenges associated with developing, deploying and integrating such technologies into existing workflows. India was eagerly anticipating the outcome of the sharing session on SEPs and FRAND licensing held during previous sessions. Such discussions would be vital for improving transparency, promoting equitable licensing practices and ensuring a balanced global approach to standardization and innovation. India remained committed to actively participating in those discussions and contributing to the development of a global IP system that was fair and inclusive.

93. The Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea thanked the Secretariat for preparing the report. It appreciated the discussions on TT and exceptions and limitations to patent rights during the thirty-sixth session of the SCP and would continue to discuss issues

related to pharmaceuticals during the pandemic and the transfer of technology to developing countries. The world continued to face numerous challenges, including pandemics and socio-economic crises, and the IP system should be sound and ethical and should contribute to the welfare of humanity.

94. The Delegation of the United States of America supported the statement made on behalf of Group B and was grateful to the Secretariat for its report. It particularly appreciated the summaries included in the report on the sharing sessions regarding the use of AI tools for patent examination, sharing of experiences with AI in R&D, and discussions on SEPs. However, the discussions only scratched the surface of what the Committee could and should accomplish given the SCP mandate and the importance of a robust and effective patent system for the advancement of innovation and technology in the world. The United States of America called on Member States to fully realize the mandate of the SCP and to make concrete progress in advancing the global patent system, with a view to addressing longstanding stakeholder needs that required action by both Member States and WIPO. Member States were long overdue in developing a system of global assignment that better enabled patent applicants to effectuate and manage their global title transfers in relation to cross-jurisdictional patent portfolios. Such an endeavor would bring meaningful improvements and simplification to the global patent system, and WIPO was established to facilitate and promote precisely that type of advancement. The United States of America was interested in continuing and expanding discussions on AI tools and ongoing technological developments, noting that IP offices would inevitably be required to consider such technologies as AI continued to advance. It was also interested in advancing discussions and energizing work in trade secrets, including the interplay between patents and trade secrets in fostering innovative technologies that would improve lives and drive progress. Lastly, the Delegation wished to see the SCP fulfill its mandate in assisting Member States in aligning and converging patent laws and practices to promote patent protection throughout the world. The proposal for the future direction for the SCP would require significant refocusing of energy and engagement on core patent issues within the Committee. The Delegation stated that the Committee would be able to achieve those outcomes for patent innovators across the globe with renewed vigor and commitment to honor the purpose of WIPO as enshrined in article 3 of the WIPO Convention. The United States of America hoped that the Committee would take the first step in that direction at the next session of the SCP.

95. The Delegation of the Russian Federation expressed gratitude to the Secretariat for preparing and presenting the Report on the Work of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents. The Delegation highly appreciated the work of the Committee and the Secretariat in preparing documents on key aspects of patent law, which enabled an analysis of issues related to the quality of patents, including patents and health, patents and new technologies, sufficiency of disclosure and unity of inventions. The Delegation noted that, within the framework of the work of the Committee, the Russian Federation intended to work on improving the quality of granted patents by implementing cutting-edge technologies in the work of Office and improving the regulatory framework. The Delegation also noted that, at the national level, amendments had been made to regulations clarifying the requirements for patent application documents and approaches to assessing the patentability of inventions in the field of IT, including those related to AI. The Russian Federation took steps toward expanding the range of solutions that can be patented – those included solutions used in the fields of search engines, text translation, and text classification. The Delegation emphasized that it attached particular importance to the meetings to exchange practices and opinions traditionally organized during the Committee's sessions, especially on the comprehensive use of flexibilities in the patent system to ensure access to affordable, particularly essential, medicines. The Delegation stressed the importance of providing up-to-date information on the patent protection status of pharmaceuticals and vaccines, which would help broaden and deepen the understanding of this issue across various jurisdictions and regions. It noted that sharing relevant experience would accelerate public access to developments in such technical fields, disseminate information to interested parties, and reduce the workload of IP Offices. The Delegation noted with satisfaction that the

Committee's work was covering key issues related to limitations and exceptions to patent rights, with each session exploring a separate aspect of this broad topic. The Delegation observed that the discussion at the previous SCP session on the interpretation of provisions regarding the exception to patent rights for the compounding of medicines in pharmacies veered into the realm of direct regulation of pharmaceutical circulation rather than patents. The Delegation also noted that the Committee should continue to examine this limitation to patent rights, taking into account the experience of Member States and discussions on balancing rights in the compounding of patented medicines in pharmacies. The Delegation of the Russian Federation emphasized that the application of any exceptions or limitations to patent rights should be carried out in accordance with the principle of balancing the interests of producers and end-users, and expressed hope that constructive work in this area would continue, particularly regarding the SCP's future work on the exception related to the use of patented inventions in agriculture and/or breeding. The Delegation supported the Committee's work plan, which included continuing the regular updating of information in publicly accessible databases on the patent status of pharmaceuticals and vaccines, as well as updating the Committee's documents on the existing laws and practices of Member States, especially those concerning the patentability of AI-related inventions. The Delegation expressed hope for the continuation of constructive dialogue, exchange of views, and sharing of practices within the framework of the Committee's work.

96. The Delegation of Japan aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of Group B and thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of document WO/GA/58/5. In the Delegation's view, discussions on AI-related IP issues were ongoing in various countries and it was important to show the latest trends and actual practices related to AI among IP offices. The SCP continued to share information with Member States on various AI topics, such as inventorship issues and the use of AI in patent examination practices. The Japan Patent Office (JPO) actively shared information on its latest initiatives on those topics. It was in the interest of many Member States to hold more discussions within the SCP, especially taking into consideration the future development of AI. Japan remained committed to contributing to discussions within the SCP.

97. The Delegation of Sudan commended the Committee's work and its invaluable efforts and initiatives during the past year, as well as its focus on the five topics on the agenda, particularly on exceptions and limitations to patent rights, patents and health, transfer of technology and quality of patents. In its view, it was important, in utilizing patent flexibilities, to effectively address constraints faced by developing countries, especially conflict-affected countries. Robust technical assistance should be provided to developing countries to enable them to enhance their capacities in patent examination, particularly through the use of advanced tools such as AI, and to facilitate effective technology transfer. Support in that regard was vital to ensure that the patent system effectively promoted innovation and contributed meaningfully to sustainable development. It was vital to guarantee equitable access to affordable health-care patents and technologies, including essential medicines and vaccines. For countries facing conflict and humanitarian emergencies, such as Sudan, access to life-saving treatments and health innovations was not only a development priority but also a matter of survival. Ensuring sufficient flexibility within patent systems to support public health imperatives was crucial for building resilient health systems and achieving health equality and equity. Sudan had high hopes for the SCP's future work and encouraged continued dialogue and cooperation among Member States to enhance the development-oriented aspects of patent law.

98. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia was grateful to the Committee for continuing the discussion of the five topics on the agenda, especially with regard to strengthening fair and effective TT mechanisms between various parties through strategic partnerships between industry and universities. Saudi Arabia successfully integrated AI tools into patent examination procedures, which contributed to improving performance and quality, and supported ongoing efforts to prepare reference documents on exceptions and limitations to patent rights, in accordance with legal standards and development needs of Member States. The Delegation

stood ready to exchange technical expertise with Member States on the practical applications of those policies within its national framework for IP.

99. The Delegation of Brazil thanked the Secretariat for preparing and presenting the report on the Committee's work and supported the SCP's work, particularly with regard to exceptions and limitations, public health patents, TT and AI. In its view, the Committee should deepen debates on flexibilities in the patent regime, especially in the light of the lessons learned from the pandemic and the needs of developing countries. Document SCP/36/3 on exceptions related to the extemporaneous preparation of medicines was welcome. A new reference document on exceptions, proposed by Brazil, would enrich the discussion on that topic at the thirty-seventh session of the SCP, scheduled for November 2025. On the subject of the quality of patents, Brazil expected studies on the unity of invention and divisional patent applications to continue. It continued to contribute to the studies on sufficiency of disclosure, and looked forward to ongoing dialogue on emerging technologies, including AI, as well as the dissemination of good regulatory practices for FRAND licensing.

100. The Delegation of Morocco thanked the Secretariat for the excellent quality of the working documents, and the Committee for the efforts made in advancing its work. Morocco attached great importance to the work carried out within the Committee and was following the ongoing discussions with interest. The Delegation found the discussions particularly useful in the context of its work to develop its patent legislation at the national level. The Delegation encouraged the SCP to continue its work on the five agenda items, as well as the information exchange sessions on AI, particularly regarding the use of AI to make patent examination procedures more efficient and to explore the challenges posed by AI for IP offices.

101. The Delegation of Colombia thanked the Secretariat for preparing the report and encouraged the Committee to continue addressing issues related to the difficulties faced by developing countries and LDCs in making full use of patents and patent flexibilities. The Delegation stressed the need to promote initiatives aimed at consolidating and improving public-access databases containing information on the legal status of patents, particularly those related to medicines and vaccines. Access to such information would better enable individuals and policymakers to take informed actions and design better IP policies.

102. The Delegation of Samoa thanked the Secretariat for the SCP report. Regarding the statement made by the European Union on the quality of patents, the Delegation expressed the view that high-quality patents were those that clearly disclosed their origin and indicated whether they were derived from particular GRs or associated TK within the meaning of the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge (GRATK Treaty), which was now part of the IP landscape and WIPO jurisprudence. In its efforts to enhance patent regimes globally, the SCP should consider the changes to the patent landscape that would result from the entry into force of the GRATK Treaty, unless WIPO planned on expanding the mandate of the IGC and the Traditional Knowledge Division to include patent formalities related to disclosure. The Delegation was grateful to the Secretariat for its assistance with IP legislation at the national level.

103. The Delegation of Spain supported the statements delivered on behalf of Group B and the European Union and its member States. It remained committed to participating actively in the Committee and contributing to its debates. On the issue of exceptions and limitations to patent rights, Spain supported all the work done to date on compiling information concerning the various exceptions. It anticipated that, during the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions, the Committee would conclude its work to draft the reference documents on all those exceptions. Regarding the quality of patents, including opposition systems, Spain welcomed the work carried out on matters related to AI and the patent system. It attached particular importance to discussions on the use of AI in generating inventions, including AI inventorship; in drafting patent applications; in examining inventions developed with the aid of such technology; and in

supporting search, examination, and management functions within patent offices. The relationship between patents and public health should continue to be studied by the Committee, not only in view of the influence of patents on access to medicines, but also given the recognition of patents as the main incentive for innovation in the health sector. The cross-border aspects of confidentiality of communications between clients and agents constituted a barrier to the more effective international protection of inventions *via* the patent system. Spain was following that matter with interest. Noting that the patent system was inextricably linked to TT, the Delegation welcomed the inclusion on the SCP agenda of issues relating to SEPs, as well as inventorship and ownership stemming from research on collaboration, including cross-border collaboration. The latter subject was all the more important given the difficulty in determining an inventor's claim to a patent in the context of a joint contract, particularly with regard to where and how to submit a patent application in cases involving cross-border agreements. The Delegation would continue contributing to the work of the SCP, which it viewed as an international forum where very important discussions on the patent system were being held.

104. The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of the report contained in document WO/GA/58/5 and appreciated the important work of the Committee in maintaining a balance between the rights of patent holders and the public interest. The interplay between the various forms of IP, particularly patents, and key public policy domains such as public health, TT and economic development was a critical factor in strategic policymaking across all Member States, with especially profound implications for developing countries. The Delegation welcomed the Committee's focus on important issues in the area of quality of patents and opposition systems, which played a critical role in the protection of IP at both the national and international levels. The accessibility of the IP system for countries during the COVID-19 pandemic and in the post-pandemic economy highlighted the importance of considering different levels of development, national contexts and the potential implications of SCP work. Those factors should remain central and be thoughtfully addressed throughout the deliberative process, as their relevance became even more pronounced in the evolving landscape, where emerging technologies intersected with the IP system. The Delegation supported improving the transparency of information related to patents on medicines and vaccines through mechanisms that facilitated public access to innovation databases as a vital measure for the health sector. The Delegation welcomed the two sharing sessions held during the thirty-sixth session of the SCP on the use of various tools, including AI, for effective patent examination procedures that helped to overcome the challenges faced by IP offices in developing and deploying such tools. It also appreciated the sharing session on policy experiences on SEPs and FRAND licensing. The Delegation looked forward to continuing constructive deliberations at the next meeting of the SCP and to the further exchange and sharing of experiences on patent-related issues.

105. The Delegation of Eswatini thanked the Secretariat for the comprehensive report on the work of the SCP and welcomed the continued fact-based inclusive approach to critical issues such as AI in patent law, equitable TT and access to health-related and life-saving innovations. The Delegation encouraged continued attention to be given to the needs of developing countries and looked forward to meaningful engagement in future sessions. It noted the efforts made within the SCP to address the challenges faced by developing countries and LDCs in utilizing patent flexibilities. The Delegation supported the development of publicly available databases on patents related to medicines and vaccines as well as the continued dialogue on SEPs and FRAND licensing. The planned studies on inventorship, confidentiality in foreign filing, and TT between academia and industry were especially valuable. The Delegation attached particular importance to inclusive, transparent discussions and data-driven approaches.

106. The Delegation of South Africa was grateful to the SCP for its diligent work and to the Secretariat for its work on the report. It acknowledged the progress made by the SCP and

continued to support the Committee's future activities, including its work based on the agreement reached at its thirty-sixth session. It appreciated the draft reference document on exceptions and limitations to patent rights regarding the extemporaneous preparation of medicines, submitted to the thirty-sixth session of the SCP. The document highlighted the policy objectives of the exception, in particular the need to strike an appropriate balance between the rights of patent holders and the needs of patients and health-care providers. That balance was essential to ensure that individual patients' rights to health and access to necessary medication were not hindered, while protecting pharmaceutical innovation through patents. The second policy objective was to support the public interest in health care by allowing pharmacists to prepare prescribed medicines without fear of patent infringement, thereby safeguarding patient care and addressing specific medical needs. The third policy objective was to facilitate medical and pharmaceutical activities, particularly by protecting the freedom of doctors to issue prescriptions tailored to the specific needs of patients. The fourth policy objective was the social mission of health-care providers, including pharmacists, in restoring the health of patients. It would be inappropriate if the effect of a patent right extended to the act of preparing medicines in pharmacies, including personalized medications addressing individual patient needs, which was important for effective health-care delivery. Those objectives collectively aimed to ensure that while the patent system continued to incentivize pharmaceutical innovation, it did not hinder the ability of health-care providers from addressing the specific needs of individual patients through tailored medication prepared on the basis of a doctor's prescription. The Delegation welcomed the background document on patents and emerging technologies prepared by the Secretariat and submitted to the thirty-sixth session of the SCP, which highlighted the ability of AI technology to assist applicants, third parties and IP professionals in carrying out their respective activities more efficiently. The background document considered that the application of AI in IP practices could be grouped into three categories: document automation, process automation, and AI-enabled insights for better-informed decision making. The Delegation remained committed to working towards a patent system that could continue to incentivize innovation while evolving in a more inclusive way, responding to the needs of all countries and their communities.

107. The Representative of KEI acknowledged, along with several other participants, the benefits of the information sessions held within the SCP and appreciated the informative nature of the meetings. There was a significant contrast between the SCP, which focused on information sharing, and the SCCR, which continued to struggle with norm-setting. The operational cultures of those Committees were also completely different. A potential topic for future SCP sessions could be the United States of America practice whereby, when a medication was placed on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) drug shortage list owing to supply shortages, companies could effectively disregard both patent rights and regulatory exclusivities. For example, the recent widespread use of generic compounded versions of weight-loss drugs under that exception was the subject of little prior discussion. There was a lot of discussions and negotiations at the World Health Organization (WHO) and other organizations on whether or not compulsory or voluntary measures should be used to gain access to patented inventions or TT, and Group B countries were supportive of voluntary measures. There was also a slowdown in voluntary licensing, since the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) had struggled to expand voluntary licensing beyond a handful of infectious diseases to include noncommunicable diseases. Some stakeholders would like to see more work done in the area of incentives for voluntary licensing, which would be a good topic for the SCP, particularly the issue of incentives for voluntary licenses that serve a social purpose. Many IP offices were currently focused on AI, and many patent offices did not consider a machine to be an inventor, but also noted that machines were excelling at producing outputs resembling inventions. It would be helpful for the SCP to discuss whether a *sui generis* regime for AI inventions should be established, as opposed to applying the existing patent system. The patent system was designed around human inventors and if AI were to become so advanced as to perform tasks historically undertaken by human inventors, it would be desirable to consider implementing some type of *sui generis* regime. The SCP might be a good forum for such a

conversation since a non-norm-setting environment facilitated debates about policies, as negotiators could defend their domestic industrial policy position.

108. The Representative of ELAPI noted that ELAPI focused on ensuring that patent rights served the fundamental objective of stimulating innovation without undermining public access to essential goods and social progress. The Representative believed that opposition systems were key to detecting and correcting deficiencies, while contributing to the integrity and credibility of the patent system as a whole. They also believed that any exception to patent rights should be robust and clearly defined, and that efforts to ensure that databases were complete, interoperable, and user-friendly should be intensified. That was vital particularly for developing countries, as were TT and local capacity-building, which were key pillars for equitable access to innovation. The Representative encouraged the revision and adaptation of the various existing regulatory frameworks to ensure that they evolved in step with the rapid development of AI.

109. The Representative of Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) said that MPP was pleased to have presented the Medicines Patents and Licenses Database (MedsPaL) on several occasions at SCP meetings. MedsPaL was a free patent and license database created by MPP in 2016, aimed at helping the global health community improve access to essential health products and technologies through a better understanding of patent and license landscapes. The scope of MedsPaL significantly expanded since its creation to cover new and emerging products and technologies, and its features were also enhanced to ensure it remained a key resource for its users. The Representative appreciated the collaboration of various patent offices in keeping the data in MedsPaL up to date and noted that MPP was interested in working with additional patent offices in the future. MPP was working actively in the area of TT by closely collaborating with manufacturers in 15 countries under the mRNA TT program, a global initiative aimed at improving health and health security through the establishment of sustainable, locally-owned mRNA manufacturing capacity in and for low- and middle-income countries. The program initially focused on COVID-19 but was now working with countries to combat other diseases, including future pandemics, by developing additional mRNA vaccines and therapeutics targeting life-threatening illnesses. MPP looked forward to having further opportunities to share information on MedsPaL as well as on the mRNA and TT program.

110. The Representative of the Third World Network Berhad (TWN) wished to recall its previous general statement in which it had highlighted the role of patents in enhancing the debate on inequality and development. A 2024 report of the UN Committee for Development Policy to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) contained several observations regarding IPRs, including that they were biased towards rewarding innovators over users. The report stated that IP protection often far exceeded what would be necessary to incentivize innovation, resulting in high prices and an undersupply of public goods. It also highlighted that IP protection reduced the global dissemination of the benefits of innovation, thereby contributing to inequality. The UN Committee for Development Policy called for a review of administrative and legal obstacles to improve what it considered a dysfunctional IP system and better respond to development concerns. In addition to enhancing inequality, patents also acted as a barrier to the green transition, including by restricting the right to repair, thereby enabling corporations to maintain environmentally harmful business practices. The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) called for a reform of the IP regime in support of a just energy transition. The present year marked thirty years since the adoption of the TRIPS Agreement, which significantly reduced the policy space available to developing countries. Under the TRIPS patent regime, developing countries had to grant pharmaceutical patents, which compromised their ability to fulfill their obligations relating to the right to health, especially in terms of access to medicines. TWN called on Member States to urgently streamline the work of the SCP to overcome barriers to the use of TRIPS flexibilities. The Representative also cautioned Member States against advancing discussions on the patentability of AI-generated inventions. Any such discussions should first address the preliminary issue of whether AI

inventions or AI-generated inventions fell within the definition of “invention” under existing patent laws.

111. The WIPO General Assembly took note of the “Report on the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP)” (document WO/GA/58/5).

(iii) The Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)

112. Discussions were based on document [WO/GA/58/6](#).

113. The Secretariat noted that document WO/GA/58/6 described the work of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT), which held its forty-eighth session from March 24 to 27, 2025, chaired by Mr. Liu Jian (China) and attended by 141 delegations. At that session, the SCT elected for its forty-ninth session Ms. Lilyclaire Bellamy (Jamaica) as Chair, and Ms. Kateřina Dlabolová (Czech Republic) and Ms. Tlalane Augustina Sebeko (Lesotho) as Vice-Chairs. The SCT made progress on its work in the three areas covered by the Committee, namely trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications. In the area of trademarks, the Committee continued to work on the protection of country names and on nation brands. On the latter topic, the Delegations of Ecuador and Peru made a Proposal on Nation Brands, contained in document SCT/48/3, which the SCT would continue to discuss at its next session. In the area of industrial designs, the SCT considered an Updated Proposal for a Joint Recommendation Concerning Industrial Design Protection for Designs for Graphical User Interfaces (GUIs), as well as a Proposal for a Study on the Impact of Design Protection for GUI Designs on Innovation. In addition, the Secretariat organized a virtual Information Session on GUI Design Protection, which took place prior to the forty-eighth session of the SCT. At its next session, the SCT would continue discussions on the Updated Proposal for a Joint Recommendation Concerning Industrial Design Protection for Designs for GUIs and on a revised version of the Proposal for a Study on the Impact of Design Protection for GUI Designs on Innovation. Finally, in the area of geographical indications, two half-day information sessions took place, on March 24 and 25, respectively. The following topics were presented: “The Value of Geographical Indications Around the World” and “Recognition of Geographical Indications as Valid Rights in Domain Name Dispute Resolution Procedures”. The SCT agreed to hold a further Information Session on Geographical Indications in conjunction with its forty-ninth session on the following topics: “Inclusive Governance of Geographical Indications and Sustainability” and “Plant Names and Geographical Indications”. The Secretariat pointed out that members were invited to present to the forty-ninth session of the SCT proposals for further topics for Information Sessions on Geographical Indications.

114. The Delegation of Japan, speaking on behalf of Group B, welcomed the comprehensive report on the SCT, as contained in document WO/GA/58/6, and acknowledged the SCT’s progress on critical issues affecting trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications. Group B remained open to the organization of information sessions in general, as they encouraged Member States to share new developments and were an interesting and educational way to hear about new legislation and experiences. The Group commended the Secretariat for the organization of the virtual information session on GUI design protection in February 2025 and the two information sessions on geographical indications in March 2025. With respect to the protection of GUIs along with the development of digital technologies, such as AI and the Internet of Things, the Group considered that the protection of digital interfaces was becoming increasingly important in various sectors. Therefore, it attached particular importance to holding a sharing session that would encourage evidence-based discussions for GUI protection. Finally, the Group would continue to engage constructively in the fruitful and interesting discussions taking place within the Committee.

115. The Delegation of Estonia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, taking note of the report of the SCT, said that it wished to thank Mr. Liu Jian (China) for his leadership in chairing the forty-eighth session of SCT and the Secretariat for the organization of the virtual information session on GUI design protection in February 2025. The information session offered valuable insights into the regulatory approaches and practical experiences of different Member States in protecting new forms of designs. The Group was grateful to the Member States that provided valuable insights on different topics. For the Group, continuing the discussion on industrial design protection for GUIs was of great importance. It appreciated the initiative and the Updated Proposal for a Joint Recommendation Concerning Industrial Design Protection for Designs for GUIs, as contained in document SCT/44/6 Rev.4, and believed that the Joint Recommendation would provide a practical guide for the modern protection of special types of design with respect to new technologies, as well as a good basis for sharing best practices in that field and for assisting interested jurisdictions in providing and fostering the conditions for new creative designs. The proposal for a Joint Recommendation went already through a new revision, and the time was ripe to finalize the discussions and find agreement on its adoption. Turning to the area of trademarks, the Group recognized the importance of continuing the discussions on the protection of country names and geographical names of national significance and appreciated the work carried out by the proponents in revising the Proposal Concerning Examination Guidelines for Trademarks Which Consist of or Contain Country Names or Geographical Names of National Significance. With the incorporation of new proposals, the interests of all Member States would truly be taken into account, paving the way for the Committee to adopt the recommendations. The Group supported, in particular, the inclusion of the concept of acquired distinctiveness in the document. Renaming the document as a joint recommendation would more accurately reflect its purpose and nature. Regarding the protection of country names and geographical names of national significance in the Domain Name System (DNS), the Group remained supportive of the proposal contained in document SCT/41/6 Rev.2. The main objective of the proposal was to protect country names and geographical names of national significance against their delegation as top-level domain names in the DNS only if the sign consisted exclusively of such names. The Group believed that geographical names at the second level should also benefit from the current rights-protection system and reiterated its support for the proposed mechanism whereby the protection of country names and geographical names of national significance should be based on the existing lists. The Group was grateful to the Secretariat for the Update on Trademark-Related Aspects of the DNS, and acknowledged the role and important work of the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center in striking a fair balance between the interests of IP rights owners and users of the DNS. It believed that the report on the jurisprudential and operational experience with the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) would serve as a good basis for further action. The Group took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the current developments and further steps taken in the area of the protection of other non-trademark business identifiers, such as geographical indications in the DNS, and welcomed the specific solutions and mechanisms put in place. The Group also welcomed the activities carried out and processes run by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), as well as the plans for providing further assistance to IPR holders, owners and users within the area of domain names. The Group looked forward to further updates on trademark-related aspects of the DNS. The CEBS Group also thanked the Delegations of Ecuador and Peru for their Proposal on Nation Brands, as contained in document SCT/48/3. While it agreed that nation brands constituted strategic instruments through which States could effectively promote their national identity and enhance their international image, it considered that further progress in establishing a shared understanding of nation branding was necessary before engaging in discussions on legal instruments. At present, the Group considered that it was too early to move forward the proposal in its current form. However, it supported further constructive cooperation in analyzing the best approach to ensure sufficient protection of nation brands. Finally, the Group welcomed the opportunity to continue working on that matter, particularly with regard to developing a

common definition and fostering a harmonized understanding of nation branding across different jurisdictions.

116. The Delegation of China was grateful to the Secretariat for the comprehensive report on the forty-eighth session of the SCT and for its work in organizing the session, as well as to all Member States for their efforts in promoting the progress of the SCT agenda. China consistently attached great importance to the topics addressed by the SCT and would continue participating actively in relevant discussions and sharing its own experiences with all Member States.

117. The Delegation of Ecuador, speaking on behalf of the GRULAC thanked the Secretariat for submitting the report on the SCT. It appreciated the efforts made to achieve further progress on issues of interest to the region, particularly concerning the protection of country names, nation brands and geographical indications of national importance. With respect to geographical indications, it was particularly interested in future information sessions focused on sustainability and governance, and on the links between plant names and geographical indications. Those issues were highly relevant to the region, where geographical indications constituted key tools for the development and protection of culture, and for differentiating high-quality products. GRULAC would continue to cooperate constructively on building a consensus on normative solutions in a manner that reflected the priorities and interests of all Member States.

118. The Delegation of the European Union, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, continued to attach great importance to the work of the SCT as the multilateral forum for discussing international rules and practices in the fields of trademarks, designs and geographical indications. On the topic of GUI designs, it was regrettable that the desired progress could not be achieved during the previous session. The European Union remained convinced that adopting the joint recommendation, contained in document SCT/44/6 Rev.4, would establish a common baseline for GUI protection and would further contribute to the modernization of design practices. As a nonbinding recommendation, it would not prejudice the needs of some members to obtain additional prior information on its implications. Regarding trademarks, and specifically on the topic of country names, the co-sponsors of the joint proposal contained in document SCT/43/6 Rev.2 were to be commended for accommodating all previous suggestions made by the European Union and its member States in that context. The European Union looked forward to receiving the revised text of the proposal, with the hope of finalizing the discussions during the next session of the SCT. On the topic of nation brands, the European Union thanked the co-sponsors for submitting the proposal contained in document SCT/48/3. While recognizing the importance of nation brands as valuable tools for countries to promote their national identities and images, it maintained that nation brands could benefit adequately from protection through existing legal mechanisms – namely, as trademarks and by means of Article 6ter of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. The existing legal frameworks provided sufficient safeguards for nation brands across various jurisdictions. Nevertheless, the European Union remained open to further discussions to clarify the difficulties faced by members and to explore solutions within those existing frameworks. Finally, with regard to geographical indications, the European Union was grateful to the Secretariat for organizing the information sessions, as well as to the participants for sharing their insights and experiences. The European Union was particularly pleased to have discussed the recognition of geographical indications in domain name dispute resolution procedures during the previous session and looked forward to sharing experiences on the topics selected for the next session. The European Union and its member States remained committed to advancing discussions in all three areas on the agenda of the SCT.

119. The Delegation of the United States of America supported the statement delivered by the Delegation of Japan on behalf of Group B, and thanked the Secretariat for its report, as contained in document WO/GA/58/6. The Delegation was also grateful to the Delegations of

Canada, Israel, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, and the European Union for their continued support for and co-sponsorship of a joint recommendation concerning industrial design protection for designs for GUIs, as contained in document SCT/44/6 Rev.4. Even before discussions on AI began permeating seemingly all conversations on IP, developing recommended practices in relation to digital designs had already been an important work stream at WIPO, given the prevalence of such designs in digitally driven economies. Industrial design protection for those designs was critical to innovators in that space and could make the difference between success or failure for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), often the most innovative of the world's companies. With the Riyadh Design Law Treaty (RDLT) having been successfully adopted, it was important for the SCT to focus its industrial design attention on moving the joint recommendation from discussion to fruition, thereby enabling Member States wishing to modernize in that area to do so with WIPO's expertise as a guide.

120. The Delegation of India deeply appreciated the meticulous efforts of the Secretariat in compiling the documentation for the Committee, and of the Committee for making considerable progress on the agenda items currently under consideration. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was to be lauded for the successful hosting of the Diplomatic Conference and for facilitating the adoption of the RDLT. India appreciated the proposal by the African Group to invite further comments from Member States on the revised document relating to the Study on the Impact of Design Protection for GUI Designs on Innovation. It also acknowledged the proposal for a Joint Recommendation Concerning Industrial Design Protection for Designs for GUIs. While such legal protection might serve as an incentive for innovation, it would be important to clearly define the scope and boundaries of that protection. India welcomed the revised proposal of the Delegation of Jamaica for a Joint Recommendation on Protecting Country Names and recognized the underlying objective of document SCT/43/6 Rev.2, which was to ensure that trademarks containing country names and geographical names of national significance did not mislead the public. The protection of geographical names should balance the interests of businesses, consumers and national identities, while taking into account established legal principles and examination practices. It was important to safeguard country names to preserve cultural heritage and affirm national identity. Nation brands were closely tied to the economic, social and cultural identity of a country, shaping its global perception, trade, tourism and investment. India was grateful to the Chair for continuing the discussion in the next session and was interested in pursuing constructive discussions on various aspects of nation brands, including their protection, management and role in fostering innovation and economic growth.

121. The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran thanked the Secretariat for preparing the report contained in document WO/GA/58/6. The SCT's work and agenda were important, as they provided an appropriate framework for the effective and balanced protection of trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications, all of which contributed to fostering innovation and development. The conclusion of the RDLT, in November 2024, represented a landmark achievement in the evolution of the international IP system, and the Member States and WIPO were to be commended for realizing that historic milestone. The protection of country names and geographical names of national significance in the DNS should be addressed as a matter of priority to ensure a balanced and mutually beneficial outcome. In the field of designs, while the current international framework provided a degree of flexibility that supported technological advancement in design, it looked forward to continuing discussions to further explore the various dimensions of GUI design protection. It also welcomed the progress made in implementing the Digital Access Service (DAS) for industrial designs and looked forward to continuing the discussions to ensure its full and effective implementation. Finally, the Delegation welcomed the upcoming information sessions on the inclusive governance of geographical indications and sustainability and on plant names and geographical indications, to be held during the forty-ninth session of the Committee.

122. The Delegation of the Russian Federation thanked the Deputy Director General, Wang Binying, and the Secretariat for preparing and providing the report on the work of the SCT. The

Delegation also highly appreciated the successful finalization of the RDLT, adopted in November 2024. With regard to the work of the Committee, the Russian Federation expressed interest in continuing the discussions and further exploring balanced approaches to the protection of country names and nation brands, noting that the country had successfully implemented a State program to promote exporters under the unified national brand "Made in Russia," which aimed to assist domestic companies in entering global markets by generating interest in Russian products among foreign buyers. In that connection, the Russian Federation noted that it considered it useful to continue discussions on the protection of nation brands, and that the recommendations developed by the Committee would be beneficial to all WIPO Member States. The Delegation emphasized the importance of continuing the Committee's work on the protection of GUI designs as industrial designs, and that it believed that recommendations on this issue developed within the SCT could help align the approaches of national offices for the effective protection of GUI designers' rights. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for holding an information session on the protection of GUI designs in February 2025, which paid special attention to GUI development in various sectors, and expressed hope for continued exchange of experiences among WIPO Member States through such information sessions on various topics, including the protection of GUI designs. The Russian Federation expressed its readiness to continue constructive dialogue within SCT and to share best practices.

123. The Delegation of South Africa, speaking in its national capacity, thanked the Secretariat for the vital work of the SCT. The report prepared by the Secretariat highlighted the cases administered by the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, providing trademark owners with efficient international mechanisms to address the bad faith registration and use of domain names corresponding to their trademark rights. The number of cases filed by trademark holders in 2024 – 6,168 UDRP-based complaints – highlighted the continued importance of the UDRP for brand owners. The Delegation looked forward to the Information Session on Geographical Indications to be held in conjunction with the forty-ninth session of the SCT, focusing on the inclusive governance of geographical indications and sustainability, as well as plant names and geographical indications. The Delegation believed that the study on the impact of GUI design protection on GUI design innovation in countries that extended such protection, as proposed by the African Group at the forty-sixth session of the SCT, should consider the various legal means for GUI design protection, factor in other policy measures that supported the development of that sector, and examine whether GUI design protection could have a similar impact in developing countries and LDCs where such other factors might be absent. It looked forward to the realization of the proposal for a sharing session on GUI design protection at the next session of the SCT. The Delegation remained resolute in its support for the SCT as it continued to navigate those complex issues with diligence and foresight, and believed that Member States should together uphold the principles of fairness, innovation and inclusivity in their pursuit of a robust global IP regime.

124. The Delegation of Spain aligned itself with the statements delivered on behalf of Group B and the European Union and thanked the Secretariat for the work done. Regarding trademarks, the proposals on the protection of country names and geographical names of national significance and their safeguarding in the DNS constituted a solid basis for analysis and discussion on appropriate protection in the light of trademark examination practices. The Delegation would continue to actively participate in the discussions with a view to making progress on that matter. The proper protection of geographical indications and appellations of origin, as labels of unique quality, was key to guaranteeing socio-economic development. Therefore, information sessions were particularly valuable, as they addressed tangible issues that had an impact on the protection of those signs and indications and provided information that contributed to a better understanding of the diversity of problems and difficulties surrounding them. The Delegation would continue to participate actively in the Committee's work, and hoped that the SCT would continue to serve as a multilateral forum on trademarks and geographical indications.

125. The Delegation of Sudan welcomed the efforts made by the Committee during its forty-eighth session and congratulated the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the successful conference on the adoption of the RDLT, as well as WIPO and all Member States for that achievement. The Delegation looked forward to continued discussions on country names and geographical names of national significance, an issue that was very important for Sudan given its role in protecting the national cultural identity and boosting the economic potential of local identity. It welcomed the progress made on the protection of GUIs and supported the proposal made by the African Group to study the impact of design protection for GUI designs, as it considered it important to ensure that any gaps in that area would not complicate the matter even further. Sudan supported the Committee in achieving sustainable development by strengthening the added value of local products. It was very important for Sudan and countries facing economic challenges that the IP system be a driver of international justice, to enable local technical assistance and capacity-building, as well as IP protection. The promotion of local products should be guaranteed. The Delegation looked forward to continuing discussions to strengthen local innovation systems that would ensure that IP remained a tool for resilience and recovery in conflict-affected countries.

126. The Delegation of Brazil, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC, thanked the Secretariat for the report on the SCT and congratulated all the delegations for the adoption of the RDLT, which should provide much better protection, including for TK. It encouraged studies on the protection of GUIs, which were increasingly important in digital innovation, and stressed the need to carry out a preliminary study on the impact of protection for GUIs on the innovation process, particularly in developing countries. The Delegation continued to support the proposal on the protection of country names and geographical names of national significance in the DNS, considering that it was necessary to protect the public interest and the sovereignty of States in the digital era. Finally, the Delegation hoped that there would be space to address new issues on the agenda, for example by exploring a recommendation to facilitate trademark registration. Noting its positive experience of the projects carried out within the framework of the CDIP, concerning the registration of collective trademarks and geographical indications in collaboration with vulnerable communities, particularly in terms of environmental protection, the Delegation was of the view that such experiences could also be of interest to other countries.

127. The Delegation of Samoa thanked the Secretariat for the report and welcomed the Committee for its diligent efforts and hard work. The Delegation attached great importance to the work on the protection of country names and geographical names of national significance, as a country with a rich and diverse cultural heritage that was passionate about the preservation of its culture, TK, biodiversity and creativity. It was important to move that work forward.

128. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea thanked the Secretariat for its hard work in preparing document WO/GA/58/6. Regarding the protection of GUI designs, it supported the adoption of a joint recommendation on the protection of GUI designs and believed that it would contribute to harmonizing protection practices in response to the growing importance of GUI designs in the digital economy. It hoped that the study proposed by the African Group would not be treated as a precondition for adoption of the joint recommendation and encouraged WIPO to conduct such studies as a complementary measure to support the effective implementation of the recommendation after its adoption. In the field of trademarks, while the Delegation fully agreed with the need to prevent the misuse of country names and geographical names in the trademark system, it considered that current trademark laws in several jurisdictions, including its own, already provided sufficient grounds to refuse the registration of names that might mislead or imply State application. The Delegation looked forward to continuing constructive discussions on those issues in a way that would respect the diversity of legal systems while promoting common goals.

129. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia thanked the Secretariat for the report and supported the efforts undertaken within the SCT. With regard to the protection of country names and names of geographical significance, it was important to balance the protection of the national interests of countries and commercial openness. Therefore, a clear geographical criterion should be introduced to avoid any legal ambiguity, while respecting national sovereignty and avoiding undermining national economic interests. Concerning the protection of geographical indications, Saudi Arabia would like to exchange experiences with other Member States, including on the question of mutual recognition and dispute settlement processes, to achieve guidelines that would enhance clarity.

130. The Delegation of Jamaica thanked the Secretariat for the report on the work of the SCT and attached particular importance to the topic of country names for Jamaica's economic growth and international recognition. Its country name had socio-cultural and economic value and was therefore an intangible asset that facilitated the protection of products originating in Jamaica. Through that form of brand protection, Jamaica preserved its reputation, including in its music and tourism. Its country name directly tied IP to its efforts to showcase its unique identity and to advance its ability to harness the international IP system. Jamaica therefore commended the work undertaken within the SCT and encouraged discussions that would continue yielding benefits to its economy.

131. The Delegation of Eswatini thanked the Secretariat for the report on the SCT as contained in document WO/GA/58/6 and welcomed the Committee's continued focus on the protection of country names, geographical names of national significance and nation brands. Those issues were of increasing relevance in today's globalized economy, particularly in safeguarding national identity and preventing misuse in trademark applications and the DNS. Noting the ongoing discussions on the revised proposals concerning country names, Eswatini commended the Delegations of Georgia, Jamaica and others for their leadership in that area, and urged the Committee, at its next session, to achieve tangible progress on those instruments, particularly on the joint recommendation concerning provisions on country names. With regard to industrial designs, the Committee was to be congratulated for its balanced approach towards the proposal on GUI design protection and the African Group's call for a comprehensive study on its innovation impact. Considering that both perspectives were essential, namely the harmonization of design protection practices and an evidence-based understanding of their effects on innovation ecosystems, Eswatini supported the proposed sharing session on GUI design protection. Concerning geographical indications, the Delegation welcomed the decision to hold thematic information sessions, especially on inclusive governance and plant names, as geographical indications had immense economic and cultural value, especially for rural and traditional communities, and continued dialogue and awareness-building were crucial in ensuring equitable and effective protection. The Delegation appreciated the Secretariat's efforts and the Committee's collaborative spirit and looked forward to engaging constructively in upcoming sessions. It encouraged Member States to continue working towards practical outcomes that benefited all stakeholders.

132. The Delegation of Morocco thanked the Secretariat for the excellent report on the SCT and for all the efforts undertaken in the context of the Committee. Morocco attached considerable importance to the work of the SCT, particularly in relation to the three key areas, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications. The Delegation encouraged the Committee to advance those issues and other issues that were under discussion, for instance, on the protection of GUIs under industrial designs and on the protection of country names and names of national significance. It supported the organization of information sessions on those issues.

133. The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago applauded the diligent work of the SCT. There was a continued rise in trademark filings in Trinidad and Tobago, reflecting growing trade activity across the country, with greater economic benefits for the country. For 2024, Madrid

System designations accounted for 50 per cent of trademark filings at the Trinidad and Tobago IP Office (TTIPO). Over the past year, local applicants showed increased interest in using the Madrid System, with several filing applications through the Madrid e-Filing tool, and a number of local SMEs recognized the advantages and efficiency offered by the system. With regard to the Proposal for a Study on the Impact of Design Protection for GUI Designs on Innovation, Trinidad and Tobago looked forward to continuing discussions during the upcoming SCT session. It welcomed the ongoing work of the SCT on the protection of country names and geographical names and attached importance to safeguarding those identifiers. It also looked forward to continuing discussions within the SCT on the Protection of Geographical Names of National Significance within the DNS. The Delegation remained resolute in its support for the ongoing work of the Committee, which sought to guide Member States in advancing their developmental paths.

134. The Secretariat thanked all Member States and delegates for their very encouraging interventions. The points raised by Member States would be taken into consideration and studied carefully by the Secretariat to ensure that the work of the SCT would move forward in a very transparent, effective and smooth way.

135. The WIPO General Assembly took note of the “Report on the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)” (document WO/GA/58/6).

(iv) The Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) and Review of the Implementation of the Development Agenda (DA)

136. Discussions were based on document [WO/GA/58/7](#).

137. The Secretariat introduced the report of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) and the review of the implementation of the Development Agenda (DA) recommendations contained in document WO/GA/58/7. The CDIP met twice in hybrid format since the fifty-seventh (31st extraordinary) session of the WIPO General Assembly. The thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions of the Committee took place from December 9 to 13, 2024, and from May 5 to 9, 2025, respectively. As agreed by the Committee, document WO/GA/58/7 included the Chair’s summaries of those two sessions, as well as the fifteenth annual report of the Director General on the implementation of the DA, for 2024, as considered by the CDIP at its thirty-fourth session. Progress was made in mainstreaming the DA across all WIPO sectors over the course of the year. Engagement with Member States continued to deepen, with targeted efforts to meet the needs of SMEs, women, young people and indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs). The International Conference on IP and Development was held during the thirty-fourth session of the CDIP on the Role of IP and Innovation in Addressing Global Public Health Challenges: Fostering Technology Transfer and Collaboration. Conducted in hybrid format, the Conference gathered over 500 participants to explore strategies for strengthening innovation capacity, promoting TT and supporting local production of medical products. It also facilitated knowledge sharing on IP to enhance access to medicines and health technologies for public health purposes. The Committee had endorsed the proposal by the African Group to convene three further biennial International Conferences on IP and Development, with the next due to be held in 2027. The Committee had also considered and approved five new project proposals, raising the total number of DA projects to 63. In addition, it reviewed several evaluation and impact reports related to ongoing DA projects. Both sessions of the CDIP included substantive discussions under the agenda item on IP and Development. Topics had included: AI Impacts for IP and Development; IP and the Judiciary: Building Capacities and Expertise; and an ongoing discussion on Women and IP. For its upcoming thirty-fifth session, the Committee agreed to discuss Reinforcing and Modernizing IP Offices for

Resilience, Efficiency, Accessibility, and Crisis Preparedness in the Digital Era, and for its thirty-sixth session, IP and the Creative Economy: Protecting Creative Works in the Digital Age, including the Impact of AI. Particular attention was paid to the Independent External Review of WIPO's Technical Assistance in the Area of Cooperation for Development and the Secretariat's Response on the Status of the Recommendations of the Independent External Review of WIPO's Technical Assistance. Member States were encouraged to submit proposals concerning Category B recommendations – those warranting further consideration – and Category C recommendations – those already integrated into WIPO activities but meriting continued review – for discussion at the CDIP's next session. Lastly, the Secretariat highlighted WIPO's ongoing contributions to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly through tailored capacity-building initiatives and technical assistance efforts. Together, those achievements and examples reflected the substantial progress achieved in the period covering the past two CDIP sessions, which was enabled by the active engagement and collaborative spirit of Member States.

138. The Delegation of Japan, speaking on behalf of Group B, thanked the Secretariat for the report and welcomed the progress made in implementing various development activities and projects, which were testament to WIPO's commitment to fostering innovation and creativity through a balanced IP ecosystem. The wide range of projects undertaken in recent years delivered tangible benefits to many Member States, clearly highlighting the vital role of IP as a driver of development. Maintaining a project-oriented approach in the CDIP's work was particularly important, as was the continued submission of project proposals addressing a broad range of areas of IP. Member States should continue to present well-defined initiatives aligned with WIPO's objectives and, in that regard, the adoption of five new DA projects by the CDIP during its thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions were commended. The Group regretted, however, that the project proposal submitted to the CDIP at its thirty-fourth session by the United Kingdom was not adopted, despite the efforts to address all concerns raised. Regional groups and Member States should reconsider the proposal and engage constructively with a view to its adoption at the Committee's thirty-fifth session. The Group expressed its appreciation for the organization of the 2025 International Conference on the Role of IP and Innovation in Addressing Global Public Health Challenges: Fostering Technological Transfer and Collaborations, and welcomed the thematic discussions under the agenda item on IP and development.

139. The Delegation of Ecuador, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, thanked the Secretariat for the report and acknowledged WIPO's ongoing work to advance the DA through cooperation for development, technical assistance and capacity-building. The adoption of new projects focusing on micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), young people, women and institutional capacity-building was welcome. The strategic use of IP to support socioeconomic, cultural and environmentally sustainable development was particularly important. GRULAC remained fully committed to the principles of the DA and would continue engaging constructively towards a more inclusive and balanced IP system focused on people's needs.

140. The Delegation of Estonia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, expressed gratitude to the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the CDIP for their effective leadership of the Committee's sessions, and thanked the Secretariat for its dedicated work in advancing the CDIP agenda. The Committee played an essential role in promoting sustainable development and economic growth, and served as an effective platform to address global challenges through innovation and creativity. The opportunity to further develop WIPO's engagement in efforts to meet the SDGs was welcome. The CEBS Group appreciated the Director General's report on the implementation of the DA and the review of its recommendations, noting in particular the detailed overview of activities carried out by WIPO's sectors and reporting units. The Group welcomed the broad range of mainstreamed and ongoing projects included in the report and appreciated the adoption of five new DA projects by the Committee in 2024. The Group indicated that the DA recommendations should be linked to WIPO's expected results and

reflected in the Director General's report. It commended the Secretariat for the Women and IP event, during which entrepreneurs from various Member States shared how IP helped them increase visibility, protect innovation and access new markets. The initiative's value as a development tool was also acknowledged. The CEBS Group welcomed the agreement reached by the CDIP at its thirty-fourth session on the topic of the International Conference on IP and Development to be held in 2027: Unlocking an IP Ecosystem Conducive to Innovation: SMEs, IP Finance and Development, and noted with appreciation the selection of future topics under the agenda item on IP and Development, including Reinforcing and Modernizing IP Offices for Resilience, Efficiency, Accessibility and Crisis Preparedness in the Digital Era for the thirty-fifth session, and IP and the Creative Economy: Protecting Creative Works in the Digital Age, including the Impact of AI for the thirty-sixth session. Regional Groups' and Member States' flexibility, and constructive engagement throughout the CDIP sessions, were commendable. The Group also encouraged consensus-building on the revised project proposal on the development of strategies and tools to address cross-border trade in counterfeit trademark goods, which is scheduled to be discussed at the CDIP's next session. The CEBS Group reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the ongoing work of the CDIP.

141. The Delegation of Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the APG, acknowledged the important role of the CDIP in advancing the implementation of the WIPO DA and thanked the Secretariat for the report submitted to the General Assembly. The DA was central to guiding a balanced and inclusive international IP system. The CDIP's continued implementation of the DA recommendations was commended. Positive developments were welcomed, including the launch of the project on IP and digital transformation and the approval of new initiatives focused on youth entrepreneurship and inclusive innovation. Those efforts underscored the relevance of IP in addressing development challenges and empowering communities. WIPO's technical assistance must be tailored to the specific development needs and priorities of Member States, and the transparency, evaluation, and impact assessment of technical assistance should be enhanced, including through the Results Framework, which was developed under the Committee's guidance. Recalling previous WIPO General Assembly decisions requesting relevant bodies to report on their contributions to the implementation of the DA, the APG noted with concern the lapse in reporting practice over recent years and called for renewed efforts to uphold reporting commitments. Transparency, accountability and institutional coherence were essential to ensuring that development remained a central pillar of WIPO's work. Structured discussions on TT, access to knowledge, and the balance between IP protection and the public interest were needed. Those elements were critical for inclusive growth, sustainable development and the realization of both the DA recommendations and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The APG remained committed to engaging constructively in the work of the CDIP and across WIPO processes to promote a fair, inclusive and development-oriented global IP system.

142. The Delegation of China thanked the Deputy Director General for his presentation of the report and commended the CDIP on its work over the previous year. It noted the positive progress made by WIPO in implementing the DA and mainstreaming development across its work and reaffirmed its support for WIPO in advancing the SDGs, integrating development into organizational activities, and working closely with Member States to implement DA projects in a demand-driven manner. Continued cooperation with Member States in that regard was particularly important. China remained committed to supporting WIPO's implementation of the DA through the Funds-in-Trust program between WIPO and China, with a view to promoting innovation as a key driver of development for all countries.

143. The Delegation of Namibia, speaking on behalf of the African Group, welcomed the report by the CDIP Secretariat and recognized the value of the projects that help analyze and implement the development dimension of IP. The CDIP must evolve beyond a project-based role to function as an active mechanism for overseeing the full implementation of the 45 recommendations of the WIPO DA. A coordinated mechanism was needed for monitoring,

assessing, and reporting on the implementation of the DA by pertinent WIPO bodies, including all committees. Strengthened monitoring and reporting was needed on the impact of technical assistance provided by WIPO. Developing and LDCs faced persistent challenges in utilizing patent flexibilities, limitations and exceptions. In that context, the African Group supported the development of publicly accessible databases on patents related to medicines and vaccines, accompanied by targeted capacity-building initiatives to enable developing countries to use IP regulatory frameworks effectively, especially during public health emergencies. The African Group remained committed to engaging constructively to ensure that IP supported sustainable economic development in developing countries.

144. The Delegation of Algeria, speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of the report and expressed its appreciation to the Deputy Director General for his presentation, and its gratitude to the Regional and National Development Sector (RNDS) and its members for their efforts in Arab countries. It commended the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the CDIP for their leadership, and acknowledged the accomplishments of the previous two sessions, including the adoption of several projects that support development in developing countries. Initiatives to promote industry and craftsmanship in developing countries were welcomed, as were programs to empower young people and women, which contributed to strengthening their roles in national development and prosperity. Digital transformation, judicial training and institutional capacity-building were particularly important. The International Conference on the Role of IP and Innovation in Addressing Global Public Health Challenges was important for exploring the link between IP, innovation and the need for effective TT in support of public health goals. The Arab region had a rich cultural heritage, innovation potential and vibrant creative sectors, and continued support in areas such as capacity-building, education and training was crucial. WIPO was encouraged to provide the necessary logistical and financial support to help the region implement its development priorities as outlined in the WIPO MTSP (2022–2026). The Assemblies should strengthen support for countries in crisis or conflict, to enable them to achieve peace and meet their development objectives. The Arab Group reiterated its support for the CDIP and reaffirmed that the DA remained a vital instrument for achieving the goals of Arab countries.

145. The Delegation of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, reiterated strong support for the work of the CDIP. It welcomed the Committee's continued efforts to mainstream the DA across WIPO activities and commended the adoption of new DA projects. WIPO worked to address development-related needs over the course of 2024 and the progress made on issues including women and IP, AI, and the role of the judiciary in building IP capacity was particularly welcome. The Director General's report on the implementation of the DA and the review of its recommendations was appreciated. The adoption of seven new DA projects in 2024, bringing the total to 62, was particularly positive. The extensive technical assistance activities conducted to support improvements in the IP frameworks of beneficiary countries were also commended. "Women and IP" and the positive outcomes thereof, were appreciated. Gender equality remained a high priority for the European Union and its member States, as empowering women benefited individuals, societies and economies. The 2025 International Conference on The Role of IP and Innovation in Addressing Global Public Health Challenges was a valuable forum for exploring the contribution of IP to health through TT and collaboration. The agreement on the topics for the 2027 and 2029 International Conferences on IP and Development was particularly welcome. The CDIP made significant progress and the European Union and its member States remained committed to contributing to the continued success of the Committee, in line with WIPO's mission to promote IP protection through international cooperation.

146. The Delegation of Lebanon, aligning with the statements delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the APG and the Delegation of Algeria on behalf of the Arab Group, welcomed the comprehensive report presented to the Assembly and expressed sincere appreciation to the CDIP Secretariat for its work, initiatives and activities. The Committee's

continued commitment to implementing the WIPO DA was pivotal for fostering inclusive and effective IP systems that supported sustainable development and contributed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Tangible progress was made in recent sessions of the CDIP, including the expansion of technical assistance and the integration of development-oriented projects that would address challenges and opportunities in AI and the digital transformation of IP services. The Committee's targeted efforts to empower women and young people, as well as its support for SMEs, entrepreneurship and innovation, were essential for building resilient and dynamic IP ecosystems. The Delegation remained ready to deepen its collaboration with the CDIP to strengthen joint projects that reflected Lebanon's national, cultural, industrial and development priorities. Lebanon's IP office, relevant ministries, judiciary, universities and private sector were committed to advancing innovation and sustainable development. The creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of Lebanese innovators who leveraged IP to foster cultural, economic and social progress, were a source of national pride. The CDIP should further enhance technical cooperation and expand capacity-building programs, particularly through the WIPO Academy, to ensure that the benefits of IP and development reached all segments of Lebanese society.

147. The Delegation of Guatemala expressed its gratitude for the report and thanked the Secretariat for its preparation. The WIPO DA was a fundamental component of the Committee's work, serving to connect IP with the priorities and realities of developing countries. WIPO's efforts to implement projects that promoted a balanced and development-oriented approach were welcome, and Guatemala remained committed to participate actively in such initiatives. The participation of Ms. Isabella Springmuhl in the CDIP's discussions on women and IP was particularly welcome. Her talent and testimony not only highlighted the creative capacity of communities but also underscored the transformative role of IP as a tool for inclusion, empowerment and sustainable economic development. The ongoing organization of seminars and briefings by WIPO was also appreciated, since those events were vital for strengthening the understanding of the links between IP, innovation and development. Such efforts should be continued and expanded, since they were essential to ensuring that IP contributed effectively to people's well-being. Guatemala would continue cooperating in efforts to position IP as a tool for achieving sustainable development.

148. The Delegation of Mexico welcomed the report and acknowledged the work of the Secretariat throughout the year. The CDIP played a crucial role in ensuring that the development dimension remained central to WIPO's agenda, linking IP with social well-being, inclusive growth and capacity-building. The approval of new DA projects in 2024 was welcome, as such projects constituted meaningful contributions to the implementation of the DA. The report on Gender and IP was also welcome; the availability of comparable statistics was essential to tracking progress and identifying gaps, which could inform inclusive policy development. With regard to technical assistance, the progress made, particularly through more innovative forms of cooperation, was welcome. WIPO should continue to disseminate information on projects, foster South-South cooperation, and develop a clear menu of assistance options to facilitate the identification of projects with national-level priorities. As part of the UN system, WIPO bore the responsibility to ensure that development remained a cross-cutting issue in all areas of its work. The CDIP was a key platform for promoting consensus and delivering concrete results. The Delegation reiterated its commitment to supporting the Committee's work and would submit further recommendations in writing.

149. The Delegation of Tunisia, aligning itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Arab Group and the African Group, thanked the Secretariat for the preparation and presentation of the CDIP report and acknowledged that the work done over the course of the year contributed to the implementation of key development projects that responded to the needs and expectations of Member States and their populations. WIPO's assistance enabled the integration of IP into broader development strategies by bringing IP closer to potential beneficiaries and positioning it as a tool for economic and social development. Tunisia

continued to benefit from priority projects, including those focused on occupational safety, the promotion of artisanal work, and support for remote areas. WIPO provided support to Tunisia for the establishment of a youth center, which helped build the capacity of approximately 50 young people by integrating IP education into the national innovation ecosystem and providing them with the necessary skills to commercialize their innovations. The work and ongoing support of the WIPO Division for Arab Countries, the RNDS and the WIPO Academy were particularly appreciated. Those bodies must be allocated sufficient financial and human resources to enable them to continue providing assistance to Member States. The CDIP should play an even greater role in evaluating the implementation of the DA and ensuring coordination with other competent WIPO bodies. The implementation of the WIPO DA should not be viewed as the sole responsibility of the CDIP but rather as a shared commitment across all WIPO committees. As a UN agency and global organization, WIPO must reflect the priorities and aspirations of all Member States and actively contribute to the attainment of the SDGs.

150. The Delegation of Algeria, aligning itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Arab Group and the African Group, thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of the report and expressed appreciation to the Director General and the RNDS for their efforts to support Member States. It also thanked the Chair of the CDIP for her visionary leadership. Knowledge and innovation were strategically important for achieving national development; Algeria placed significant value on IP in education, research and training. Algeria regarded WIPO as a key partner in implementing national IP strategies, and would continue to cooperate with WIPO, including on the development of a comprehensive national IP strategy, which would serve as the foundation for sectoral policies. Several joint projects with WIPO were launched, including initiatives on geographical indications and collective marks for products, such as olive oil, honey and carpets. A WIPO DA project was also underway to empower SMEs through IP by developing strategies to support geographical indications and collective marks in the post-registration period.¹ In the area of education and training, over 130 Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) were established across Algeria, which enhanced awareness among university students and strengthened the link between academia and IP. Cooperation was also ongoing on projects such as the creation of SME incubators, specialized training programs with the support of the WIPO Academy, and training of mediators in collaboration with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center. Algeria remained committed to raising IP awareness and promoting digitalization. Institutional reforms were underway to integrate new technologies, particularly for rights management. Under the Connect Program, developed in parallel with WIPO Connect, Algeria prioritized international cooperation for the benefit of rights holders. The Delegation reaffirmed its full support for the mandate of the CDIP and called for intensified efforts to incorporate the DA across all areas of the WIPO's work.

151. The Delegation of El Salvador aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of GRULAC and expressed its appreciation for the report. WIPO's efforts to promote an integrated approach to IP as a key tool for inclusive growth and capacity-building were commended, especially in countries seeking to leverage IP for development. The projects developed, implemented and evaluated under the aegis of the CDIP were relevant and useful, in particular, the initiative to systematize statistical data on IP,² in which El Salvador was a participant. The project was particularly useful for generating empirical evidence to inform policymaking on innovation and IP. The DA project on establishing alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms in copyright offices³ was also noteworthy, as it represented a practical step towards simplifying and improving the management of IP disputes. The recent International Conference on IP and Development, held on 5 May 2025, was successful, with good quality contributions and thematic structure and a high standard of logistical arrangements. The

¹ DA Project on [Empowering Small Businesses Through IP: Developing Strategies for Supporting Geographical Indications or Collective Marks in the Post-registration Period](#)

² DA Project: [Systematization of Statistical Data and the Design and Implementation of a Methodology for Developing Impact Assessments on the Use of the Intellectual Property System](#)

³ DA Project: [Implementing Alternative Dispute Resolution Services in Copyright Offices](#)

Delegation thanked the CDIP, the Deputy Director General and the Secretariat. El Salvador remained committed to participating actively in the Committee's work and to contributing to the development of an IP system that was inclusive, sustainable and aligned with the real needs of developing countries.

152. The Delegation of Nigeria thanked the Secretariat for the comprehensive report and aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group. The measurable progress recorded by the CDIP was welcome, and the spirit of partnership that underpinned its work was commendable. The launch of the DA project on Development of Strategies and Tools to Address Online Copyright Piracy in the African Digital Market,⁴ of which Nigeria was a beneficiary, was particularly welcome. The initiative was both timely and strategic in addressing unauthorized streaming and downloads that significantly impacted Nigeria's music and film sectors, which employed millions of young people and contributed more than 3 per cent to the country's gross domestic product (GDP). The Delegation remained fully committed to working with WIPO to deliver tangible outcomes and urged the fast-tracking of tools under the project for deployment in West Africa's largest market. Nigeria's creative industries, including Nollywood, Afrobeats, fashion and gaming, had emerged as global cultural forces, yet many creators still faced challenges with regard to financing, rights management and digital literacy. WIPO's DA project on promoting the use of IP in developing countries in creative industries in the digital era⁵ was particularly successful and Nigeria wished to be included in future phases, to develop bespoke training for its creative SMEs, CMOs and start-ups. WIPO should allocate resources to scalable anti-piracy technologies, enforcement cooperation, affordable IP valuation tools, digital skills development, branding boot camps, and the formulation of a national IP and creative economy strategy, building on WIPO's methodology. When Africa's creators received fair compensation, sustainable development would follow. Nigeria looked forward to collaborating with all Member States to ensure that the next CDIP report reflected even greater progress towards inclusive growth, powered by creativity.

153. The Delegation of Colombia expressed its appreciation for the report and aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of GRULAC. IP systems were strategically important for addressing social, environmental and economic challenges, particularly in countries grappling with persistent inequality. The progress made by the CDIP was welcome, and WIPO's continued efforts to implement the DA Recommendations were appreciated. The Committee should prioritize issues such as the inclusion of women, young people and IPLCs in the IP system, and strengthen capacity-building through improved access to data, technical cooperation and integrated government policies. Member States should further strengthen the CDIP's role in making IP a more effective tool for sustainable development. The joint proposal by India and the Plurinational State of Bolivia⁶ was welcome, as was the proposal to consolidate collective marks as a tool for cultural, social and economic development.⁷ The Delegation would be interested in participating in those initiatives. It remained committed to supporting the work of the CDIP and engaging in international cooperation that promoted the use of IP for collective well-being and the recognition of the creative and cultural wealth throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

154. The Delegation of Indonesia thanked the Secretariat for preparing the report on the CDIP and for its continued efforts in advancing the WIPO DA. The Delegation welcomed WIPO's work to support the attainment of the SDGs and its commitment to mainstreaming them across its activities and programs was commended. Implementation of the project on the promotion

⁴ DA Project: [Development of Strategies and Tools to Address Online Copyright Piracy in the African Digital Market](#)

⁵ DA Project: [Strengthening the Capacity of National IP Governmental and Stakeholder Institutions to Manage, Monitor and Promote Creative Industries, and to Enhance the Performance and Network of Copyright Collective Management Organizations](#)

⁶ DA Project: [Promoting the Development of Festival Tourism Through Intellectual Property](#)

⁷ DA Project: [Sustaining and Strengthening the Role of Collective Marks as a Tool for Economic, Cultural, and Social Development through a Holistic Developmental Approach](#)

and sustainable use of IP in the production and commercialization of “palm oil mill effluent”, a key base product in Indonesia, was particularly noteworthy. The project served as a concrete example of how IP could contribute to sustainable production, economic empowerment and environmental protection in alignment with the SDGs. WIPO should ensure that DA projects continued to promote and raise awareness of the flexibilities within the IP system that developing countries could use to address global challenges, including access to medicines, education and TT. Those flexibilities were essential to maintaining a balanced, inclusive and responsive IP system that aligned with public policy objectives, particularly for developing and LDCs. The Delegation remained committed to actively contributing to the WIPO DA and to advancing efforts to meet the SDGs in that context. Indonesia would continue to collaborate with WIPO and other Member States to ensure that the DA met its intended objective of supporting development-oriented IP policies. In that regard, in January 2025, Indonesia hosted an induction training for national focal points from Africa, the Arab region, and Asia and the Pacific, to support the effective implementation of DA projects. Such self-driven capacity-building initiatives were essential for strengthening ownership and understanding of the DA Recommendations. The Delegation hoped that similar training programs would be organized in future to help achieve DA outcomes in a timely and impactful manner.

155. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea thanked the Secretariat for preparing the report and emphasized the importance of IP education and public awareness in promoting sustainable and inclusive innovation. Its longstanding cooperation with WIPO through the Funds-in-Trust initiative resulted in tangible outcomes, such as a Master’s Program in IP, the development of IP education content and teaching materials, leadership training for women scientists in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the invention education program for youth. The Republic of Korea remained committed to further expanding its efforts to support capacity-building in developing countries, to foster shared prosperity across the global IP ecosystem. The new project proposals discussed during recent CDIP sessions were welcome, in particular the proposal by the United Kingdom to develop strategies and tools to address cross-border trade in counterfeit trademark goods affecting developing countries. The Delegation supported that initiative and intended to contribute by offering its experience in establishing a coordinated national system for preventing the inflow of counterfeit products, involving cooperation between customs, enforcement agencies and the private sector. With regard to the DA Toolkit Project⁸ discussed by the CDIP during its thirty-third session, consistent allocation of human and financial resources was crucial, and continuous system improvements were needed to ensure that the toolkit remained relevant and impactful for WIPO Member States. The Delegation also wished to express its appreciation to Brazil and Namibia for recognizing the Republic of Korea as a reference country in relation to the proposed national IP strategies project and copyright ADR practices, respectively. The Republic of Korea was willing to support those initiatives and ready to share experiences and lessons learned with other Member States.

156. The Delegation of South Africa, aligning with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group, acknowledged the important contribution of the CDIP in ensuring that IP rights serve the socioeconomic development of all nations, in particular, through the implementation of the 45 Recommendations under the WIPO DA. WIPO’s technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives were commendable, reaching a broad range of stakeholders with tangible benefits across several regions. South Africa benefited from several such initiatives, including the WIPO–South Africa Summer School on IP and TT, the Inventor Assistance Program, support for TISCs, legislative assistance, and other capacity-development projects. The Summer School initiative supported the development of IP and TT skills both for local and international participants, in collaboration with the WIPO Academy and other partners, including the Japan International Cooperation Agency. The WIPO Academy, through its extensive and relevant capacity development programs, continued to provide significant value to stakeholders

⁸ DA Project: [Tools for Successful DA Project Proposals](#)

and national IP office personnel. South Africa appreciated being included, alongside Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria, in the WIPO DA project approved in 2023 and launched in 2024 on the Development of Strategies and Tools to Address Online Copyright Piracy in the African Digital Market.⁹ Lastly, the Delegation commended CDIP's continued efforts to shape a future in which IP acted as a catalyst for sustainable development, prosperity and inclusive growth worldwide.

157. The Delegation of Libya, aligning itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Arab Group and the African Group, welcomed the efforts made by the Secretariat with respect to development and IP. IP had a vital role in supporting social, economic and sustainable development. With that in mind, the Libya was currently drafting a comprehensive national IP strategy, and would appreciate the support of WIPO, particularly in the form of capacity-building assistance. The Delegation remained ready to cooperate with WIPO and international partners to achieve its goals. It was hoped that such collaboration would contribute to the advancement of Libya's IP system.

158. The Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group and congratulated the CDIP's Secretariat on the preparation of its report and the work carried out. It also wished to thank WIPO for its continuous support, particularly through the DA Project on Systematization of Statistical Data and the Design and Implementation of a Methodology for Developing Impact Assessments on the Use of the IP System.¹⁰ The project was particularly relevant, given the central role that innovation played in economic growth and sustainable development. Côte d'Ivoire made, in recent years, significant efforts to strengthen its national IP ecosystem. The implementation of the project on statistical data afforded an excellent strategic opportunity to build national capacity for producing IP-related statistics, and would contribute significantly to the development of a comprehensive innovation policy. The impact of technical assistance provided by WIPO should be monitored to ensure that it yielded optimal benefits for the recipient Member States.

159. The Delegation of Egypt, aligning itself with the statements made on behalf of the Arab Group and the African Group, thanked the Secretariat for the preparation and presentation of the report. The Delegation welcomed the overview of the work of the past two CDIP sessions, as well as the Director General's Report on the Implementation of the DA for 2024, and noted the comprehensive coverage of WIPO's activities across different sectors and programs in support of the DA. The outcomes of the Committee's sessions were positive, as demonstrated by the approval of seven new DA projects in 2024 and the successful organization of the International Conference on the Role of IP and Innovation in Addressing Global Public Health Challenges: Fostering Technological Transfer and Collaborations. The Delegation wished to express its appreciation to the RNDS under the leadership of the Deputy Director General, and to the staff of the Department for Development Cooperation and the Division for Arab Countries. WIPO had a vital role in developing a balanced and effective global IP system. Supporting the efforts of Member States, particularly developing countries and LDCs, to achieve socioeconomic development was central to fulfilling WIPO's mandate. Such support directly contributed to the achievement of the SDGs, while expanding the impact of IP to benefit creators, inventors, women, young people and SMEs. In that regard, a flagship project was implemented in cooperation with WIPO to support women entrepreneurs in one of Egypt's governorates. The project was reviewed by the CDIP at its most recent session, and held up as an inspiring example of how DA projects could positively impact communities on the ground. Egypt was committed to contributing actively to the implementation of the DA and to developing programs aligned with the priorities of Member States. Support should be tailored to different national IP frameworks and development levels, especially given the impacts of rapid technological

⁹ DA Project: [Development of Strategies and Tools to Address Online Copyright Piracy in the African Digital Market](#)

¹⁰ DA Project: [Systematization of Statistical Data and the Design and Implementation of a Methodology for Developing Impact Assessments on the Use of the Intellectual Property System](#)

changes. Further efforts should be made to help Member States to effectively employ IP flexibilities in addressing contemporary challenges.

160. The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the APG and thanked the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions of the CDIP as well as the WIPO Secretariat, particularly the RNDS, for the preparation and presentation of the report. The agenda, discussions and overall work of the CDIP were of great importance to the Delegation, as the Committee played a unique role in offering practical models for leveraging IP as a tool for sustainable economic and social development. Since its inception, the WIPO DA was anchored in the understanding that IP should serve as a means for development, and not as an end in itself. In that regard, the DA was broad and cross-cutting and should not be confined solely to the work of the CDIP. The development dimension should also be incorporated into norm-setting activities. In line with DA Recommendation 15, norm-setting processes must be Member State-driven, inclusive, and reflective of the diverse levels of development among Member States. It was particularly important that flexibilities, limitations and exceptions in the IP system should be preserved, and that TT should be promoted, in accordance with clusters B and C of the DA recommendations. Structured and sustained discussions were needed on key issues such as TT, access to knowledge and the balance between IP protection and the public interest. Such efforts would be fundamental to ensure that the global IP system could contribute meaningfully to inclusive growth, sustainable development and full realization of the DA. The implementation of the DA project on Reducing Work-Related Accidents and Occupational Diseases through IP¹¹ was particularly welcome; it constituted a valuable contribution to the exploration of IP-based solutions for improving workplace safety and promoting public health. As a beneficiary of the initiative, the Islamic Republic of Iran stood ready to continue to collaborate to ensure its full implementation. The Delegation remained fully committed to the work and objectives of the CDIP, the full implementation of the DA, and the advancement of development-oriented IP policies. The global IP system must function as a true enabler of inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth for all.

161. The Delegation of India aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the APG and expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for the meticulous efforts in preparing the documentation for CDIP sessions. India remained committed to IP outreach and education. The Indian IP Office undertook several impactful initiatives that actively bridged the gap between policy and practice, including a student internship program, an IP chatbot and open house sessions. Two key initiatives were organized earlier in the year: in March 2025, WIPO Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) - Madrid Joint Roving Seminars was held in six cities, across India, significantly enhancing awareness of the PCT and Madrid systems; and in May 2025, the WIPO-Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Intellectual Property Advanced Training Course for Patent Examiners was conducted to strengthen technical capacity in patent examination. The DA project submitted by India on IP and Unlocking the Potential of Non-Agricultural Geographical Indications for Empowerment of Local Communities and the Revival of Local Arts and Traditions,¹² was then in the pre-implementation stage with the support of WIPO and Member States. India looked forward to continued collaboration for the successful implementation of that project. WIPO's sustained focus on empowering MSMEs, women entrepreneurs and local communities through IP-based tools and training programs was commendable and the continued expansion of such capacity-building activities was welcome. The Delegation reaffirmed its commitment to constructive engagement with the CDIP and expressed full support for the Committee's goal of integrating IP into the broader DA, in line with WIPO's DA Recommendations and the SDGs.

¹¹ DA Project: [Reducing Work-Related Accidents and Occupational Diseases through Innovation and Intellectual Property](#)

¹² DA Project: [Intellectual Property and Unlocking the Potential of Non-Agricultural Geographical Indications for the Empowerment of Local Communities and Preservation or Revival of Local Arts and Traditions](#)

162. The Delegation of Thailand aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the APG and expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for its diligent work in preparing the report and the Review of the Implementation of the DA Recommendations. It commended the work of the CDIP and the leadership of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Committee, who played a pivotal role in implementing the DA recommendations and supporting WIPO's efforts to mainstream development considerations across the Organization. The work of the CDIP was particularly important to developing countries; an IP system should go beyond protection to serve as a catalyst for economic growth, innovation and equity. In that regard, a balanced IP system was needed, which fostered local creativity, promoted TT and addressed broader economic and societal challenges. The significant progress achieved by the CDIP in implementing the DA recommendations was welcome, including the approval and implementation of several new projects as reflected in the Secretariat's report. WIPO's continued efforts to provide technical assistance and capacity-building were commendable, as was the Organization's support in strengthening evaluation mechanisms to ensure impactful and sustainable results. Discussions on the promotion of flexibilities, the facilitation of TT and the exploration of opportunities and challenges posed by frontier technologies, such as AI, were also welcome. The Delegation of Thailand reaffirmed that it would continue to participate actively in the work of the CDIP. The Delegation of Thailand expressed that WIPO could continue to strengthen its role in building a global IP system that addressed the development needs of all Member States.

163. The Delegation of Spain aligned itself with the statements delivered on behalf of Group B and the European Union and its member States, and it expressed its appreciation for the CDIP report. The seven new DA projects approved by the Committee in 2024 were welcome, as was the progress outlined in the report and WIPO's commitment to the continued integration of the DA into its MTSP (2022–2026). The emphasis on supporting women, young people, SMEs and essential economic sectors in achieving sustainable and environmentally friendly development was particularly valued. Technical assistance projects and initiatives to help strengthen industrial property protection in developing countries were particularly important. Closing the IP gap, where it existed, was a matter of major concern and more coordinated international efforts were needed in that regard. The CDIP's ongoing commitment was commendable, and the Delegation of Spain was committed to participating actively in the Committee's work, promoting projects and initiatives to ensure that IP contributed to economic and social development in a fair, inclusive, and balanced manner.

164. The Delegation of Namibia, aligning itself with the statement made on behalf of the African Group, said that it took note of the report and commended the Committee for its diligent work and expressed its appreciation to WIPO for its support in establishing a Mediation and Arbitration Center under the Business and IP Authority, Namibia's National IP and Copyright Office. As a beneficiary of WIPO's support in the area of ADR, Namibia welcomed the approval of the DA project on Implementing Alternative Dispute Resolution Services in Copyright Offices,¹³ adopted by the CDIP at its thirty-third session. In that context, WIPO should consider expanding similar initiatives, since they offered practical benefits to Member States and would contribute to promoting respect for IP rights and strengthening national IP systems.

165. The Delegation of Paraguay expressed its appreciation for the report on the work of the CDIP and reaffirmed its strong commitment to promoting an IP system that supported sustainable development, inclusiveness and the well-being of grassroots communities. The efforts made to ensure that the DA recommendations were translated into concrete activities to generate real and tangible benefits for communities were welcome. IP should serve individuals and society as a whole. With that in mind, and with the support of WIPO, Paraguay undertook efforts to promote geographical diversity and the inclusion of more communities in its IP system. Plans were also in place to develop a career pathway within the IP system to create more

¹³ Da Project: [Implementing Alternative Dispute Resolution Services in Copyright Offices](#)

opportunities for talented young people. The valuable support provided by WIPO was appreciated and the Delegation remained committed to continue working closely with WIPO, the CDIP and Member States to foster a more inclusive, flexible and development-oriented IP system.

166. The Delegation of Brazil, aligning itself with the statement delivered on behalf of GRULAC, expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for its continued work in promoting development. The Delegation remained fully committed to the full implementation of the DA recommendations and commended the efforts being made to ensure that the development dimension was mainstreamed across all WIPO activities. IP must be used as a tool to contribute to improving living conditions; innovation must always serve humanity. WIPO's work on IP and innovation in the context of public health was particularly welcome and inspiring presentations were given during the International Conference on IP and Development on that theme, in particular those that demonstrated how IP flexibilities could be used to promote equity in health outcomes. Future editions of the International Conference should include a broader range of stakeholders and contributions, enriching the collective efforts of WIPO. The WIPO DA should extend beyond the work of the CDIP. Successful projects targeting IPLCs, women and traditional communities of the African diaspora were particularly noteworthy. Such initiatives demonstrated the transformative power of IP when aligned with inclusivity and the SDGs. In that regard, the proposal for WIPO Standing Committees to report regularly on how DA integration in their activities was welcome. Such reporting would enhance governance and promote tangible, measurable outcomes for developing countries. The references to the Committee's reports on women in IP (documents CDIP/34/6 and CDIP/34/7) were welcome and reflected WIPO's commitment to promoting gender equality in the field of IP. The compilation of disaggregated gender data constituted real progress; the use of accessible and innovative data collection methodologies would facilitate the measurement of women's participation in innovation. Expanding the gender data baseline was essential to inform policymaking and support more equitable access to and use of IP systems. WIPO's broader strategy to address gender in a cross-cutting manner was also appreciated. The Gender Action Plan, which included concrete measures for training, mentorship, and technical assistance for women entrepreneurs, including in Latin America, was particularly significant. IP projects targeting traditional communities demonstrated the power of inclusive and culturally sensitive approaches to unlock the transformative potential of IP. The work of the CDIP highlighted important ideas for shaping the IP system, which must remain firmly anchored in the WIPO DA. IP activities should be particularly promoted in countries and communities facing barriers to access and use. All CDIP projects and the full spectrum of DA recommendations should be aligned, regardless of the subject matter. Recommendation 45 on the respect for rights in particular required a comprehensive, development-focused approach. Through its activities, the CDIP strengthened the multilateral IP system and generated economic opportunities for young people, women and vulnerable communities.

167. The Delegation of the Russian Federation expressed its gratitude to the Deputy Director General, Hasan Kleib, Georges Ghandour and other representatives of the Secretariat involved in the work of CDIP, and for the preparation of the Committee's Report and the Review of the Implementation of the DA Recommendations. The Delegation welcomed WIPO's efforts to enhance practical work on the DA projects and supported the Organization's consolidated efforts to achieve the SDGs, noting that such an approach would yield tangible results aimed at economic growth, implementation of the DA and achievement of the SDGs, as well as providing support to developing and least developed countries that are underserved due to attempts by certain States to reallocate resources to purposes other than development. The Delegation emphasized that sustainable development was an important and relevant issue for many Member States, and WIPO should maintain an impartial and depoliticized approach in providing technical assistance, while cooperation between WIPO and its Member States should be expanded for the effective implementation of DA Recommendations. The Delegation recalled that IP and innovation played a key role in achieving the SDGs, and the topic of digital

transformation and bridging the digital divide remained relevant and was reflected in WIPO's MTSP, which should also be reflected in the Committee's work. Furthermore, the Delegation welcomed WIPO's work in establishing and expanding the TISCs network, including enhancing access to IP information for specialized institutions and the general public, and stimulating the active use of such information for innovation and creativity. The Delegation noted that the TISCs network in the Russian Federation was one of the most advanced and extensive in the world – currently comprising 192 centers – and it continued to develop, undergoing qualitative improvement aimed at expanding its functions. The Delegation stated that the Russian IP Office (Rospatent), together with TISCs, carried out comprehensive work aimed at stimulating inventive and innovative activities. The Delegation emphasized its readiness to share its experience and best practices with other interested WIPO Member States. Additionally, the Delegation positively noted the Committee's particular focus on the needs of SMEs, WIPO's capacity-building and awareness-raising activities, and stressed the need to continue improving the materials and format of webinar presentations. The Delegation supported expanding the scope of webinars, emphasizing the need to ensure coordination among all relevant WIPO divisions and its external offices. The Delegation noted that it would continue to actively and constructively participate in the Committee's work.

168. The Delegation of Malaysia aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the APG and acknowledged the important work of the CDIP in advancing the implementation of the 45 DA Recommendations. The broad range of projects approved by the Committee had provided tangible benefits to Member States, with varying priorities and interests. The commitment and collaboration of several WIPO divisions in organizing and managing DA projects was welcome, and the Brand and Design Sector, RNDS, Department for Development Cooperation and Division for Asia and the Pacific deserved special mention. Malaysia was actively involved in several ongoing initiatives, including DA projects on “IP and Gastronomic Tourism”, “Empowering Youth through IP”, and “IP and AI: Agriculture 4.0”. Those projects contributed significantly towards building an IP portfolio for local stakeholders, while also supporting the development of structured IP curricula for students and educators. The Delegation hoped that those initiatives would be completed successfully. The CDIP should continue its commendable efforts to support development-oriented IP projects.

169. The Delegation of Honduras expressed its appreciation for the CDIP report and took note of its contents. It acknowledged the efforts undertaken by WIPO to strengthen the implementation of the DA. WIPO's inclusive approach to support SMEs, women, young people, and IPLCs was welcome. Projects focused on technology, the empowerment of women through technology, and capacity-building activities were essential to fostering a more inclusive and resilient innovation ecosystem. For Honduras, where innovation frequently emerged from local and community-based initiatives, ensuring effective access to IP tools was particularly important as it provided a meaningful opportunity to create value, protect TK and promote both cultural activity and business development. The Delegation was grateful for WIPO's continued focus on digitalization, gender equality and the institutional strengthening of national IP offices, which it considered fundamental in the Honduran context. Honduras remained committed to the implementation of the DA and fully supported projects tailored to the specific needs and priorities of Member States. The Delegation stood ready to continue its cooperation with WIPO on initiatives aimed at strengthening the strategic use of IP as a tool for economic, social and environmental development. Enhancing the use of IP flexibilities for and by developing countries was particularly important. The Secretariat should ensure that CDIP projects remain sustainable and impactful and should continually evaluate their effectiveness.

170. The Delegation of Japan, speaking in its national capacity and aligning itself with the statement delivered on behalf of Group B, expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing the comprehensive report, and commended WIPO's steady efforts towards the implementation of the DA Recommendations. The Delegation remained firmly committed to development-related initiatives, particularly in the areas of technical assistance and capacity-

building, and continued to provide various forms of assistance to developing countries in the field of IP through the Funds-in-Trust Japan Industrial Property Global (FIT Japan IP Global). Recent activities under the framework focused on supporting SMEs, entrepreneurs, women and young people, as well as on advancing environmental initiatives through WIPO GREEN. With regard to youth engagement, the African Regional Youth Conference on IP, held in October 2023 in Côte d'Ivoire, showcased the success stories of African entrepreneurs who leveraged IP to drive innovation and growth, serving as inspiration for participants to integrate IP into their business strategies. Japan also supported WIPO GREEN initiatives and accession projects, in particular the projects in Latin America, India, the Philippines, Senegal and several small island developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific region. Efforts were under way to further expand the network of WIPO GREEN partners through collaboration with FIT Japan IP Global. Recognizing the value of promoting IP utilization as a means to address social challenges, the Delegation announced that the Japan Patent Office, in cooperation with WIPO, would host events in October, 2025, including international forums at Expo 2025 Osaka, Japan, to promote the use of IP for solving social issues, with a focus on WIPO GREEN and the empowerment of women and young people. The Delegation remained committed to the effective and efficient implementation of development-related activities in alignment with WIPO's objectives. It would continue to cooperate with WIPO to further enhance the impact of Japan IP Global and ensure its optimal use for the benefit of developing countries.

171. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia expressed its appreciation for the exceptional efforts made by the CDIP Secretariat to support the implementation of the WIPO DA and in integrating the development dimension across all areas of WIPO's work. Saudi Arabia was making efforts to support IP implementation and promote innovation. National initiatives were undertaken, including activities organized in celebration of World IP Day, which served to promote the capacities of IP examiners and support the broader innovation ecosystem. A clear timeline was needed for project implementation in support of Member States, particularly conducting impact assessments using IP-related indicators and measurements. Patent examiners had a crucial role in ensuring that development-related projects were sustainable and comprehensive in their outcomes. Further efforts were needed under the DA to deliver tangible impacts, particularly in the Arab region, and in that regard, the Delegation remained committed to continuing its engagement with WIPO and Member States.

172. The Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, expressing its appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing the report, said that since its adoption, the WIPO DA became one of the most important pillars of WIPO's work. IP went beyond the protection of creators' rights to serve as a critical driver of economic and cultural development, as well as of scientific and technological progress. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was working actively to establish a comprehensive IP protection system while advancing its science and technology sectors. AI had a growing influence in modernizing WIPO's operations, particularly in streamlining the application and examination processes for IP registration, including patents and industrial designs, thus saving time and costs. AI offered considerable time- and cost-saving benefits. At the same time, the potential negative impacts of AI should not be overlooked. In that regard, WIPO should play a leading role in the development of international norms and regulations governing the responsible use of AI technologies. Enhanced capacity-building support to developing countries was also needed to ensure that they were well-equipped to manage and benefit from AI-driven advancements in the IP system.

173. The Delegation of Cuba, aligning itself with the statement delivered on behalf of GRULAC, said that the WIPO DA constituted one of the key pillars of the Organization's work and that of its Member States, ensuring that development issues were fully integrated into all WIPO activities and programs. Full implementation of the 45 DA Recommendations remained a challenge for Member States. That situation reinforced Cuba's commitment to maximizing the role of IP as a catalyst for sustainable development. The attention given to the role of women in

the development of knowledge and the use of IP rights was welcome, and the outcomes achieved through the implementation of DA projects were appreciated.

174. The Delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC and welcomed the introduction and presentation of the report. The CDIP's ongoing efforts and initiatives to advance the implementation of the DA Recommendations were appreciated. Those efforts, particularly in the areas of technical assistance and capacity-building, TT, information and communication technologies, and access to knowledge, were of considerable strategic importance. Initiatives aimed at reducing the gender gap in the field of IP were welcome. Perspectives that reduced IP to a purely market-based tool or an end in itself were, however, concerning. IP was rooted in dynamic, living and progressive relationships; the protection of literary, artistic, scientific and industrial works had broad implications for the development and well-being of societies. The Plurinational State of Bolivia was grateful for the support received from WIPO and had plans to advance the development of tourism through cultural festivals linked to IP, by means of the project co-sponsored by the Government of India¹⁴. WIPO's contributions to that initiative were extremely valuable. Cooperative, community-based efforts and activities for MSMEs, particularly those serving Indigenous Peoples, rural populations, and persons of African descent, with a special focus on women and young people, were particularly welcome. The Delegation wished to reiterate its appreciation and support for the work of the Committee.

175. The Delegation of Sudan aligned itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the African Group and the Arab Group. It expressed its appreciation for the commendable efforts of the CDIP, as highlighted in the report. Increased attention must be paid to the specific challenges faced by countries affected by conflict and crises. Such situations required tailored support. In that context, the CDIP-approved DA project proposal on Enhancing the Capacities of National IP Offices in Times of Crisis¹⁵ was welcomed as a clear recognition of those unique needs, and an initiative from which Sudan would be interested in benefiting. WIPO should take a more systematic and country-specific follow-up approach, enhancing direct collaboration with other United Nations agencies, particularly in the context of the humanitarian–development–peace nexus. Recent acts by rebel militia, backed by external actors, resulted in the widespread and systematic destruction of Sudan's innovation and IP ecosystem. In that regard, support from WIPO would be critical and should be comparable to that extended to other countries experiencing crises. WIPO should further integrate and prioritize the needs of Sudan and other conflict-affected countries in its ongoing DA projects. Ensuring tailored assistance that contributed meaningfully to recovery, resilience, and sustainable development was crucial.

176. The Delegation of Kenya, aligning itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group, thanked the Secretariat for the preparation and presentation of the report and commended the Committee for the progress made. IP had an essential role in fostering innovation, creativity and socioeconomic development. The benefits of IP would be more fully realized with equitable access to knowledge, effective TT, and targeted capacity building, particularly for developing and least developed countries. IP must be made relevant and accessible to SMEs, including women and young entrepreneurs, through well-designed projects and programs. Protecting the rights of creators and innovators provided strong incentives for entrepreneurship and the growth of SMEs, thereby contributing to sustainable economic and social development. Mainstreaming the SDGs and fully implementing the WIPO DA remained top priorities for Kenya. Implementation efforts should extend beyond the CDIP; all WIPO bodies and committees should integrate development considerations into their planning and reporting processes. The CDIP should continue to strengthen its monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, including the use of indicators to measure the impact of WIPO's technical

¹⁴ DA Project: [Promoting the Development of Festival Tourism Through Intellectual Property](#)

¹⁵ DA Project: [Enhancing the Capacities of National Intellectual Property Offices in Times of Crisis](#)

assistance. The Delegation wished to thank other Member States for their commitment to the CDIP's work and reaffirm its support for advancing the Committee's mandate.

177. The Delegation of the United States of America aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of Group B. Since its inception in 2007, the CDIP undertook a substantial body of project-based work, to the benefit of many Member States. The outputs of several of the projects were mainstreamed and widely used. The work of the CDIP should remain focused on projects that delivered concrete and practical benefits with direct and sustainable domestic impacts. Continued efforts should be made to promote the positive role of IP in development, for example through the work of TISCs, national IP academies, national IP offices, SMEs and creative industries. Building capacity in IP protection, management and commercialization was particularly important, especially in developing and least developed countries and countries in transition. The approval of five new DA projects by the CDIP at its past two sessions was welcome, and additional proposals should be reviewed in future sessions. The project proposal submitted by the Delegation of the United Kingdom at the thirty-fourth session of the CDIP was particularly appreciated; the United States of America supported initiatives to strengthen enforcement against the cross-border trade in counterfeit goods. The Delegation hoped that the proposal would be approved by the CDIP at its thirty-fifth session. Expressing its gratitude to the Secretariat for the dedicated work, particularly in the implementation of CDIP projects, the Delegation wished to reaffirm its support for the ongoing efforts of the Committee.

178. The Delegation of Samoa thanked the Secretariat for the report and aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the APG. With its small IP office in the Pacific region, Samoa greatly benefited from CDIP projects over the past year. Samoa was grateful to WIPO and its partners for their continued support, particularly for the digitization of Samoa's IP registers through WIPO's Industrial Property Administration System (IPAS), implemented by WIPO's IP Office Business Solutions Division in collaboration with donor countries funding IPAS development. Such work was essential to the continued functioning and survival of Samoa's IP office. Staff working on the Madrid System benefited from capacity-building activities provided by the Madrid Registry Division, in partnership with the IP office of the Philippines and with financial support from FIT Japan IP Global. Additionally, Samoa's musicians and its Copyright Office received capacity-building assistance funded by the Republic of Korea, with technical support from the Korea Copyright Commission and its Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, in collaboration with WIPO's Department for Development Cooperation. That initiative sparked strong interest in developing a national CMO, given the increasing number of Samoan artists earning royalties through platforms such as YouTube. The Heads of IP Offices Conference (HIPOC) for Pacific Countries, a collaborative initiative of the Division for Asia and the Pacific, the Kingdom of Tonga, and FIT Japan IP Global, was particularly appreciated. The HIPOC not only supported the growth of WIPO's newest Pacific Island Member States but also encouraged engagement from non-Members. Samoa received technical support for reviewing its IP and copyright legislation from WIPO's Patent and Technology Law Division and Copyright Law Division. It also benefited from support in its treaty accession work through the Traditional Knowledge Division and the ABC. The capacity-building opportunities provided by the WIPO Academy were welcome, in particular a scholarship that was recently awarded to a staff member to attend the Patent X course, a collaborative program between the WIPO Academy and Harvard Law School. Women entrepreneurs in Samoa also benefited from the WIPO Mentoring Program for Women Entrepreneurs from Pacific Island Countries, implemented through the Traditional Knowledge Division in cooperation with Australia. Discussions with the WIPO GREEN Technology and Research Team were underway regarding participation in WIPO's climate impact initiatives. An invitation had recently been received from WIPO, in collaboration with the IP Corporation of Malaysia, for the training of two trademark examiners. WIPO global registration systems contributed significantly to Samoa's economy and the support of the respective divisions was appreciated. Samoa's IP office was particularly interested in ongoing discussions on the use of AI to support IP examination and intended to explore how such technologies could be adapted to its national context. The Delegation expressed its

sincere appreciation for the work of the Committee. Samoa looked forward to benefiting from upcoming CDIP projects.

179. The Delegation of Uganda took note of the report and aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group, as well as with the statements made by the delegations of Nigeria and South Africa. The Delegation commended the WIPO Secretariat on its efforts to enhance Member States' capacity to use IP and innovation as tools for socioeconomic development. Uganda remained committed to participating actively in all activities aimed at advancing the strategic objectives of the CDIP. Uganda was among the countries with a rapidly growing youthful population; over 70 per cent of its 45 million population was under 30 years of age. That demographic reality increased pressure on the Government to create employment opportunities. To address that challenge, Uganda was implementing targeted initiatives aimed at skilling and empowering young people to engage in creative sectors such as music, film and other audiovisual industries. Initiatives such as the Uganda Film Festival provided platforms for young filmmakers to showcase their talents and contribute to national development. If well-supported, the creative industry could become a reliable source of livelihood and employment. Further capacity-building support from WIPO and its partners would benefit not only Uganda but also the broader African continent in advancing inclusive development. WIPO should allocate additional funding to the CDIP to enable more deliberate and impactful activities for developing economies. The Delegation stood ready to collaborate fully with WIPO in achieving the Committee's objectives.

180. The Delegation of the United Kingdom expressed its appreciation to the CDIP Secretariat for the excellent report and the work carried out over the past two sessions. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of Group B. It acknowledged the wide range of projects and activities facilitated by the CDIP over the past year, all aimed at fostering innovation and advancing the implementation of the 45 DA Recommendations. The progress made through numerous projects that contributed to building resilience, fostering innovation and advancing the CDIP's mandate was particularly noteworthy. The choice of topics for future discussions under the CDIP agenda item on IP and development was welcome, and the theme selected for the 2027 International Conference on IP and Development was particularly relevant. It was regrettable that the DA project proposal on the Development of Strategies and Tools to Address Cross-Border Trade in Counterfeit Trademark Goods, submitted by the Delegation, was not adopted by the CDIP at its most recent session. In the spirit of collaboration, the Delegation acknowledged the valuable feedback received from other delegations, whose insights were incorporated into the project proposal to strengthen its technical merits and practical benefits. The support shown for the proposal by various delegations was appreciated; the Delegation remained committed to working collaboratively to secure the proposal's approval by the CDIP at its thirty-fifth session, and to advancing the full implementation of all 45 DA Recommendations.

181. The Delegation of Eswatini, aligning itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group, wished to express its appreciation to the WIPO Secretariat for the comprehensive report and commended the Organization's continued commitment to implementing the DA Recommendations. Eswatini remained strongly committed to a balanced and inclusive IP system that supported sustainable development. The ongoing work of the CDIP was welcomed, particularly to promote capacity-building, knowledge transfer and institutional development in Member States. The positive impact of the TISCs program in Eswatini was particularly notable. The establishment of TISC played a significant role in expanding access to high-quality patent information, scientific and technical resources, and innovation support services, especially for academic institutions, SMEs and individual innovators. Such efforts were helping to bridge the knowledge gap and build national capacity to leverage IP for development. The Delegation of Eswatini remained committed to the principles of the WIPO DA and willing to work cooperatively to ensure that the IP system continued to serve as a meaningful tool for inclusive and sustainable development.

182. The Delegation of the Republic of Moldova aligned itself with the statement delivered by Estonia on behalf of the CEBS Group and thanked the WIPO Secretariat for preparing the report. The CDIP played an important role as a platform for inclusive and balanced discussions on the contribution of IP to sustainable development and economic resilience. The Committee's growing focus on cross-cutting issues such as youth, women, SMEs and IP ecosystem transformation was welcome. The impactful testimonies shared during the recent CDIP sessions were particularly valuable, especially those from women entrepreneurs from various regions, who illustrated the power of IP to enable local innovation and foster inclusive growth. The international recognition of Moldovan youth creativity, notably the designation of Ms. Oksana Zaporoniuc, a 23-year-old Moldovan student, as WIPO's first IP Youth Ambassador in Design in 2024, was particularly welcome and served as a source of inspiration for Moldova's young creators and entrepreneurs. The Delegation was particularly interested in supporting the adoption of the project proposal submitted by the Delegation of the United Kingdom on the Development of Strategies and Tools to Address Cross-Border Trade in Counterfeit Trademark Goods, which was particularly relevant to Moldova's national efforts to tackle counterfeiting and strengthen trademark enforcement. The Delegation remained committed to the work of the CDIP and to the broader goal of leveraging IP as an effective tool for sustainable development.

183. The Representative of ELAPI expressed support for WIPO's continued commitment to the DA, which was a key pillar to ensuring that IP served as a genuine tool for progress. ELAPI worked actively to ensure that the vision of the DA translated into tangible impact across Latin America. Inclusive development was key; women's participation in innovation was particularly essential and served as a key driver of growth in Latin America. ELAPI stood ready to collaborate with WIPO. ELAPI had at its disposal both strategic regional knowledge and a strong network of professionals capable of supporting development projects, contributing to local capacity building and offering a Latin American perspective in global IP discussions. ELAPI's was committed to working with WIPO to build a more balanced innovation ecosystem that promoted prosperity for all.

184. The Representative of KEI recalled that during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, WIPO cooperated with other organizations such as UNESCO and the International Labour Organization (ILO) on the development of model laws, in a period known to some as a time of "guided development". The model laws produced during that time addressed a wide range of IP issues, including patents, trademarks, copyrights and other areas within WIPO's mandate and included a variety of modalities, such as how laws should be negotiated, who participated in their drafting, and the level of involvement by Member States and regional groups. It was worrying that many current delegates were not familiar with that important period of WIPO's history. The Secretariat should consider preparing and delivering a presentation to the CDIP on the history of those model laws, which could include not only the texts of the laws but also background information on the negotiation processes, the institutional context in which they were developed, and their subsequent impact.

185. The Representative of the TWN, drawing attention to the continued non-implementation of the coordination mechanism intended to facilitate reporting from other WIPO Committees to the CDIP, said that it remained unclear whether the implementation of the DA was effectively mainstreamed across the work of the Standing Committees. The coordination mechanism must be put into use as a matter of urgency, as mandated by the WIPO General Assembly in its decisions adopted in 2017 and 2020. The fact that some CDIP projects appeared to prioritize IP acquisition and enforcement, rather than focusing on addressing development-related matters, was a cause for concern. The recent CDIP discussions on counterfeiting were a case in point. The original intent of the DA was to address the development implications of IP protection and enforcement. In that context, the impact of IP on industrialization in developing countries must be examined, with a particular focus on the implications of patents on frontier technologies for the manufacturing and services sectors. Consideration must be given to how IP could create barriers for initiatives that supported consumers' right to repair. The CDIP

should examine good practices by Member States that addressed such challenges effectively. The CDIP should hold further discussions on those issues and develop projects to address them.

186. The Secretariat expressed its sincere thanks and appreciation to all Member States for their continued support and constructive contributions to the work of the CDIP. It took note of the observations and suggestions made with a view to enhancing the future work of the Committee. The Secretariat reaffirmed its commitment to intensifying efforts to mainstream the DA across WIPO's activities, in line with the guidance, priorities, and expectations expressed by Member States.

187. The WIPO General Assembly took note of the "Report on the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) and Review of the Implementation of the Development Agenda Recommendations" (document WO/GA/58/7).

(v) The Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources (GRs), Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)

188. Discussions were based on document [WO/GA/58/8](#).

189. The Secretariat stated that in 2023, the WIPO General Assembly renewed the mandate of the IGC for the 2024/2025 biennium and agreed on a work program for the IGC. Pursuant to that mandate, the IGC was requested to submit to the 2025 General Assembly the results of its work. The General Assembly in 2025 would take stock of progress made and, based on the maturity of the texts, including levels of agreement on the objectives, scope and nature of the instrument(s), decide on whether to convene a diplomatic conference and/or continue negotiations. Document WO/GA/58/8 was prepared pursuant to that decision. The document reported on IGC sessions 48, 49, 50 and 51, and included the links to the latest drafts of the texts on traditional knowledge (TK) and TCEs that were under negotiation in the IGC. IGC 51, which took place from May 30 to June 5, agreed to recommend to the 2025 WIPO General Assembly that the mandate of the IGC be renewed for the 2026/2027 biennium on the terms of the mandate and according to the work program as agreed by the IGC and as contained in document WO/GA/58/8. The General Assembly was invited to note the report and to renew the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium on the terms and according to the program set out in paragraph 9 of document WO/GA/58/8.

190. The Delegation of Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the APG, welcomed the report on the IGC and expressed its appreciation to the Co-Chairs, facilitators and the Secretariat for their stewardship during the previous IGC sessions. The Group noted that the consensus regarding the renewal of the IGC mandate was a remarkable outcome that was made possible by the constructive engagement of all Member States. It recalled the historic adoption of the WIPO GRATK Treaty in May 2024. The successful conclusion of the GRATK Treaty marked a milestone in the evolution of the international IP system, reflecting the commitment of Member States to address long-standing concerns. It also demonstrated that multilateralism, if grounded in inclusivity and political will, could deliver meaningful results. The Group reiterated its support for the IGC mandate which was agreed by consensus at IGC 51. The successfully negotiated outcome provided a basis for continued progress in the protection of TK and TCEs. The Group believed that continuing text-based negotiations, with the objective of developing one or more international legal instruments for the protection of TK and TCEs, would be essential to support the implementation of the decisions. It noted that to narrow gaps and converge on a consensus-based understanding of the text, a structured and outcome-oriented program of work over the next biennium would be required. Such a work program could prompt Member States to decide to convene a Diplomatic Conference, subject to the maturity of the text. The Group reiterated its commitment to an inclusive, fair and balanced international IP system to uphold the rights of IPLCs and to prevent the misappropriation of the cultural and intellectual heritage of

custodians. It looked forward to working constructively with all delegations to ensure the fulfillment of the mandate of the IGC.

191. The Delegation of China believed that the work and discussions within the IGC over the years were fruitful. In particular, with the joint efforts of all parties, the WIPO GRATK Treaty was successfully concluded after 25 years, achieving a historic breakthrough. The Delegation noted that Member States reached consensus on the mandate for the next biennium which would continue to advance work on related issues within the framework of the IGC. It supported the IGC continuing exchanges and discussions on GRs, TK and TCEs. It hoped that all parties would demonstrate greater sincerity, focus on the core issues, manage differences in a flexible manner, and strive to reach a legally-binding international instrument on TK and TCEs as soon as possible.

192. The Delegation of Estonia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, thanked the Secretariat for presenting the report on the IGC. For the 2024/2025 biennium, the CEBS Group welcomed the opportunity for Member States to take stock of the progress made on GRs and associated TK, discuss any issues arising from the GRATK Diplomatic Conference, and engage in negotiations during the three IGC sessions devoted to TK and TCEs. It welcomed the decision to keep TK and TCEs as the focus of the agreed and renewed mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium, without prejudice to the outcome of negotiations. It also welcomed the continuation of the discussions on IP issues concerning GRs and their interlinkage with TK and TCEs, without normative work on GRs, during the budgetary biennium 2026/2027. With a view to deepening interactions, the CEBS Group welcomed the decision to organize a hybrid expert workshop, as agreed during the negotiations for the renewal of the mandate. The CEBS Group remained committed to engaging constructively in the future work of the IGC, starting with the two sessions planned for 2026 and those planned throughout 2027. Based on the new mandate of the IGC, the CEBS Group recognized the need for, and value of, further commitment based on a member-driven process that should allow Member States to determine the possible outcomes of ongoing work. It was necessary to establish an efficient and inclusive working methodology that facilitated the exchange of ideas among IGC participants. At the same time, the CEBS Group recalled that one or more future international instruments on TK and TCEs should be non-binding and employ a measures-based approach. The CEBS Group remained willing to contribute to the ongoing work of the IGC which should further narrow existing gaps and help reach a common understanding on core issues.

193. The Delegation of Japan, speaking on behalf of Group B, expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for the preparation of document WO/GA/58/8. It acknowledged the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the IGC for their guidance during the 2024/2025 biennium. It noted with appreciation that, at IGC 51, it was agreed by consensus to recommend that the 2025 General Assembly renew the mandate and work program of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium. Group B called upon the General Assembly to endorse the recommendation that was agreed at IGC 51. Regarding TK and TCEs, Group B believed that more work was required in the next biennium to narrow gaps and reach a common understanding on core issues. It was important to apply an efficient, transparent and inclusive working methodology under the new mandate, which would facilitate exchanges between Member States, IPLCs and other stakeholders. Group B looked forward to implementing an evidence-based approach with actual examples, including national and regional experiences, as agreed and requested by the IGC. It believed that the IGC was the appropriate forum for discussions on IP, GRs, TK and TCEs, and such discussions would continue under the new mandate of the IGC. Group B remained committed to making a constructive contribution to achieving acceptable results in the IGC under the renewed mandate.

194. The Delegation of Namibia, speaking on behalf of the African Group, thanked the Secretariat for the report on the IGC. The Group welcomed the adoption of the WIPO GRATK Treaty in May 2024. It acknowledged the growing number of countries that signed the treaty,

and warmly congratulated the early and leading ratifiers of the GRATK Treaty, Malawi and Uganda. To that end, it strongly encouraged Members to ratify or accede to the treaty at their earliest convenience. The IGC was alive because the work on TK and TCEs was unfinished. Therefore, it noted with appreciation that IGC 51 transmitted the texts on TK and TCEs to the General Assembly and recommended the renewal of the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium. The Group reiterated its full support for that recommendation and set clear priorities for the future. Firstly, any international legal instrument must recognize the absolute and collective preexisting rights of IPLCs. Secondly, adequate scope for protection, workable exceptions, and meaningful benefit-sharing remained indispensable. Thirdly, the Group welcomed the call for continued capacity-building and technical assistance for developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs), and it expected resources commensurate with that ambition. Lastly, the Secretariat's facilitation of IPLC engagement, including hybrid expert workshops, should be strengthened and adequately funded to ensure inclusive participation. The Group also stressed the importance of an evidence-based approach that was grounded in national experiences, impact assessments and databases to narrow the remaining gaps. However, studies must never become a precondition for progress. Instead, studies should equip Member States to bridge divides, not entrench them. The Group remained committed to building bridges to advance collective objectives and defend the core interests of IPLCs, whose heritage sustained shared human patrimony. In conclusion, the General Assembly must adequately mandate the IGC to deliver a comprehensive future legal instrument that would do justice to the custodians of TK and TCEs and strengthen the global IP system.

195. The Delegation of Ecuador, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, thanked the Secretariat and the Co-Chairs for their commendable work and expressed its appreciation to Ms. Erika Watanabe Patriota, who was a delegate from a regional Member State. It thanked all delegations for their constructive participation in the work of the IGC. GRULAC welcomed the progress made at the last session, particularly the recommendation to renew the mandate for the 2026/2027 biennium. It welcomed the inclusive approach that reflected the commitment to a structured and productive work program. It also welcomed the revised texts on the protection of TK and TCEs which represented a step forward in the discussions that took place within the framework of the IGC. Regarding GRs, GRULAC acknowledged the adoption of the GRATK Treaty in 2024 and reaffirmed the importance of continuing to explore the linkage with TK and TCEs. It reiterated its support for the full participation of IPLCs in the work of WIPO on key issues for the IGC, and expressed its concern over the lack of available resources that put at risk the legitimacy and comprehensive nature of IGC deliberations. GRULAC reiterated its commitment to participate constructively in the work of the IGC.

196. The Delegation of the European Union, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, thanked the Secretariat for the work undertaken during the past year. It also thanked the IGC Co-Chairs for their work and dedication to ensuring the success of the previous IGC session. The Delegation noted that the four previous IGC sessions were challenging and not always fruitful in terms of outcomes. It was therefore particularly pleased that an agreement was reached during IGC 51, both in terms of the transmission of the revised versions of the TK and TCEs texts to the next session and the recommendation that was agreed by consensus regarding the renewal of the mandate of the IGC for the next biennium. The Delegation recalled that, as expressed by several delegations at IGC 51, there was a clear desire to revise the IGC working methodology to allow for more efficient and meaningful work, and it therefore looked forward to exchanging national and regional experiences. It believed that the new format of the IGC sessions would allow for such exchanges by dedicating at least three days of each session to sharing good practices, concrete initiatives and examples. The Delegation reiterated that any international instrument on TK and TCEs should be non-binding and should support a balanced, flexible and measures-based approach. Although it acknowledged the importance that some Member States placed on the discussions of GRs in the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium, the Delegation reiterated that normative work on GRs would fall under the competency of the future Assembly of the GRATK Treaty. Therefore, as stated in the draft

mandate for the 2026/2027 biennium, discussions on GRs within the IGC should solely focus on non-normative work, such as exchanging experiences and good practices among Member States, and information sessions on national legislation to protect GRs. It reiterated its commitment to engage constructively in the work of the IGC and its willingness to agree on the proposed mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium. The Delegation looked forward to actively participating in the three IGC sessions that would take place under the new mandate.

197. The Delegation of Australia welcomed the recommendation to renew the mandate of the IGC, and the continued spirit of cooperation and cooperative work to achieve meaningful outcomes. It looked forward to continuing to advance outcomes on the protection of TK and TCEs, and to opportunities to further consider and discuss GRs. The Delegation reiterated its support for and the deep value of IPLCs' participation in the IGC. To further support that participation, Australia announced a contribution of 20,000 Australian dollars to the WIPO Voluntary Fund. It encouraged other Member States to consider contributing to the WIPO Voluntary Fund.

198. The Delegation of India aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the APG. It extended its appreciation to the Secretariat for the comprehensive report on the IGC for the 2024/2025 biennium. The Delegation was steadfast in its support for the mission of the IGC which complemented national efforts to protect GRs, TK and TCEs. It appreciated the WIPO GRATK Treaty which was adopted on May 24, 2024. The treaty represented a crucial milestone as the first WIPO instrument to address the interface between IP, GRs and TK, a move that India was championing. The Delegation recognized the substantial work that was carried out during IGCs 49, 50 and 51, and acknowledged the sustained efforts that helped to overcome early challenges to reaching a consensus and finally led to the transmission of the revised TK and TCEs texts to the General Assembly. The Delegation supported renewing the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium, with a view to finalizing an agreement on one or more international legal instruments relating to IP before the General Assembly in 2027 that would ensure balanced protection for TK and TCEs. It also reiterated the necessity of an evidence-based approach and urged Member States to participate in the upcoming negotiations on TK and TCEs with openness and flexibility. In conclusion, the Delegation remained committed to working constructively with all delegations to ensure that the IGC fulfilled its mandate and to deliver a truly balanced, inclusive and equitable international IP system for all.

199. The Delegation of Malaysia aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the APG. It emphasized the work of the IGC and supported renewing the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium. The Delegation believed that an international instrument for the protection of TK and TCEs would effectively prevent the misappropriation and misuse of TK and TCEs. Such an instrument would also ensure the protection of beneficiaries' rights and interests. The Delegation reaffirmed its commitment to working with other Member States to finalize an agreement on international legal instruments for the protection of TK and TCEs.

200. The Delegation of Mexico expressed its gratitude for the work carried out in the IGC during the past biennium and supported the renewal of its mandate for the 2026/2027 biennium. It paid tribute to the efforts made by the delegations during the discussions held in the previous biennium. However, there was a lack of substantive progress in the past negotiation rounds indicating that Member States would need to better plan and design consultations throughout the biennium. The Delegation was committed to considering new working methods that might help build consensus and accelerate the drafting of the outstanding legal instruments. The adoption of the GRATK Treaty represented a historic milestone, and it would be vital to show the same willingness, determination and flexibility to move towards solutions that offered effective protection for TK and TCEs. The Delegation reiterated the importance of the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of WIPO to provide it with legitimacy

and to enrich that work with irreplaceable indigenous knowledge, experience and perspectives. It supported the principle of inclusiveness and welcomed the announcement from Australia that it would contribute to the WIPO Voluntary Fund to facilitate the participation of Indigenous Peoples. The Delegation believed that more strategic planning and collective political will might lead the IGC to achieve a tangible and fair outcome that could support those who guarded that cultural heritage and knowledge of humanity for many generations.

201. The Delegation of Papua New Guinea, speaking on behalf of the Pacific Islands Group, aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the APG. The Pacific Islands Group noted and welcomed document WO/GA/58/8 on the IGC and its work during the 2024/2025 biennium. It emphasized that the work of the IGC was a long-standing priority for the Pacific. The Pacific Islands Group emphasized the need for international treaties to ensure international recognition and protection for TK and the role of TK in communities, and to act as innovative sources of investment, trade, technology and industrial development. The Pacific Islands Group applauded and reinforced the historic adoption of the GRATK Treaty on May 24, 2024, and its significance for all WIPO Member States. It congratulated Malawi for its timely ratification and implementation of the treaty. Moreover, the Pacific Islands Group reiterated its steadfast commitment to achieving a legally binding treaty on TK and TCEs. It took note of the positive outcomes of IGC 51 and expressed its full support for the recommendations of the IGC, particularly the renewal of the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium, to advance the negotiations for a second legal instrument on TK and TCEs. It was also committed to advancing text-based negotiations and noted the good progress that was made. It believed that Member States must maintain the momentum to ensure a robust international framework for TK and TCEs that was underpinned by national frameworks and capacities. The Pacific Islands Group was optimistic that a future diplomatic conference on TK and TCEs would be convened, and it reaffirmed the critical importance of negotiations in the next biennium to advance work on TK and TCEs. It emphasized the importance of the participation of IPLCs in the negotiations. Free, fair and informed consent, and equitable benefit-sharing were core principles for the Pacific. They should remain strong and mandatory features of TK and TCEs, alongside appropriate definitions of TK and TCEs. The Pacific Islands Group acknowledged the working relationship with all States and partners. Inclusive and constructive negotiations had value so far. It looked forward to continuing work at IGC 52 in March 2026.

202. The Delegation of Indonesia expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for the comprehensive report on the work of the IGC contained in document WO/GA/58/8. It was over a year since the adoption of the GRATK Treaty. Such a landmark achievement demonstrated the collective commitment to ensuring a fair, balanced and inclusive IP system. The Delegation encouraged Member States to ratify and accede to the GRATK Treaty to ensure its effective and prompt implementation for the benefit of all. Looking ahead, the Delegation strongly supported the renewal of the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium. The renewed mandate must ensure the continuation of work on all three pillars of the IGC, with particular emphasis on continuing text-based negotiations on TK and TCEs. The Delegation believed that the success of the GRATK Diplomatic Conference should serve as a positive momentum to encourage equally ambitious and balanced outcomes for the protection of TK and TCEs. The Delegation hoped that under the new mandate, Member States could work constructively towards convening a diplomatic conference on TK and TCEs. The Delegation recognized the existence of gaps among Member States' positions on TK and TCEs. However, it remained confident that those differences would not hinder collective efforts to consolidate a text that was accessible to all and achieve the long-awaited diplomatic conference. Finally, the Delegation believed that the protection of GRs, TK and TCEs would meaningfully contribute to achieving the SDGs. It emphasized the importance of the SDGs in ensuring that the IP system respected and safeguarded the rights and interests of local communities, while fostering innovation, creativity, cultural diversity and sustainable development.

203. The Delegation of South Africa aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation expressed its support for renewing the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium and for the IGC expediting the remaining normative work on TK and TCEs. It reiterated the importance of continuing to narrow gaps in the TK and TCEs Draft Articles and ensuring that the Draft Articles achieved consensus among the WIPO Member States. Those efforts must lead to the convening of a diplomatic conference as soon as possible. The current General Assembly was convened in the wake of the historic adoption of two long-awaited Treaties, the GRATK Treaty and the RDLT. The Delegation believed that those Treaties not only gave credence to the valuable work of WIPO but also demonstrated the core values and ethos of the Organization. The lack of progress at IGCs 49 and 50 was disappointing to say the least. However, the transmission of the work of IGC 51 to the General Assembly provided a glimmer of hope for the future. The Delegation believed that there was a need to introduce mandatory disclosure requirements on TK and TCEs. The importance of the mandatory disclosure requirement could not be overemphasized because, if effective, it would end misappropriation, biopiracy and the unauthorized use of TK and TCEs. That would allow for fair and equitable benefit-sharing among IPLCs for the use of their TK and TCEs. The Delegation supported and appreciated the work of the Secretariat on reports and related documents.

204. The Delegation of Nigeria aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group. It thanked the Secretariat, the Member States and the Co-Chairs for their work and for the positive report that recommended the renewal of the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium. The Delegation urged the General Assembly to approve the recommendation accordingly. It noted that two IGC sessions in a row – IGCs 49 and 50 – had not resulted in any significant progress. The Delegation thanked the IGC for having rallied with purpose to salvage the situation at IGC 51. It hoped that the GRATK Treaty and the RDLT would provide momentum to expedite negotiations, close existing gaps and deliver a binding treaty on TK and TCEs that would be on a par with the GRATK Treaty. Doing so would provide a logical conclusion to the work of the IGC and meet the expectation that TK, TCEs, GRs and, by extension, IPLCs would be fully integrated into an inclusive and development-oriented global IP system. The Delegation recalled the progress made in WIPO sister fora, particularly through the global biodiversity framework on digital sequence information on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and through the Intergovernmental Working Group of the World Health Organization which had a mandate to negotiate the Pathogen Access and Benefits Sharing System annex to the historic Pandemic Treaty. The consequences of those developments for IPLCs did not complement and mutually reinforce the GRATK Treaty or the negotiations concerning TK and TCEs. The Delegation pledged its commitment to continue the work of the IGC on TK and TCEs. It would strive to partner with demanders, all Member States and IPLCs to ensure that, in the aftermath of the GRATK Treaty, the IGC did not return to being a talk show at the expense of IPLCs. Rather, the IGC must be repositioned with purpose and urgency to fulfill the remaining mandate of the IGC. To conclude, the Delegation emphasized the need for renewed and concrete support for the participation of IPLCs in the work of the IGC as they navigated GRs, TK and TCEs as cross-cutting topics in an increasingly complex global knowledge and governance framework. The Delegation observed that, if all Member States agreed that the IGC derived its legitimacy from the active participation of IPLCs, it would be contradictory for WIPO to be unable to guarantee their attendance through the WIPO Voluntary Fund. On that note, the Delegation thanked Australia for its contribution to the WIPO Voluntary Fund.

205. The Delegation of Jamaica noted the information contained in document WO/GA/58/8 and expressed its support for the renewal of the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium, as set out in the document. The Delegation commended the Secretariat for its effort to complete the work of the IGC successfully. It looked forward to the next IGC session and to the conclusion of an international agreement on TK and TCEs. Finally, the Delegation thanked all the delegations for their support going forward.

206. The Delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia expressed its gratitude for the preparation of and introduction to the report and acknowledged the progress made on the text-based negotiations. It also expressed its gratitude for the efforts of all parties to reduce existing differences and to achieve shared understanding. Nonetheless, the Delegation was concerned that, as time went by, no specific response was found. It welcomed the work done previously but it urged the General Assembly to renew the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium. Adding different studies and activities to the mandate of the IGC was acceptable but should not delay progress in any way. The Delegation requested that the Secretariat continue to assist the IGC with specialized knowledge and financing, and that it ensured greater and real participation of Indigenous Peoples and their balanced regional representation. It called for consideration and progress based on the available texts on TK and TCEs with a view to concluding an agreement on one or more international legal instruments. Discussions on IP issues related to TK and TCEs could not be separated given their interrelationship and connection with GRs. The Delegation highlighted an intercultural and intracultural challenge that lay ahead, namely understanding, respecting and assimilating the visions of the world held by Indigenous Peoples and their ways of exercising their collective rights. The Plurinational State of Bolivia had signed the GRATK Treaty and urged Member States to consider doing the same.

207. The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran attached high importance to the work of the IGC. On May 6, 2025, the Islamic Republic of Iran signed the GRATK Treaty which represented a milestone in recognizing and safeguarding the rights of countries and communities that served as custodians of ancient and living cultural and intellectual traditions. The Delegation also welcomed the renewal of the mandate of the IGC by consensus, and commended the progress achieved during IGC 51. The Delegation reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran was a millennia-old civilization with an uninterrupted legacy of artistic, intellectual and cultural traditions. In that regard, it believed that the protection of TK and TCEs was a cultural, legal and ethical imperative. TCEs were living testaments to the wisdom of generations and vital engines of community identity, resilience and innovation. However, the Delegation was surprised and concerned that, despite the recognized importance of the subject, the IGC still remained a temporary body within WIPO. That provisional status stood in stark contrast to the permanence and prominence granted to committees addressing other areas of IP, some of which concerned far newer fields than TK and TCEs. If Member States were serious about equity and exclusivity in the global IP system, the institutional architecture of WIPO must reflect that seriousness. The continued *ad hoc* nature of the IGC did not do justice to the critical issues that it addressed, especially those that concerned developing countries. The adoption of the GRATK Treaty was historic and a step towards addressing the long-standing gap in the international protection of TK. It marked the beginning of a new chapter that demanded renewed commitment to ensure that those living traditions were effectively protected and empowered to contribute meaningfully to a fair and balanced future innovation and IP ecosystem. The Delegation firmly believed that non-binding instruments, declarations or voluntary guides were insufficient. The only way to guarantee the effective protection of TK and TCEs was through a legally binding instrument grounded in equity, cultural respect and legal certainty. The Delegation strongly supported text-based negotiations aimed at concluding such an instrument through the convening of a diplomatic conference. It called on delegations to remain constructively engaged and to narrow and close the remaining gaps. Finally, the Delegation expressed its sincere gratitude to Mr. Wend Wendland, former Director of the WIPO Traditional Knowledge Division, on his retirement. The Delegation acknowledged Mr. Wendland's instrumental role over many years in advancing the work of the IGC with professionalism, vision and education. Mr. Wendland left a legacy in global discourse on the protection of TK and TCEs and his actions would be remembered with respect and appreciation. The Delegation was committed to working constructively with all Member States to ensure the full implementation of the mandate of the IGC and to ensure that the voices of TK and TCEs holders, particularly from developing countries and LDCs, were heard, respected and reflected in the outcome.

208. The Delegation of Thailand aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the APG. It joined other delegations in thanking the Co-Chairs, facilitators and the Secretariat for their dedication to the IGC. The Delegation recalled the importance of the GRATK Treaty not just as a legal accomplishment, but as a reflection of the global and shared commitment to fairness, sustainability and respect for TK. The Delegation stated that its national law was being reviewed in line with the GRATK Treaty. Turning to the work on TK and TCEs, the Delegation believed that despite challenges the process went beyond legal drafting. It was part of a larger effort to recognize the fairness and dignity of TK systems around the world that had not been adequately reflected in mainstream IP law. It acknowledged the existence of two separate texts, both rich with alternatives, reflecting the diversity and complexity of the issues. The Delegation supported efforts to streamline the texts by reducing alternatives and clarifying all principles. In the longer term, there was value in consolidating the two texts into a single legal instrument, possibly by carefully balancing rights-based and measures-based approaches. Doing so would pave the way for a future diplomatic conference, not only as a technical objective but as a normative responsibility of all Member States. For developing countries, a future instrument must ensure fair benefit-sharing and cross-border protection, prevent misappropriation, and recognize IPLCs as right holders. The Delegation expressed its full support for the renewal of the mandate of the IGC with a very clear roadmap and the moral courage to deliver results, as was proposed in the document. Time alone was not sufficient to deliver results; rather, flexibility, a good strategy, goodwill and trust would make the difference. Finally, it reiterated the importance of the Voluntary Fund as a key mechanism for the participation of IPLCs, and it therefore supported sustainable solutions to maintain and strengthen the Fund. The Delegation expressed appreciation to the donor countries that supported the Voluntary Fund.

209. The Delegation of the United States of America aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Japan on behalf of Group B. It thanked the Secretariat for preparing the report contained in document WO/GA/58/8. The Delegation invited the General Assembly to take note of the information contained in document WO/GA/58/8 and to renew the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium according to the terms and the program set out in paragraph 9. The work of the IGC was prescribed by the mandate that the General Assembly approved, and any work related to GRs, TK and TCEs at WIPO must be confined to the IGC. The IGC was created to address those issues within a single WIPO body. The Delegation reiterated its long-standing view that TK and TCEs must be addressed in separate texts. TK and TCEs were distinct topics that implicated different equities, and they must be handled accordingly. Finally, it was important to pursue an evidence-based approach with actual examples as a critical part of any IGC work on GRs, TK and TCEs. Such an approach was enshrined in the proposed mandate. The Delegation looked forward to seeing such an approach during the session, as set out in the proposed mandate.

210. The Delegation of Morocco thanked the Secretariat for the report on the work of the IGC and expressed its gratitude for the effective and efficient organization of the session. The Delegation welcomed the historic adoption of the GRATK Treaty and recognized the immense value of TK, TCEs and GRs for sustainable development and biodiversity. The Delegation was proud of and valued its TK and culture which was carefully preserved and handed down from generation to generation. It supported the recommendation to renew the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium and was committed to working constructively towards the adoption of a balanced, lasting and acceptable legal instrument. It hoped that cooperation and dialogue would continue to help Member States meet existing and future challenges. It would take any opportunity to ensure future progress in the discussions.

211. The Delegation of Ghana aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group. It thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of the report on the IGC contained in document WO/GA/58/8. The Delegation recalled the successful conclusion of the Diplomatic Conference in May 2024 which led to the adoption of the GRATK

Treaty. The adoption of that treaty was a testament to the collaborative efforts and dedication of all Member States and stakeholders. The Delegation recognized the progress achieved during the 2024/2025 biennium. The sessions held during that biennium offered an opportunity for in-depth discussions and helped to appreciate Member States' perspectives on the protection of TK and TCEs. The Delegation endorsed the renewal of the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium. It emphasized the value of TK and TCEs, and IPLCs and their role in sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and the cultural heritage of humanity. The Delegation expressed its commitment to participate actively in the upcoming IGC sessions scheduled for the next biennium. It remained dedicated to and supportive of ongoing efforts to accelerate the entry into force of the GRATK Treaty. It looked forward to more productive discussions during the General Assembly.

212. The Delegation of Algeria aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group. It thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of the report on the IGC. It also expressed its gratitude to the Secretariat. The Delegation welcomed the positive results of IGC 51 which allowed Member States to reach a consensus on the renewal of the mandate of the IGC and on the adoption of its work program. It welcomed the considerable efforts made by the Co-Chairs, Ms. Erika Watanabe Patriota of Brazil and Ms. Anna Vuopala of Finland, and by the facilitators and Vice-Chairs who demonstrated constant commitment to leading progress. The Delegation supported the renewal of the mandate. The IGC was an ideal framework for dealing with issues on GRs, TK and TCEs because it favored inclusive dialogue and aimed to create a solid normative model which guaranteed the rights of all the holders of that rich heritage. It encouraged Member States to cooperate constructively on the IGC agenda over the next biennium. The Delegation was steadfast in its support for IGC work and welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty which Algeria signed. The renewal of the mandate of the IGC provided an opportunity for Member States to move towards the entry into force of the treaty. It would provide adequate technical assistance to support the ratification process and strengthen the normative agenda of WIPO. The Delegation recognized the strategic importance of negotiations to preserve, protect and value TK and TCEs, and reiterated its commitment to participating actively in the future work of the IGC. In that spirit, the Delegation reiterated its support for the mandate of the IGC, and the importance of continuing negotiations on those issues with a consolidated text and through a rights-based approach to guarantee fairness and balance.

213. The Delegation of Brazil supported the statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC. It welcomed the presentation of document WO/GA/58/8 by the Secretariat, and congratulated the Traditional Knowledge Division for its work and success over the last biennium. The Delegation celebrated the adoption of the GRATK Treaty, which had 44 signatories including Brazil. It also congratulated Malawi and Uganda for ratifying the treaty. The Delegation was committed to accelerating the process to ensure that the GRATK Treaty could enter into force. The importance of the GRATK Treaty lay in its recognition of the contribution of IPLCs to innovation and the IP system. The commitment to implement the GRATK Treaty effectively must go hand in hand with technical cooperation and capacity-building to ensure concrete benefits for countries and communities that possessed TK. Such an exercise must accompany technical work so that the GRATK Treaty could be considered in all WIPO systems, such as the PCT, in line with the text of the GRATK Treaty that was adopted by consensus in May 2024. The Delegation called on Member States to work together to ensure that those commitments turned into concrete actions. The Delegation welcomed the confidence and trust that Member States had shown Brazil by allowing it to co-chair the IGC in the past biennium which enabled a new consensus-based mandate for the 2026/2027 biennium to be developed, despite different points of view. It hoped that the General Assembly would endorse that mandate. As the IGC looked ahead, it was important to maintain the momentum and consensus that was achieved over the past biennium. The Delegation reiterated its support for renewing the mandate of the IGC with an adequate number of sessions and for ensuring that IPLCs fully participated and received funding. There was a need for constructive commitment to

continue negotiating an internationally binding instrument that would guarantee the effective and balanced protection of TK and TCEs, and to convene a diplomatic conference. The Delegation drew attention to the complete depletion of the WIPO Voluntary Fund during the previous biennium. It was regrettable that it was not possible to agree on a solid proposal presented with extensive interregional support during the last PBC to use WIPO funds to finance the representatives of IPLCs. Looking at the newly approved methodology for the IGC, it was important for those representatives to attend the next IGC sessions. It believed that the new working elements, based on real examples that included national and regional experiences, should not in any way serve as a delaying tactic. Instead, they should enable the IGC to move towards a new internationally binding instrument. The Delegation believed that protecting the IPRs of IPLCs not only strengthened the IP system as a whole, but also facilitated the implementation of the SDGs and promoted sustainable development. The Delegation was committed to engaging constructively in the next IGC sessions to ensure the effective protection of TK and TCEs, and the IP rights of IPLCs. Finally, the Delegation thanked the interpreters who had enabled it to speak in its mother tongue.

214. The Delegation of Ukraine aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Estonia on behalf of the CEBS Group. It thanked the Secretariat for presenting the report on the IGC contained in document WO/GA/58/8. It welcomed the opportunity for Member States to assess progress on GRs and associated TK, reflect on the outcomes of the GRATK Diplomatic Conference and actively engage in negotiations on TK and TCEs during three dedicated sessions. The Delegation was strongly committed to protecting the rights of IPLCs. It acknowledged the growing risk to Indigenous Peoples and cultural heritage posed by the ongoing Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. Since the illegal occupation of Crimea in 2014, the Indigenous Crimean Tatar people suffered systematic repression and over 50,000 individuals had been forcibly conscripted. As of January 2025, the Russian Federation illegally imprisoned 221 people in temporarily occupied Crimea and Sevastopol, including 137 Crimean Tatars who were targeted due to their ethnic, religious and political identity. UNESCO and the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine continued to document extensive violations that ranged from the looting of museums and libraries to the destruction of sacred sites and traditional craft centers, including those related to Crimean Tatar heritage which featured on the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage list. The Delegation emphasized that the unlawful appropriation and destruction of TCEs and the erasure of indigenous identities in occupied territories directly undermined the goals of the IGC and the principles enshrined in the newly adopted GRATK Treaty. The Russian Federation must bear the full legal consequences of its internationally wrongful acts. No occupying power should enjoy privileges or leadership roles in international norm-setting bodies such as WIPO. The Delegation was deeply grateful to the Secretariat and all WIPO Member States that continued to provide support and solidarity to Ukraine and its people.

215. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat and the IGC Co-Chairs for their hard work in preparing the document on the work of the IGC. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of the United States of America. It expressed its support for renewing the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium and welcomed the inclusion of an evidence-based approach in the work program for the next biennium. Such an approach would provide a solid and realistic foundation for future normative discussions and ensure that any international framework was grounded in actual needs, practices and outcomes. The Delegation continued to support the development and use of TK databases which could serve as a valuable tool to prevent the erroneous granting of a patent by facilitating prior art searches. That tool could meaningfully contribute to the effective protection of TK within the existing IP system. The Delegation remained committed to engaging constructively in IGC work to achieve a balanced and implementable outcome that reflected the diversity of the national legal system and cultural context.

216. The Delegation of Kazakhstan expressed its gratitude to the WIPO Secretariat for preparing a detailed report on the IGC for the 2024/2025 biennium. It supported efforts to develop international legal instruments that ensured the balanced and effective protection of TK and TCEs. It welcomed the achievements of the IGC, including the adoption of the GRATK Treaty in 2024 and the in-depth negotiations on drafting international instruments in the field of TK and TCEs. At the national level, Kazakhstan was taking steps to recognize and protect TK including by developing national legislation, supporting communities that owned such knowledge, and participating in regional dialogues. The Delegation emphasized the importance of an inclusive approach that involved IPLCs in international norm-setting work. In that regard, the Delegation supported the renewal of the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium. It stood ready to participate actively in IGC work to develop effective mechanisms to protect TK and TCEs.

217. The Delegation of Switzerland welcomed the recommendation of IGC 51 to renew the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium. In particular, the Delegation looked forward to more general and conceptual discussions, and to real examples of how to protect TK and TCEs, before moving once again to text-based negotiations. Switzerland signed the GRATK Treaty on March 4, 2025.

218. The Delegation of Egypt aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group. The Delegation took note of the report on the work of the IGC and thanked the Co-Chairs for their efforts to lead the work of the IGC during the 2024/2025 biennium. The Delegation commended the efforts of the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector under the leadership of Mr. Edward Kwakwa, Assistant Director General, and the Traditional Knowledge Division for facilitating the work of the IGC and convening the GRATK Diplomatic Conference. The Delegation valued the agreement reached during IGC 51 and looked forward to the General Assembly's renewal of the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium. The renewal would narrow existing gaps and help reach common understanding on core issues with a view to finalizing one or more international legal instruments that ensured balanced and effective protection of TK and TCEs. It was important to continue discussions on matters relating to GRs and their interlinkage with TK and TCEs. The Delegation reaffirmed its position on the importance of agreeing one or more internationally binding instruments to ensure adequate protection for TK and TCEs and the rights of IPLCs. The Delegation was committed to building upon the significant achievements that WIPO made in 2024 and convening a diplomatic conference to adopt a binding treaty on TK and TCEs as soon as possible.

219. The Delegation of Samoa thanked the Secretariat for the report on the IGC. It aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the APG, and agreed with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Papua New Guinea on behalf of the Pacific Islands Group. The Delegation supported the renewal of the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium which would enable the IGC to continue implementing the GRATK Treaty after its entry into force and to negotiate and finalize a legally binding instrument to prevent the misappropriation and exploitation of TK and TCEs. A member of its delegation was appointed as the APG representative to the Advisory Board for the WIPO Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities during IGCs 48, 49 and 50. IPLCs made an important contribution to the IGC and the Delegation acknowledged the status of the Voluntary Fund. The Delegation therefore welcomed and appreciated the contribution of Australia to that Fund. It also acknowledged, thanked and applauded Mr. Wend Wendland for his service as the Director of the Traditional Knowledge Division.

220. The Delegation of Spain supported the statements delivered by the Delegation of Japan on behalf of Group B and the Delegation of the European Union on behalf of the European Union and its member States. It welcomed the report on the IGC contained in document WO/GA/58/8. The Delegation also welcomed the adoption by consensus of the mandate of the

IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium. Such an agreement showed Member States' collective commitment to moving forward in a constructive and balanced manner. The Delegation wished to underscore the importance of the IGC as the sole and adequate forum in WIPO to consider GRs, TK and TCEs. The unique nature of the IGC, as well as the active participation of indigenous representatives, guaranteed inclusivity and ensured a forum for dialogue and cooperation in which balanced and consensus-based solutions could be found. The work of the IGC must be based on concrete examples that reflected the diversity of situations and needs regarding those matters. The Delegation reaffirmed its commitment to continue the work of the IGC.

221. The Delegation of France supported the statements delivered by the Delegation of Japan on behalf of Group B and the Delegation of the European Union on behalf of the European Union and its member States. It thanked the Secretariat for preparing, and took note of, the report on the IGC. The Delegation remained committed to continuing discussions on TK and TCEs, and it supported renewing the mandate of the IGC in line with the consensus-based terms agreed during IGC 51. The renewal of the mandate marked a positive step forward and work on GRs should extend to non-normative activities, such as meetings to share experiences, including with respect to national legislation on the protection of GRs and associated TK. Pending issues and matters concerning the implementation of the GRATK Treaty ought to be dealt with by the contracting parties once the treaty entered into force. The IGC program and working methodology should be communicated sufficiently in advance of each session in order to allow Member States to have their experts study the matters due to be examined by the Committee.

222. The Delegation of Vanuatu expressed its sincere appreciation to the Chair, the Secretariat and all Member States for their continued commitment to advancing the work of the IGC. The Delegation aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the APG and supported the statement delivered by the Delegation of Papua New Guinea on behalf of the Pacific Islands Group. As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) and a custodian of rich indigenous cultures, traditions and ecosystems, Vanuatu attached the highest importance to the effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. GRs, TK and TCEs represented the foundation of the cultural identity of Vanuatu and a vital source of resilience, innovation and sustainable development for its people. The Delegation welcomed progress made towards developing an international legal instrument that ensured the balanced and effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. Recognizing and safeguarding rights was not merely a legal concern but an existential imperative. Communities in Vanuatu continued to face challenges due to the misappropriation and misuse of TK and GRs without prior consent and equitable benefit-sharing. In that regard, the Delegation reiterated its strong support for an international legal instrument that recognized the rights of IPLCs to control, manage and benefit from their TK and resources. Patent applications in Vanuatu entailed mandatory disclosure of the origin and source of GRs and TK. Vanuatu also upheld the principles of free, prior and informed consent and mutually agreed terms, and provided effective mechanisms for access and benefit-sharing that were culturally appropriate and enforceable. The Delegation recalled the need to ensure capacity-building, technical assistance and the effective participation of IPLCs, especially those from SIDS, to shape those mechanisms. It stated that the voices and knowledge systems of IPLCs must remain at the heart of the deliberations of the IGC. With collective political will, mutual respect and genuine partnership, the IGC could deliver outcomes that promoted innovation while preserving the rights and dignity of TK holders worldwide. The Delegation expressed its commitment to continue engaging constructively and contributing meaningfully to the negotiations.

223. The Delegation of the Russian Federation thanked the Assistant Director General, Edward Kwakwa, and the Secretariat for preparing and presenting the Report on the Work of the IGC. The Delegation emphasized the importance of the issues discussed in the IGC, including the protection of TK and TCEs. It also highly appreciated the progress achieved during the

biennium, which included the successful conclusion of the GRATK Treaty, as well as efforts to bridge the gaps in the texts concerning TK and TCEs. The Delegation thanked all the Member States that were committed to good-faith, productive, and multilateral dialogue during the discussions. It supported the continuation of the IGC's work in accordance with the updated and agreed mandate, and the work program for the 2026/2027 biennium. The Delegation acknowledged that financing the participation of Indigenous Peoples within the IGC remained a critical issue, highlighting that with the assistance of the Secretariat, books about the Diplomatic Conference on Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge were distributed between January and March 2025. In that regard, the Delegation requested clarification on this matter, as it was initially stated that all proceeds from the sale of those books would be transferred to the Voluntary Fund to Facilitate the Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities in the Committee's Work, however, neither the corresponding funds nor any accountability report on that matter was presented. The Delegation also emphasized the inadmissibility of discrimination based on nationality in ensuring the participation of representatives of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the IGC's work, reminding the General Assembly that elected officials must adhere to the principles of objectivity, fairness, and impartiality to facilitate an effective negotiation process that fully complied with the rules of procedure. The Delegation stated its intention to continue actively and constructively participating in the IGC's work.

224. The Delegation of Sri Lanka aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the APG. It took note of the report on the IGC and expressed its appreciation to the IGC, its Co-Chairs and the Secretariat for their continued efforts to advance discussions on GRs, TK and TCEs. The Delegation welcomed the adoption of the GRATK Treaty which represented a significant achievement for the global IP community. It also noted the progress made in text-based negotiations on TK and TCEs and commended the commitment of the IGC to conducting inclusive discussions. The Delegation supported renewing the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium and appreciated the structured work program that continued to build on existing outcomes while focusing on narrowing gaps and achieving common understanding. The protection of TK and TCEs was not only a matter of preserving cultural heritage but a vital component of national development and innovation. The Delegation highlighted the importance of including IPLCs and called for continued capacity-building and technical assistance, particularly for developing countries, to ensure their full and effective participation in the discussions. The Delegation expressed its commitment to engage actively in the work of the IGC and to contribute constructively to advancing a balanced, legally sound and widely accepted international instrument on TK and TCEs.

225. The Delegation of Eswatini expressed its sincere appreciation for the work of the IGC. It commended the Secretariat for its continued dedication and tireless efforts to facilitate the complex but crucial negotiations of the IGC. It particularly welcomed the significant progress made during the 2024/2025 biennium, including the constructive spirit and focused deliberations that contributed to narrowing long-standing gaps between Member States. The Delegation was encouraged by the growing convergence around key issues, which reflected the shared commitment of all delegations to reach a balanced, fair and effective international ecosystem. Eswatini was a country rich in TK and TCEs, and the Delegation saw great value in ensuring that the IP system effectively promoted and protected the rights of IPLCs. It felt optimistic that the work of the IGC would lead to an outcome that not only safeguarded those rights but also promoted innovation, equity and sustainable development for all, both within and beyond its borders. The Delegation reiterated its support for renewing the IGC mandate and called upon all Member States to remain engaged and flexible in the spirit of compromise. It hoped that the IGC would continue to build on the momentum achieved with a view to concluding a legally binding international instrument that benefited present and future generations.

226. The Delegation of Malawi aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group. It expressed its thanks to the Secretariat for the report

on the IGC contained in document WO/GA/58/8, and for the efficient arrangements for the session. It welcomed the adoption of the WIPO GRATK Treaty in May 2024. Malawi had the honor of becoming the first Member State to ratify the Treaty on December 5, 2024. It congratulated Uganda for depositing its instrument of ratification during the 2025 General Assembly and called upon other Member States to follow suit so that the GRATK Treaty could enter into force. The Delegation supported the recommendation to renew the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium and looked forward to actively participating in the text-based negotiations to reach a consensus on TK and TCEs.

227. The Delegation of Uganda aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group. In July 2023, the WIPO General Assembly renewed the mandate of the IGC for the 2024/2025 biennium. During that biennium, progress was made, particularly with the adoption of the WIPO GRATK Treaty. On July 9, 2025, Uganda became the second country to deposit its instrument of ratification which demonstrated the country's firm commitment to uphold the principles and objectives of the GRATK Treaty. However, the Delegation highlighted the need for technical assistance and capacity-building for Member States to ensure the full and broad implications of the GRATK Treaty. In particular, the GRATK Treaty concerned IPLCs who were the true beneficiaries of the treaty. The Delegation supported renewing the mandate of the IGC to ensure that the gains of the preceding biennium were consolidated with a view to adopting a treaty on TK and TCEs. The renewed mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium would help to narrow existing gaps in the draft TK and TCEs texts and possibly lead to another long-awaited diplomatic conference to conclude an international instrument on TK and TCEs.

228. The Delegation of Niger aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group and thanked the Secretariat for preparing the report under discussion. It supported renewing the mandate of the IGC for the next biennium and stood ready to participate actively and constructively in the work of the IGC. The Delegation recalled the successful adoption by consensus of the GRATK Treaty and the RDLT in 2024, despite the turbulence of the multilateral environment. Those adoptions demonstrated that multilateralism could deliver when Member States engaged with openness, mutual respect and political will. At the 2024 General Assembly, 32 Member States signed the GRATK Treaty; that figure now stood at 44 Member States. The Delegation congratulated Malawi and Uganda for being the first two Member States to ratify the treaty and for paving the way forward. It called on all Member States to continue ratifying or acceding to the GRATK Treaty, which demonstrated the effectiveness of the treaty. The Delegation also called on all Member States and stakeholders to build on momentum and advance discussions on TK and TCEs to pave the way for a diplomatic conference to conclude a binding treaty on TK and TCEs.

229. The Delegation of Colombia expressed its strong support for the process that the IGC was carrying out and welcomed the renewal of its mandate. The decision to renew that mandate reaffirmed the commitment of Member States to consolidate a more equitable international system that recognized the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities and other ethnically differentiated communities to protect their knowledge, cultural expressions and bicultural resources. The renewal of the IGC mandate followed another recent milestone: the creation of the subsidiary body on Article 8(j) of the CBD at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Cali, Colombia. Both advances marked a moment of institutional maturity that favored the rights of IPLCs to their own knowledge systems and their relationship with nature. The Delegation also welcomed achievements made in other complementary multilateral fora. In 2023, Colombia formally incorporated the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture into the legal system, reaffirming its commitment to food sovereignty, agricultural diversity and the rights of traditional farmers. The UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage was approaching 20 years since its entry into force and was considered a fundamental pillar for the protection of communities' living heritage. Those instruments, together with progress at WIPO, created a

coherent international regulatory framework that enabled the protection of TK and TCEs from a participatory, rights-based and intercultural perspective. The Delegation would continue to participate actively in those collective efforts with a view to strengthening agricultural justice and ensuring the preservation of ancestral knowledge.

230. The Delegation of Sudan aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Namibia on behalf of the African Group. It thanked the Secretariat for preparing the detailed report on the IGC. It welcomed the achievements that were made in 2024, especially the WIPO GRATK Treaty and the continuous work on texts to protect TK and TCEs. Sudan was currently experiencing exceptional circumstances due to the war launched by the militias which severely impacted IPLCs. Despite the circumstances, those local communities remained the custodians of TK and TCEs and they constituted part of the cultural and global community which WIPO was committed to protecting. In that context, the Delegation requested that the IGC and the Secretariat provide special technical and institutional support to ensure that IPLCs effectively participated in negotiations concerning the protection of TK and TCEs, and to build the capacity of local communities impacted by the war to protect their TK and their resources. It was important that any future legal instruments considered the challenges faced by LDCs or war-affected countries, such as Sudan. The Delegation renewed its commitment to participate constructively in the work of the IGC and to support efforts to achieve balanced and effective protection of TK and TCEs. It welcomed the renewal of the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium.

231. The Delegation of Cuba considered it extremely important to renew the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium given its interest in maintaining the three pillars of the IGC, namely TK, TCEs and GRs. The objective of the mandate should be to achieve an international legal instrument that would protect TK and TCEs.

232. The Delegation of Italy supported the statements delivered by the Delegation of Japan on behalf of Group B and the Delegation of the European Union on behalf of the European Union and its member States. It was necessary to continue the general debate on TK and TCEs to reach a common understanding on some key issues. It was not the right time to convene a diplomatic conference and the Delegation was not in a position to support international legally binding instruments. However, the Delegation supported renewing the mandate of the IGC for the next biennium and the consensual approach, highlighting that GRs were not part of the debate. The Delegation believed that it was necessary to have an evidence-based approach and it remained committed to achieving fruitful and balanced results.

233. The Delegation of the Russian Federation took the floor again to exercise its right of reply. In the context of insinuations by one of the delegations regarding the alleged discriminatory policy of the Russian Federation towards national minorities, the Delegation recalled the decisions adopted approximately 18 months ago, in 2024, by the highest judicial authority of the UN, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), in response to Ukrainian complaints against the Russian Federation. The Delegation emphasized that the ICJ rejected nearly all of Ukraine's claims against the Russian Federation regarding alleged violations of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The ruling demonstrated the complete baselessness of Ukraine's accusations of an alleged policy of systematic discrimination against Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians implemented by the Russian Federation. The Delegation underscored that the ICJ denied Ukraine any compensation whatsoever. It was also noted that, in the context of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, all of Ukraine's claims were dismissed, and the ICJ refused to acquiesce to Kyiv's demands and fundamentally declined to recognize the Russian Federation as an "aggressor State". Furthermore, during the court hearings, it was revealed that Ukrainians had fabricated and staged several incidents, which were of an orchestrated nature. The Russian side noted that regarding Kyiv's lawsuit concerning the interpretation of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the ICJ stated that it

lacked jurisdiction to consider Ukraine's accusations against the Russian Federation. As a result, the only issue remaining before the ICJ was whether Ukraine itself had committed genocide in Donbas, and the initially presented accusations collapsed like a "house of cards" – now Ukraine itself will have to answer for its unlawful actions before the ICJ. The Delegation of the Russian Federation emphasized that thus, the principal judicial body of the UN confirmed the falsity of the main theses of the Kyiv regime, including statements about discrimination against national minorities in Crimea, which had no relation to reality.

234. The Delegation of Ukraine rejected the statement delivered by the Delegation of the Russian Federation. It represented yet another attempt by the Russian Federation to advocate its war crimes in Ukraine and to spread its propaganda among the international community. The Delegation would do everything possible to hold the Russian Federation accountable for every war crime committed in Ukraine, including the systematic repression of Indigenous Crimean Tatar people.

235. The Representative of ELAPI thanked the Secretariat for preparing the report on the IGC. The Representative congratulated Member States for maintaining the IGC discussions and particularly for having adopted the WIPO GRATK Treaty in May 2024. The adoption represented a momentous achievement, fulfilled the objectives of the IGC and provided a significant foundation for Latin America to protect its genetic and natural resources. The Representative welcomed the fact that IGC 51 had transmitted the texts on the protection of TK and TCEs to the General Assembly which suggested that Member States were fairly close to reaching a consensus. The achievements and the work of the IGC were essential for the region because there were very few Latin American countries with domestic legislation that protected their genetic and natural resources and prevented misappropriation. Therefore, ELAPI urged the General Assembly to accept the recommendation to renew the mandate of the IGC for the 2026/2027 biennium. It was hoped that an agreement on the TK and TCEs texts would soon lead to a diplomatic conference and another crucial legal instrument for mega-diverse countries, especially in Latin America. ELAPI offered its full academic cooperation to the IGC, the General Assembly and all Member States in the protection of the *sui generis* IP system.

236. The Representative of the International Committee for the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas (Incomindios) stated that the TK and TCEs standard-setting committees refused to accept the obligations set out in the 1974 Agreement between the UN and WIPO. The result was the denial of human rights and a lack of progressive development in international law according to Article 13 of the UN Charter and Article 11 of the Agreement between the UN and WIPO. The universal application of the rights of peoples in non-self-governing territories was therefore not accepted. Only the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was accepted. Therefore, there was no standard-setting protection for the rights of peoples, including Indigenous Peoples, recognized directly under the UN Charter. The political nature of the principle of freely informed consent entailed the full recognition of the political status and the rights of peoples, and the principle of fully informed consent – as opposed to free, prior and informed consent – had a broader and greater meaning. His opening statement referred to the Human Rights Council Resolution 48/7 on the legacies of colonialism promoted by China and the Like-Minded Group. The General Assembly could develop a directive to include the 1974 Agreement between the UN and WIPO that reflected human rights and all those principles recognized in the Agreement. It was proposed to call a meeting with the counselors of the UN General Assembly, WIPO and Indigenous Peoples to initiate a legal review and settle the conflict. In various documents, the United States of America admitted that both Alaska and Hawaii had not sought, accepted or consented to UN General Assembly Resolution 1469 of 1959. The United States of America administered the white race and the military participation in the votes for statehood in Alaska because Indigenous Peoples were the majority population. The Representative thanked the Delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia for calling for the real participation of Indigenous Peoples. To prevent the future exclusion of Indigenous Peoples in the standard-setting process, the Representative called not only for the full acceptance of the

1974 Agreement between the UN and WIPO, but also for the promotion of the universal and equal rights of peoples that would result in equal participation in appropriate standard setting for all the rights of all peoples.

237. The Representative of Maloca Internationale was following the negotiations of the IGC and regretted the systemic lack of resources to ensure the participation of representatives from the seven sociocultural regions of the world in the discussions of the previous four IGC sessions. Peoples under occupation or in non-self-governing territories had also been absent from those discussions. The presence of State representatives as part of the Indigenous Caucus might generate conflicts of interest as it influenced the deliberations and affected the autonomy of collective decisions. Although that situation had been pointed out on various occasions, it became routine practice. It was necessary to question whether that practice remained legitimate or beneficial to the peoples. Maloca Internationale acknowledged the support that some States provided to facilitate participation. However, that support should not be conditional on joining the peoples' internal representation spaces. Finally, it was important to establish a caucus that fully represented the seven sociocultural regions of the world and that was not co-opted by the presence of States as members. In such a case, States were essentially dialoguing with themselves. The presence of indigenous leaders who were part of their States within the caucus was valuable. However, for their presence to be legitimate, they must have full autonomy and there must be respect for diverse perspectives. A caucus that was representative of the seven sociocultural regions, with full autonomy and effective participation, would further legitimize the IGC.

238. The Representative of KEI stated that, since the GRATK Diplomatic Conference was convened after more than two decades of negotiations and some 50 IGC meetings, it seemed useful to separate issues concerning GRs and TK from issues concerning TCEs because there were different views on those topics and there was potential for Member States to reach a consensus. Separating those issues would help reach an outcome in the short to medium term. It could be useful to narrow the work on TK down to the issues raised in the GRATK Treaty. Doing so would require disclosures in patent applications, particularly if there were achievable outcomes concerning misappropriation or benefit-sharing related to patent inventions that incorporated TK. In that regard, the IGC might wish to consider the European Union's approach which involved a mandatory cross license for patent and *sui generis* plant breeder rights for cases in which the product used both the patent and the TK/GRs and where different parties held the rights. The IGC might also wish to consider another type of liability rule, at least for the types of TK that were widely disseminated, that recognized that other types of TK might warrant and benefit from other types of protection. A pragmatic approach that sought incremental progress in more specific areas might provide more momentum, as success in one area could lead to success in another. More attention would be paid to the issue of using TK to train artificial intelligence. Negotiators might wish to review the recent European Union regulation on the European Health Data Space which provided a system to manage access to data in a manner that was decentralized, pro-competitive and respectful of social norms. The Representative read out a sentence from the regulation, saying that the secondary use of health data for research and development should benefit society through new medicines, medical devices, and healthcare products and services at affordable and fair prices for Union citizens, as well as enhancing access to and the availability of such projects, products and services in all member States. As the European Union regulation showed, it was possible to provide access to data on the condition that products were affordable and accessible.

239. The Representative of the TWN stated that the IGC discussions, which had lasted a quarter of a century, provided many examples of how the IP system was working against TK and TCEs. Often, modern IP systems used TK, GRs and TCEs as raw materials to acquire new types of IP monopolies without sharing any benefits with the custodians. It was indeed a step forward that the GRATK Diplomatic Conference was able to reach a consensus on the GRATK Treaty. However, the major gap in the GRATK Treaty was its silence on disclosure when digital

sequence information was part of the patent claims or patent specifications. It was important that Member States addressed that gap in the coming days, especially while implementing the treaty. The recent incident involving Prada, a top fashion brand, copying the design and manufacturing methods of a type of Indian footwear with GI protection, exposed the gaps in securing effective remedies against the misappropriation of TK and TCEs. Discussions within the IGC should therefore focus more on preventing the misappropriation of TK and TCEs.

240. The Secretariat took note of the very useful feedback, particularly the comments expressing appreciation for the work done by the IGC and the unanimous endorsement of the proposal to renew the mandate of the IGC on the terms recommended by the IGC to the General Assembly. Only one comment from the Delegation of the Russian Federation might require a response. The Delegation had referred to the Secretariat having prepared a book to assist in the participation of IPLCs in the sessions of the IGC. The Secretariat did not prepare that book; Ms. Anna Vuopala of Finland, Co-Chair, did in fact prepare the book in her individual capacity. She reported on the book at IGC 51.

241. The WIPO General Assembly

- (i) took note of the information contained in document WO/GA/58/8; and
- (ii) agreed to renew the mandate of the IGC for the biennium 2026/2027 as below:

Bearing in mind the Development Agenda recommendations, reaffirming the importance of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (Committee), noting the different nature of these issues and acknowledging the progress made, the WIPO General Assembly agrees that the mandate of the Committee be renewed, without prejudice to the work pursued in other fora, as follows:

- (a) The Committee will, during the budgetary biennium 2026/2027, in a Member State driven process, continue its work on the protection of genetic resources (GRs), traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs), with the objective of finalizing an agreement on an international legal instrument(s), without prejudging the nature of outcome(s), relating to intellectual property, which will ensure the balanced and effective protection of TK and TCEs.
- (b) The Committee's work on TK and TCEs in the 2026/2027 biennium will build on the existing work carried out by the Committee, including text-based negotiations, with a primary focus on narrowing existing gaps and reaching common understanding on core issues.
- (c) Noting the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge adopted in 2024, the Committee will, during the budgetary biennium 2026/2027, continue to discuss intellectual property issues concerning GRs and their interlinkage with TK and TCEs, without normative work on GRs.
- (d) The Committee will follow, as set out in the table below, a work program based on open and inclusive working methods for the 2026/2027 biennium, including an evidence-based approach with actual examples, including national/regional experiences, as set out in paragraph (e). This work program will make provision for 3 sessions of the Committee in 2026/2027, including thematic, cross cutting, and stocktaking sessions.

(e) The Committee will use all WIPO working documents, including WIPO/GRTKF/IC/51/4 (The Protection of Traditional Knowledge: Draft Articles) and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/51/5 (The Protection of Traditional Cultural Expressions: Draft Articles), as well as any other contributions of Member States, such as conducting/updating studies covering, inter alia, examples of national experiences, including domestic legislation, impact assessments, databases, and examples of protectable subject matter and subject matter that is not intended to be protected; and outputs of any related activities conducted under the capacity-building and technical assistance program of the Secretariat (the Traditional Knowledge Division). The Secretariat is requested to continue to collect, compile and make available online information on national and regional *sui generis* regimes for the intellectual property protection of TK and TCEs. Studies or additional activities are not to delay progress or establish any preconditions for the negotiations.

(f) In 2026, the Committee is requested to submit to the General Assembly the results of its work. The General Assembly in 2027 will take note of discussions on GRs, and take stock of progress made on TK and TCEs, and based on the maturity of the text(s) on TK and TCEs, including levels of agreement on objectives, scope, and nature of the instrument(s), decide on whether to convene a diplomatic conference and/or continue negotiations.

(g) The General Assembly requests the Secretariat to continue to assist the Committee by providing Member States with necessary expertise and funding, in the most efficient manner, of the participation of experts from developing countries and LDCs, taking into account the usual formula for the IGC.

(h) The Secretariat is requested to facilitate the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities in WIPO's normative work related to TK and TCEs. With a view to deepening interaction, the Secretariat is also requested to organize, within existing resources, a hybrid Expert Workshop, following similar arrangements *mutatis mutandis* to those as agreed at the Twentieth Session of the Committee under Agenda Item 8.

WORK PROGRAM – 3 SESSIONS

Indicative Dates	Activity
March 2026	IGC 52 Undertake discussions on GRs and negotiations on TK and/or TCEs. Duration 8 days
September/October 2026	IGC 53 Undertake discussions on GRs and negotiations on TK and/or TCEs. Duration 8 days.

March/April 2027	<p>IGC 54</p> <p>Undertake discussions on GRs and negotiations on TK and/or TCEs.</p> <p>Take note of discussions on GRs and take stock of progress made on TK/TCEs, and make a recommendation.</p> <p>Duration 8 days.</p>
July 2027	<p>WIPO General Assembly will take stock of the progress made, consider the text(s) and make the necessary decision(s)."</p>

(vi) The Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

242. Discussions were based on document [WO/GA/58/9](#).

243. The Secretariat presented the outcomes from the twelfth session of CWS, which was held in September 2024, in a hybrid format. Firstly, the Secretariat said that CWS discussed the following: the development and implementation of WIPO Standards, policies and activities relating to IP data, information systems and services, and Offices' practices and plans on technical collaboration and support. CWS reviewed its work program and agreed to retain 22 tasks. In addition, CWS adopted the new WIPO Standard ST.92 and approved or noted revisions to eight WIPO Standards: ST.3, ST.9, ST.27, ST.61, ST.80, ST.87, ST.91 and ST.96. CWS Members and Observers also shared their practices or plans for the implementation of various WIPO Standards. The Committee adopted the set of 10 Recommendations relating to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and to IP administration, and agreed to present them to the WIPO General Assembly in 2025. The set of Recommendations was provided as the Annex to document WO/GA/58/9. The IP offices of Member States were encouraged to implement the set of Recommendations and share their plans or experiences of implementing them. The Secretariat stated that 21 IP offices shared with the International Bureau their plans and implementation status for the 10 Recommendations. The Secretariat also noted that most of the Recommendations had either been implemented or were planned to be implemented. The Committee also noted the report on the activities of the International Bureau for the provision of technical advice and assistance for capacity-building to IP offices during 2023.

244. The Delegation of Japan, expressing its sincere appreciation to the Secretariat for its dedicated efforts in CWS and for the report presented, said that the Committee approved the establishment of its IP Data Exchange Task Force, taking into account the joint proposal submitted by the International Bureau and the Delegations of Japan and Saudi Arabia. The Delegation thanked WIPO and its Member States for their cooperation on that important initiative. The Delegation, noting that the Task Force planned to present the results of its deliberations at the thirteenth session of CWS, requested the continued collaboration of all Member States. Japan would continue to work closely with the International Bureau and Member States to contribute meaningfully to those endeavors, including the ongoing work of CWS.

245. The Delegation of India thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of the report and congratulated the newly elected Vice-Chairs of the Committee. It acknowledged the importance of the Committee's work in fostering standardization, interoperability and efficiency in global IP systems. The Delegation commended the efforts of the Committee and noted with appreciation the progress made in key areas, including the development of new WIPO Standards and the

improvement of existing ones. The Delegation welcomed the adoption of WIPO Standard ST.92 concerning the data package format for the electronic exchange of priority documents, which would be a significant step towards streamlining IP data exchanges between IP offices and facilitating more efficient communication between them. It supported the Recommendations on ICT and IP administration adopted by the Committee, which were timely and aligned with the broader digital public infrastructure initiatives being pursued at the national level in India. It also acknowledged the International Bureau's continued efforts to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support on WIPO Standards, aligned with the evolving needs of Member States. The Delegation was committed to contributing positively to the deliberations and anticipated engaging in fruitful discussions in the forthcoming session of the Committee.

246. The Delegation of the Russian Federation thanked the Assistant Director General, Kenichiro Natsume, and the Secretariat for the report and for the work of CWS. The Delegation noted the productive nature of the CWS's activities and its Task Forces, emphasizing that the Committee had made significant contributions to the development, improvement, and revision of WIPO international standards, which underpinned the work of the entire Organization, including international registration systems. The Delegation highlighted that those efforts facilitated the efficient and harmonized handling of information and documentation related to IP by IP Offices. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for organizing and conducting, during the reporting period, the Workshop on Intellectual Property Data in Three-Dimensional (3D) Models and Images and the Workshop on Name Standardization. The Delegation noted that the 3D Workshop made a significant contribution to the work of the like-named CWS Task Force led by the Russian Federation. During the Workshop, participants were able to exchange best practices on implementing the capability to accept and process applications for the registration of IP rights containing 3D models and 3D images, discuss the advantages of using 3D in applications, as well as the challenges that Offices were facing in the process of implementing such functionality. The Delegation also emphasized that participants of the Workshop outlined further steps for refining WIPO Standard ST.91 and considered the potential integration of 3D into the Hague System. The Delegation called on all members of the 3D Task Force to actively participate in the discussion of the draft Annex II to WIPO Standard ST.91, which addressed methods for conducting 3D model searches, as well as the Survey on the Legal Framework and Publication of 3D Models and 3D Images for IP Rights. The Delegation noted that the Russian Federation also led the CWS Blockchain Task Force and intended to continue working towards creating conditions for the adoption of advanced technologies in the operational activities of WIPO and IP Offices. Furthermore, the Delegation highly appreciated the work of the CWS Secretariat in building the capacity of IP Offices and assisting users, particularly in disseminating information about WIPO Standards. The Delegation expressed hope for the continuation of constructive and fruitful cooperation across the broadest spectrum of technical issues with all interested stakeholders within the Committee.

247. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea, thanking the Secretariat for the report, said that international cooperation was vital to data standardization and administrative digitization. With regard to WIPO Standard ST.93 on name data cleaning, which was under preparation, substantive feedback from Member States and stakeholders remained limited, despite repeated calls for improvement since the eleventh session of the Committee. The Delegation encouraged active participation to ensure the timely finalization of the important new WIPO Standard, which was essential to improving the system and the quality of name data. The Delegation supported the 10 ICT Recommendations on ICT strategies and IP administration. In particular, it welcomed the International Bureau's initiative on the global identifier, which was aimed at ensuring efficiency in IP services through improved applicant identification and streamlined data exchange. The Delegation was committed to contributing to global discussions on IP infrastructure and supporting the International Bureau's efforts to promote digital transformation.

248. The Delegation of Australia thanked the Secretariat for presenting the report, including the ICT Recommendations for IP offices, and, as a co-leader of the CWS ICT Strategy Task Force, it was grateful to the International Bureau and all Task Force members for their ongoing collaborative efforts and progression of the work in that space. The Delegation was pleased to support the Task Force, which would continue the work plan to analyze IP office survey responses with the aim of understanding the extent to which the Recommendations were adopted and considering any required updates. The Delegation encouraged IP offices to implement the Recommendations and share their plans and experiences.

249. The Delegation of Kazakhstan, thanking the Secretariat for the report and the work of CWS, said that it highly appreciated the efforts of the Committee, which had facilitated the improvement of transparency and the quality of IP data at the global level. The Delegation particularly appreciated the development of recommendations to use ICT in the work of IP offices, which corresponded to its national policy on the digitalization and modernization of its infrastructure. The Delegation would monitor with interest WIPO initiatives on the global data exchange, including the project to create a global identifier, and it stood ready to participate in the pilot project. The Delegation's experience of cooperating with WIPO in the framework of CWS and other ICT platforms showed that sustainable progress was only possible when all Member States were involved, regardless of their level of digitalization. The Delegation emphasized the principle of inclusivity, which was one of the key lessons that it learned throughout the Committee's activities. WIPO was able to create a space where developed and developing countries worked together on an equal footing to develop WIPO Standards and decisions that then became the foundation of global digital cooperation. The International Bureau supported both formal standardization and practical implementation, including pilot projects, test exchanges and the integration of national and international database registries. Such support allowed countries to grow in experience and participate in the formation of a shared digital sphere. By providing support, the International Bureau was not just providing the necessary technical instruments, but also the institutional parameters within which countries could promote their digital agendas in a safe, consistent and coordinated manner. The Delegation thanked the International Bureau for the technical assistance it provided to developing countries; it was important to continue to engage in such practices. In that regard, the Delegation confirmed its interest in participating in the CWS Task Forces and stood ready to exchange information on ICT and AI applications in the IP administration.

250. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia extended its appreciation to the Secretariat for the preparation of the report, which shed light on the progress made in the work of CWS at its twelfth session, and thanked all Delegations for their constructive participation. It congratulated Mr. Ali Alharbi (Saudi Arabia) and Mr. Alexandre Ciano (Brazil) on their election as Vice-Chairs, which reflected the growing confidence in the role of Saudi Arabia in the normative agenda and digital infrastructure for IP. Noting the efforts undertaken by the CWS Task Forces on API, Blockchain, 3D models and ICT Strategy, the Delegation said that the adoption of the 10 ICT Recommendations, aimed at accelerating digital transformation, was a key step towards a modernized global IP system. It was proud to participate effectively in that endeavor. At the eleventh session of the Committee, it presented a proposal to launch a platform to facilitate data exchange among IP offices, which was translated into tangible actions as the creation of IP Data Exchange Task Force, formed under the leadership of the International Bureau and the Delegations of Saudi Arabia and Japan. The Task Force would foster international cooperation and allow further access to IP data. The Delegation would continue to participate in the Global Identifier Project to pursue a global digital identifier for applicants of legal entities or natural persons in line with the digital landscape. Global identifiers would also improve the efficiency of service provision. To conclude, the Delegation stressed its full commitment to working with all partners to promote the adoption of uniform and flexible WIPO Standards. It would provide technical support to national IP offices, especially in developing countries, through knowledge and data exchanges and workshops in view of the importance of empowering everyone to access an inclusive, safe and secure IP system.

251. The WIPO General Assembly took note of the "Report on the Committee on WIPO Standards" which includes ICT Recommendations for Intellectual Property Offices and document CWS/12/25 (document WO/GA/58/9).

(vii) The Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE)

252. Discussions were based on document [WO/GA/58/10](#).

253. The Secretariat presented the report on the seventeenth session of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE) contained in document number WO/GA/58/10.

254. Delegations and Representatives commended the Committee, Chair and Vice-Chairs and the Secretariat on their work over the previous year, including with regard to the preparation of documentation and arrangements for the session.

255. The Delegation of Japan, speaking on behalf of Group B, reaffirmed its commitment to the ACE mandate to carry out technical assistance and coordination in the field of enforcement; it would continue to support the work of ACE and looked forward to contributing to the development of the forthcoming session's work program, ensuring that the topics addressed remained aligned with the Committee's mandate. The significance of enforcing IP rights could not be overstated. IPRs played a vital role in motivating creators and innovators by granting them the means to protect and benefit financially from their inventions and works. Nevertheless, those rights could not achieve their intended purpose without robust and balanced enforcement measures. Moreover, effective enforcement was essential not only for rights holders, but also for consumers and the broader economy regardless of the stage of development, as well as being indispensable for the proper functioning of the international IP system and for the global economy. Group B reiterated its dedication to actively participating in the valuable and engaging exchanges occurring within the Committee.

256. The Delegation of Estonia, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group, welcomed discussions on the best practices and experiences of Member States, international organizations and stakeholders, which covered building respect for IP among the public, especially young people, institutional arrangements concerning IP enforcement policies and regimes, including mechanisms to resolve IP disputes, and the exchange of success stories on WIPO capacity-building and support for regional and national training activities for agencies and national officials, in line with the relevant DA Recommendations. Considering the comments made by Delegations on the future work of the Committee, the Delegation welcomed the continuation of the existing work program, and stated that it was looking forward to holding the discussion on the impact of IP infringement in the biotechnology sector (biopiracy) during the eighteenth session of ACE.

257. The Delegation of China, taking note of the outcomes of ACE over the previous year, said that it had always attached great importance to IP enforcement and awareness-raising efforts. The Delegation commended the Chair, Vice-Chairs and the Secretariat of the seventeenth session of ACE for their efforts. China would continue to support the work of ACE and participate actively in experience-sharing and exchanges under the ACE framework.

258. The Delegation of Mexico said that, under a project proposed by the President and the Minister of the Economy, the country adopted a new vision on IPR enforcement, which was crucial to addressing issues such as piracy, smuggling and illicit trade. Enforcement was not only a question of sanctions and control, but part of a comprehensive strategy to strengthen the rule of law, protect consumers, strengthen the formal economy and create conditions for development and innovation. The Delegation welcomed the Committee's work to promote the exchange of good practices in areas such as raising awareness of policies, alternative dispute resolution, the use of technological tools and international cooperation, which were vital to

addressing growing challenges in the digital economy and cross-border trade of counterfeit goods, both online and in the physical world. The Delegation welcomed the Committee's recognition of the importance of adopting recommendations adapted to each country's national and legal contexts, development levels and priorities. In that connection, Mexico would continue to promote a work program that was aligned with the SDGs and strengthened multilateral cooperation. The Delegation remained committed to actively working within ACE to create more effective and fairer enforcement systems based on social well-being.

259. The Delegation of Spain, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Japan on behalf of Group B, reaffirmed its commitment to combating counterfeiting and ensuring respect for IP, as reflected in the 2025-2027 strategic plan of the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (SPTO) in which the defense of industrial property rights was central to promoting the strategic use of industrial property. Although SPTO did not have executive competencies on the infringement of industrial property rights, it had an active role in promoting awareness-raising and was in charge of carrying out an institutional campaign to raise awareness of counterfeiting, which it had done for the previous eight years. At the eighteenth session of ACE, Spain would have the honor of presenting a campaign set to be launched around Black Friday and the Christmas season in 2025, one of the busiest shopping periods of the year. The campaign was aimed at contributing to reducing the demand for counterfeit products by raising awareness of the negative impacts of purchasing them. However, adequate protection of the legitimate rights of industrial property owners, and especially of trademark owners, was highly challenging in terms of enforcement, especially among the younger population and in view of the promotion on social media of voluntary consumption of counterfeit products. The Delegation called on WIPO to intensify its efforts in that area and reiterated the commitment of Spain to working with public and private stakeholders, nationally and internationally, on IPR enforcement, training of law enforcement officials and cooperation with competent authorities on IPR infringement.

260. The Delegation of Serbia aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Estonia on behalf of the CEBS Group and said that it supported the work of ACE. The Committee played an important role in spreading knowledge, information and experiences on the enforcement of IPRs. The studies produced on the work of ACE were unique, both in the choice of topics and the quality of the written text. Furthermore, by reading those documents and following the Committee's work, professionals worldwide could gain substantial knowledge and assess their strengths and weaknesses, while finding answers to pressing questions. The materials developed within the Committee were equally useful to both the private and public sectors. The Delegation recognized that it was not alone in facing challenges related to the effective enforcement of IPRs. It was both valuable and beneficial to observe the experiences of colleagues from around the world in that context. In addition, the enforcement of IPRs should not be underestimated, as it represented a complex and highly costly burden on the State budget. In formulating state policy for the enforcement of IPRs, it would be essential to have a clear understanding of the economic damage caused by counterfeiting and piracy, and to identify the sectors most vulnerable to such infringements. The costs of enforcing IPRs should not exceed the benefits the country gained from combating piracy and counterfeiting and, owing to limitations on all State budgets, thoughtful policymaking in that area would involve identifying the most vulnerable sectors first. Certain sectors, relating to public health and human safety, required prioritization in efforts to combat piracy and counterfeiting. The Serbian authorities responsible for the enforcement of IPRs paid special attention to that issue.

261. The Delegation of India expressed gratitude to the Secretariat for the opportunity to contribute to the panel discussion on the role of IP education in building respect for IP and effective IP enforcement during the sixteenth session of ACE. It said that the country's National IP Awareness Mission reached 2.44 million students in India through more than 9,000 programs. To advance IP awareness, promote research and strengthen human capital in the field of IP, India began offering short, mid-length and long internships, tailored to the needs of

the interns, at its IP offices. Furthermore, India launched open-house sessions to address IPR-related concerns and IP Saarthi, an AI-powered chatbot offering real-time guidance on IP registration and responses to IP-related queries. Enforcement represented a vital pillar of a balanced and effective IP regime, and enforcement efforts must remain balanced, development-oriented and aligned with the broader public interest, in line with DA recommendation 45 and Article 7 of the TRIPS Agreement. In India, nationwide training programs were conducted for enforcement agencies to boost enforcement capabilities. Awareness-raising programs on IP enforcement for judges were held and specialized IP divisions were established in High Courts to strengthen judicial capacities in India. Finally, the Delegation reaffirmed its commitment to working constructively with all Member States and the Secretariat to ensure that enforcement activities contributed to a fair, balanced and development-oriented global IP system.

262. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, emphasized that tackling IP crime and infringement remained a top priority for the national IP office, which continued to implement a counter infringement strategy domestically; collaboration, especially in a multilateral context was central to its approach. The Delegation was honored to actively contribute to the sixteenth session of ACE by serving as Chair and thanked the Vice-Chairs for their assistance, cooperation and support. The United Kingdom had enacted awareness-raising activities to build respect for IP among the public, such as a health and beauty campaign developed by using consumer research on counterfeit goods. Cultivating informed and responsible attitudes among creators and consumers, especially young people, was essential to fostering respect for IP and supporting effective enforcement. The Delegation hoped to present further developments in the country's youth engagement efforts at the eighteenth session. It commended WIPO on its efforts to expand the WIPO Alert platform and fully supported its broader objective of tackling online piracy at the global scale. The Delegation was pleased to facilitate the participation of the Police IP Crime Unit, a unit of the City of London Police funded by and working closely with the national IP office. The Delegation looked forward to actively participating in the 18th ACE session and would continue to contribute; ACE was a valuable forum for exchanging ideas and best practices in the shared mission to combat piracy and counterfeiting. Recalling the Committee's advisory role, the Delegation remained committed to discussing enforcement-related capacity-building projects and initiatives through other relevant WIPO forums, such as CDIP, to help to mitigate the damaging effects of piracy and counterfeiting on economic development worldwide.

263. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia commended WIPO on its pivotal role in supporting the IP system at the national, regional and global levels. Saudi Arabia developed a national integrated IP system compatible with its Vision 2030 by strengthening both the legislative and executive frameworks and intensifying collaboration with local and international partners. Efforts were made to disseminate IP culture and facilitate access to services that strengthened respect for IP innovation. In that context, Saudi Arabia was proud to have participated in the IMPACT training course, as the first country to complete the course successfully. Such success reflected its commitment to developing specialized national capacities. Saudi Arabia established an authority for implementing IP regulations and rules, which worked with the judicial system to implement the law, thereby contributing to achieving justice. The Delegation renewed its commitment to providing full support to ACE and would participate in all initiatives that would strengthen implementation internationally. The country's commitment was reflected in its positive performance in international indicators related to the implementation of IP.

264. The Delegation of Paraguay said that the country remained committed to the comprehensive protection of IPRs. Its path to development and investment could only be strengthened by having solid and predictable legal frameworks that protected legal trade and safeguarded creativity and innovation. Forums such as ACE showed that other Member States shared the same challenges, and that coordinated work would be the only way of tackling cross-border issues such as piracy and counterfeiting. ACE meetings were a priority for Paraguay as they provided an opportunity to exchange experiences with Member States and inform them of

the country's activities, such as participation in regional and international operations, national awareness-raising campaigns, dispute resolution and the development of a national IPR enforcement plan. The Delegation expressed gratitude for the election of Paraguay as Vice-Chair of the Committee and stated its readiness to work together to build a real culture of respect for IP.

265. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea recognized the important role of IP enforcement in the global creative ecosystem. ACE was one of the most promising forums in which to exchange information on government policies, national experiences and success stories on awareness-raising activities and IP enforcement. The Delegation particularly appreciated the hard work of the Building Respect for IP (BRIP) Division for sharing legal research on global enforcement policies and public campaigns to raise awareness of IP in Member States, including research on website blocking and the video campaign "Respect the Game, Respect Copyright", the outcome of a longstanding partnership between BRIP and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea. To reduce the IP capacity gap, the Delegation would continue to work with WIPO to promote IP awareness-raising and enforcement policies.

266. The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran attached great importance to the work of ACE, which provided a valuable platform for the exchange of experiences and best practices relating to capacity-building, knowledge dissemination, technology transfer, antipiracy efforts and awareness-raising. The outcomes of that work served as a guiding framework for fostering creativity, innovation and research. The Delegation appreciated continued work on capacity-building and building respect for IP, and particularly welcomed the in-depth discussions on public awareness-raising campaigns aimed at young people, the exchange of national experiences in combating online infringement and the innovative use of technologies, such as Blockchain and AI in enforcement. Such insights contributed meaningfully to shared understanding and capacities to address evolving challenges in IP. In that context, the Islamic Republic of Iran, through its National IP Training Center and in partnership with the WIPO Academy, implemented a capacity-building project on IP management for SMEs. The initiative provided targeted training and mentorship for 75 Iranian SMEs, significantly enhancing their ability to manage, protect and commercialize their IP assets, contributing directly to innovation-driven growth and increased competitiveness. The initiative served as a strong testament to the value of demand-driven, locally adapted and development-oriented cooperation. Furthermore, in 2024, the Islamic Republic of Iran took a major step towards modernizing its national IP framework by enacting a new comprehensive industrial property protection law, which significantly enhanced the legal foundations for IP enforcement through updated provisions on civil and criminal remedies, border measures, protection of utility models, trade secrets and protection against unfair competition. Such steps reflected the country's commitment to a rules-based, transparent and development-sensitive enforcement environment. The Delegation emphasized the role of DA Recommendation 45 as a guiding reference in the field of IP enforcement. It recognized that the impact of IP enforcement extended beyond creators and innovators, affecting broader societal interests, such as economic welfare and national development priorities. Finally, the Delegation welcomed the Committee's decision to continue with the existing work program, in particular the inclusion of the impact of IP infringement in the biotechnology sector for the eighteenth session. It reiterated its commitment to WIPO principles and objectives and the pursuit of the balanced enforcement of IP.

267. The Delegation of Uganda said that the country had the honor of serving as the Vice-Chair of the seventeenth session of ACE and appreciated the exchanges of knowledge and experiences within the Committee, which were useful for building respect for IP at the national level. Uganda was reviewing its IP laws, starting with corporate laws, with the aim of bringing its legal frameworks into line with the demands of the digital environment, especially where enforcement required global cooperation. Lessons from ACE informed best practices for legal reform, public engagement and awareness and collaboration on IP enforcement. However, the

Delegation reiterated the need for a balanced and customized approach to enforcement that promoted equity, afforded flexibilities for development and recognized national development priorities. The Delegation confirmed that it would continue to engage constructively with ACE and the outcomes of the proposed work program.

268. The Delegation of Namibia, expressing its appreciation to the Secretariat and the Committee for the report contained in document WO/GA/58/10, acknowledged the role of ACE in building respect for IP through education, public awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives. In that context, it commended the Committee's continued efforts to provide a platform for Member States to exchange experiences and best practices on building respect for IP, especially those targeting young people, SMEs and the broader community. Sustainable respect for IP was best nurtured through strategic, forward-looking and contextually relevant educational measures, rather than through punitive enforcement alone. An approach rooted in awareness, inclusivity and mutual learning fostered trust among both right holders and consumers in the IP system, thereby creating an enabling environment for unlocking the economic and social potential of IP assets. In that regard, the Delegation reaffirmed its support for WIPO's efforts based on education, awareness-raising and capacity-building.

269. The Delegation of Brazil reiterated its commitment to combating all forms of piracy and counterfeiting, including digital cross-border piracy. In that regard, Brazil was working bilaterally, in particular with South American countries and the United Kingdom. It welcomed the compromise that led to the inclusion in the work of the Committee of the topic on biopiracy, based on a proposal presented by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC) (document WIPO/ACE/17/19 REV.2). Biopiracy distorted IP systems, so a full debate was needed on the socioeconomic impact of the biotechnology sector and to foster a safe environment for innovation. Combating biopiracy strengthened incentives for responsible partnerships in innovation and should also contribute to the conservation of biodiversity. Biopiracy infringed the rights of IPLCs and undermined incentives for inclusive innovation and efforts to prevent biodiversity loss. ACE should take a broad approach to enforcement that included collective rights and efforts to combat the misappropriation of GRs and TK. Counterfeiting flourished under economic conditions that generated rising social vulnerability and high levels of poverty, unemployment and inequality. For that reason, piracy and other types of IP infringement could not be countered through policing and penalties alone. The issue needed to be addressed in the context of development and the need to generate opportunities and income. In that sense, IP could make a valuable contribution.

270. The Delegation of the United States of America aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Japan on behalf of Group B and noted its satisfaction with the existing work program of ACE, which resulted in informative agendas and work. Under that work program, Member States engaged in useful technical discussions on IP enforcement. The topic of biopiracy clearly fell outside the scope of the mandate of both the Committee and WIPO in general. The Committee's work should be focused on the areas mandated by the General Assembly in 2002 when it had established ACE, namely global enforcement issues covering both industrial property and copyright and related rights. GRs did not fall into either category because they were not IP either by nature or by definition. IP was defined on the WIPO website as creations of the mind, such as inventions, literary and artistic works, designs and symbols, and names and images used in commerce. The United States of America therefore could not support the inclusion of biopiracy, or any other topic that fell outside the ACE mandate, as a part of the agenda for future ACE meetings. The Delegation looked forward to constructively engaging in and further shaping the work program for the eighteenth session of ACE with topics that fell within the Committee's mandate.

271. The Delegation of Vanuatu extended its appreciation for continued efforts to address enforcement issues in a balanced, inclusive and development-oriented manner. Effective IP enforcement was essential to building trust in the IP system, supporting creativity and

innovation, and safeguarding the economic and cultural interests of citizens. At the same time, enforcement efforts must respect fundamental rights, taking into account the development contexts of countries, and remain proportionate and fair. As a small island developing State, Vanuatu faced unique challenges in IP enforcement, including in relation to limited institutional and technical capacities, high costs and logistical barriers to border enforcement, the need to raise awareness of IPRs among creators, businesses and the public, and protection of TK, TCEs and locally developed innovations that were often vulnerable and misappropriated. It therefore welcomed the focus of ACE on sharing practical experiences, technical assistance and best practices in IP enforcement. The Delegation particularly supported initiatives that: promoted capacity-building for enforcement officials, the judiciary and customs officers; encouraged regional cooperation and information-sharing among enforcement agencies; supported public education and awareness-raising on IPRs and related responsibilities; addressed IP infringement in the digital environment, including piracy and counterfeiting; and respected flexibilities under international agreements, especially those enabling access to essential goods, education and public health. For Vanuatu, IP enforcement was not about punitive measures alone, but must be part of a broader strategy to foster a vibrant local creative economy and encourage innovation among young people and SMEs and to protect the cultural and natural heritage of its Indigenous and local communities. The Delegation encouraged WIPO to continue supporting Member States such as Vanuatu through technical assistance, regional partnerships and inclusive policy dialogue that took into account their specific needs and aspirations. It reaffirmed its commitment to constructive engagement with ACE and to strengthening the global IP enforcement framework in a way that advanced protection and development.

272. The Delegation of the Russian Federation expressed gratitude to the Secretariat for the preparation and presentation of the Report on the 18th Session of the ACE and stated that the discussions within the Committee were of particular importance given the differences in approaches and practices among Member States, as well as the diversity of national authorities and other structures responsible for the enforcement of IP rights at the national level. The Delegation emphasized that IP enforcement was crucial in the context of rapidly evolving technological innovations and the digital economy – all those factors gave rise to new types of infringements that, in turn, continued to evolve and transform almost every day. In that regard, the Delegation supported WIPO's efforts to facilitate dialogue among Member States in the area of IP enforcement mechanisms and responses to new challenges. The Russian Federation noted that it placed special emphasis on effective IP enforcement due to the important role of IP in the country's sustainable socio-economic development, the promotion of scientific and cultural achievements, the development of innovative solutions, and enhancing the competitiveness of domestic goods and services. The Delegation highlighted that the effectiveness of the IP enforcement system played a key role in stimulating innovation and economic development, supporting fair competition, and creating attractive conditions, confidence, and predictability for authors, entrepreneurs, and inventors. The Delegation underscored that since 2013, a specialized IP Rights Court had been operating in the Russian Federation as part of a comprehensive system of judicial bodies handling IP enforcement disputes. It further emphasized that the country continued to improve its national legal framework in the field of IP enforcement, enhance registration, protection, and enforcement systems, and develop mechanisms for legal protection in the digital environment and in the realm of new technologies. The Delegation also noted the importance of improving access to knowledge and technologies for developing and least developed countries, which would help strengthen the global innovation environment and reduce imbalances in technology and scientific research. The Delegation stated that it remained open to further active and constructive engagement within the Committee's work.

273. The Delegation of Ghana thanked the Committee for the report contained in document WO/GA/58/10 and expressed its appreciation for the relevant information and experience-

sharing sessions and expert presentations during the session. The Delegation was committed to combating piracy and counterfeiting and looked forward to an engaging eighteenth session.

274. The Delegation of Japan, speaking in its national capacity, aligned itself with the statement it had delivered on behalf of Group B. The rapid development of digital platforms and the increasing complexity of global supply chains heightened significantly the challenges of combating counterfeiting. Effectively addressing cross-border counterfeit transactions and protecting legitimate businesses and consumers worldwide from the harms caused by counterfeit goods required enhanced information-sharing, the exchange of experiences and strengthened cooperation among all relevant stakeholders. ACE provided an invaluable forum for that purpose by facilitating evidence-based discussions within the framework of its mandate. The Delegation continued to support ACE in its activities under the existing mandate and remained committed to strengthening IP education, deepening international collaboration, leveraging innovative technologies and supporting SMEs. Through those initiatives, it aimed to contribute meaningfully to discussions within ACE and enhance global anti-counterfeiting measures.

275. The Delegation of Ukraine, aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Estonia on behalf of the CEBS Group, welcomed the continued efforts of ACE to promote the exchange of practical experiences and strengthen enforcement mechanisms to combat counterfeiting and piracy. The Delegation supported the continuation of the existing ACE work program and was closely following developments related to the WIPO Customs Recordation and Information System, which was of strong interest to the national customs authority of Ukraine. The Secretariat's ongoing efforts to support Member States in enhancing borders enforcement systems were welcomed. Ukraine continued to face systemic and state-backed violations of IPRs in the context of the war of aggression of the Russian Federation. The unlawful appropriation of Ukrainian trademarks and geographical indications, such as Melitopol Cherry, remained a stark reminder of how IP could be misused as a tool for aggression. In response, Ukraine intensified its efforts to strengthen IP enforcement and promote respect for IPRs across all sectors. Ukraine was implementing nationwide awareness-raising campaigns, which were focused on combating counterfeit and pirated goods in both e-commerce and physical markets. Another flagship initiative was the national campaign to combat piracy in music, launched in line with World IP Day 2025 on IP and music, which addressed Internet-based infringements in the creative sector and promoted responsible content inspiration. Ukraine also launched targeted capacity-building programs for enforcement authorities, including police, customs, prosecutors and economic agencies to improve international efforts to address IP infringement. Ukraine advanced alternative dispute resolution in IP through the development of a mediation center within its IP office. The center supported awareness-raising, training and the national registration of certificates in IP mediation. In 2024, a mediation case between a major agribusiness and a creative agency were resolved, contributing to improving practices in the marketing sector. The Delegation reaffirmed the strong commitment of Ukraine to WIPO work on enforcement and alternative dispute resolution; it would continue to engage constructively and share its national experience to ensure that the IP system remained robust, respected and protected from abuse.

276. The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago expressed gratitude to the BRIP Division for its support in empowering the country to strengthen its IPR enforcement capacities and promoting IP awareness. With respect to the development of a Customs Recordation and Information System in the Trinidad and Tobago Customs and Excise Division, as well as the Anti-Counterfeiting and Piracy Charter, the country's IP office was grateful for the technical assistance of WIPO. An event was held with the IP office and the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force (AITTF) in April 2025 in Port of Spain, virtually attended by the Director of the BRIP Division for the signing of the Charter. The Delegation looked forward to continuing the exchange of Member States' success stories and strategies on IPR enforcement, and commended the Committee's work to further IP ecosystems around the world.

277. The Representative of TWN, reiterating its understanding that the work program of ACE was to be guided by DA Recommendation 45, said that the work program should maintain a balanced approach and address the concerns of developing countries. It was unfortunate that agreement to discuss the issue of biopiracy was not reached at the previous session of ACE. Respect for IP, a core value of ACE, was under threat from the scourge of biopiracy. It was incumbent on ACE to provide guidance on enforcement, as well as advice for all stakeholders on how the ransacking of IP through biopiracy could be stopped. ACE should recall and reiterate that the fundamental objectives of IP stood on the shoulders of public utility and not public exploitation. The Representative hoped for further discussion on the topic.

278. The WIPO General Assembly took note of the “Report on the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE)” (document WO/GA/58/10).

ITEM 16 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

WIPO ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTER, INCLUDING DOMAIN NAMES

279. Discussions were based on document [WO/GA/58/11](#)

280. The Secretariat informed that the document provided an update on the activities of the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center as an international resource for time- and cost-efficient alternatives to the court litigation of IP disputes. The Center administered cases and provided legal and organizational expertise in ADR, including for domain name disputes. Where requested, those activities included assistance for Member States’ IP offices in their establishment of optional ADR frameworks.

281. In 2024, the Center was involved in the resolution of 858 IP, innovation and technology disputes, including cases filed under the WIPO Mediation and Arbitration Rules, cases co-administered with Member States’ IP and copyright authorities and cases referred for WIPO mediation by national courts, representing a 25 per cent increase from 2023. During the reporting period, the Center notably administered mediations concerning copyright and digital content, trademarks, standard essential patents (SEPs) and life sciences, including complex international disputes. Among other focus areas, the Center offered services and held webinars tailored to SMEs and stakeholders in the digital environment, including the video game and e-sport sectors. Since the previous Assemblies, the Center entered into new ADR collaborations with IP offices and judicial authorities in 11 Member States, for a total of 95 national entities.

282. The document also provided an update on the domain name-related activities of WIPO. It covered the Center’s administration of domain name disputes, especially under the WIPO-initiated UDRP, including dispute resolution support for country code Top-Level Domains (ccTLDs). It also addressed policy developments, including the planned review by ICANN of UDRP, and the status of the recommendations made by Member States in the context of the “Second WIPO Internet Domain Name Process”.

283. With 6,168 cases, 2024 was the second busiest year for WIPO domain name case filings. To further streamline processing efficiency, the Center introduced an optional eFiling facility and was developing a new case management system. WIPO domain name dispute resolution involved parties from a total of 188 countries and covered over 133,000 domain names. With the addition, since the previous Assemblies, of the national domains of Andorra, Cabo Verde, Latvia and Rwanda, the Center serviced 87 ccTLDs.

284. The Delegation of Japan, speaking on behalf of Group B, highlighted that ADR remained a cornerstone of modern IP governance and that the Center’s critical role in advancing efficient and equitable dispute resolution mechanisms globally was commendable. It noted with

satisfaction the 25 per cent increase in the Center's mediation and arbitration caseload in 2024, and the 370 per cent increase over the previous five years, which illustrated Member States' growing recognition of the cost- and time-efficiency of ADR, including for SMEs, which represented 50 per cent of users. The Delegation welcomed the Center's new cooperation agreements with IP offices and judicial authorities. It also noted the Center's exceptional performance in domain name dispute resolution, which reinforced its indispensability in digital commerce, and acknowledged the Center's proactive engagement with the ICANN review process of rights protection mechanisms. The Delegation applauded the WIPO ADR Young initiative for nurturing and developing the next generation of ADR experts, thereby strengthening the global ADR ecosystem and ensuring the sustainability and continued excellence of WIPO dispute resolution services. The Delegation endorsed the ongoing enhancement of tailored Center services to facilitate contract negotiations and the management of disputes in long-term life sciences collaborations and SEP disputes, thus delivering additional assurance on top of the confidence provided by the IP system in such complex partnerships. The growing number of cases administered by the Center demonstrated the positive impact IP rights could have in facilitating partnerships and voluntary technology transfers. The Delegation thanked the Center for its efforts in that regard.

285. The Delegation of China paid great attention to the role of IP arbitration and mediation and continued to advance work in that area, by enhancing the capacities of arbitration and mediation institutions, enhancing expert guidance and regularly publishing its experiences, good practices and case examples. The Delegation would continue to work with all stakeholders to build a market-oriented, law-based and internationalized business environment featuring IP.

286. The Delegation of Guatemala acknowledged that the valuable support of WIPO in dispute resolution was key to strengthening its capacity to manage IP disputes. It underscored the positive impact of mediation promotion in the field of copyright dispute settlement, particularly in matters involving CMOs. The implementation of ADR fostered a culture of dialogue, efficiency and trust among the stakeholders in the copyright system, and had contributed to reducing tensions in a field often characterized by complex and diverse interests. It was hoped that the positive experience with mediation in copyright could soon be extended to other sectors of IP, such as trademarks. The Guatemalan IP Registry would be hosting its first moot court event with the support of the Center, which was an academic and training activity aimed at strengthening local capacities and raising awareness of ADR mechanisms for IP disputes among younger generations.

287. The Delegation of Spain, aligning itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Japan on behalf of Group B, underscored the importance of the work carried out by the Center, noting the significant number of cases administered. The Delegation reaffirmed its commitment to the Center's work and expressed gratitude for its initiatives in the review of the model technology transfer agreements of the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office, which included ADR clauses enhancing IP protection. The Delegation thanked the Center for its contribution to seminars on arbitration and mediation for SMEs, which was supported through the Spain Funds-In-Trust. The Delegation appreciated the Center's initiative to strengthen and promote the use of trademarks in the digital era, emphasizing the relevance of that work to SMEs, which accounted for over 95 per cent of the productive sector of Spain. The Delegation further highlighted the Center's work in domain name disputes, particularly within the ccTLD program, noting the positive impact of those mechanisms in building consumer trust online.

288. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea observed that with the rapid developments in technology and the IP industry, the scale, frequency and complexity of IP and related disputes was increasing. As the number of international and domestic disputes rose, the significance of ADR, as a cost-effective and expedient option compared to traditional judicial proceedings, was further highlighted. The Delegation acknowledged the importance of arbitration and mediation and expressed its support for the Center's promotion of those services. The Funds-in-Trust

Korea was supporting the Center since 2018, reflecting the country's ongoing commitment to the Center's activities. The Delegation thanked the Center for its leadership in resolving IP infringement disputes, particularly those related to new issues raised by AI. The Delegation expressed its intention to further promote active cooperation with the Center, and called on Member States to support and encourage the use of WIPO ADR services.

289. The Delegation of Argentina welcomed the work carried out by the Center and noted with appreciation the increase in the number of cases, including those involving SMEs and related to digital content. It commended the progress made in mediation and in fostering cooperation with national IP offices. The Delegation welcomed the signature of an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Network Information Center Argentina and WIPO to strengthen IP protection and domain name dispute resolution. It reiterated its commitment to promoting accessible and effective mechanisms for resolving disputes and encouraged the further expansion of such services.

290. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia recognized the fundamental role played by the Center as a key institution for the promotion of ADR worldwide. It noted the creation of a national reconciliation platform, developed jointly by the national IP authority and the Ministry of Justice, to facilitate dispute resolution and promote reconciliation, thus reducing pressure on the courts, supporting innovation and strengthening IP protection. The Delegation emphasized the importance of continued cooperation with the Center, particularly regarding capacity-building efforts aimed at enhancing the use of ADR at the regional and international levels.

291. The Delegation of El Salvador reaffirmed its commitment to IP as a driver of inclusion, modernization and economic and social development, highlighting national efforts to promote digitalization, innovation and institutional strengthening. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for selecting El Salvador as a participant for the initiative promoting ADR co-administration mechanisms within copyright offices, reflecting the country's focus on adopting efficient and modern IP dispute resolution processes, in line with its new legislation enabling such measures. The project facilitated tangible progress and its expansion beyond copyright, to also include the patent and design sectors, was encouraged. El Salvador was drafting ADR rules with the support of the Center, and provided technical training for staff to ensure the delivery of quality specialized services. The project was a strategic investment aimed at strengthening technical and institutional capacities and improving access to efficient dispute resolution mechanisms. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for its support and reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening multilateral cooperation on IP.

292. The Delegation of Ukraine, welcoming the increase in cases handled by the Center and the diversification of subject matter, said that the country's active promotion of ADR was a strategic tool to strengthen IP enforcement and alleviate the burden on courts. Under the WIPO-Ukraine MoU on ADR, the Ukrainian IP office continued to operate and further develop its IP mediation center, following WIPO best practices. There had been substantial progress over the previous year, including the appointment of 18 mediators specialized in IP and commercial mediation, the launch of a practical case simulation, the production of an animated explainer aimed at startups, authors and entrepreneurs on mediation for the IT and creative industries, and the implementation of the national project "Conflict Without Escalation – The Art of Mediation" with a legal NGO, which had produced 19 educational videos featuring judges discussing legal and procedural aspects of mediation in Ukraine. The first IP mediation between a major holding and a creative agency was successfully facilitated in November 2022 and became a reference point for future users of the system. Such developments contributed to improving trust in mediation and demonstrated the commitment of Ukraine to fostering a culture of dialogue and respect for innovation. Since February 15, 2024, all public domains under the country's top-level domain, .ua, were subject to mandatory non-judicial resolution under the UDRP mechanism. The Delegation welcomed that milestone, which marked the completion of the country's implementation of a streamlined rights-based system that enabled trademark

owners to protect their interests outside of courts. The Delegation expressed its high regard for the work of the Center and reiterated its interest in continued cooperation on capacity-building, case administration and awareness-raising.

293. The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, reaffirming its support for the WIPO Mediation Pledge and its commitment to promoting ADR among key stakeholders from the private and public sectors, said that ADR options were incorporated into the trademark opposition schedule at the Trinidad and Tobago IP office (TTIPO) and reflected in official responses to the resolution of trademark matters. ADR services were fully integrated into the TTIPO website and TTIPO was working towards integrating ADR services into the country's judicial system for IP-related disputes. The Delegation expressed satisfaction with the successful mediation of a long-standing issue between local CMOs, administered by the Center with the support of Funds-in-Trust Korea. Strengthening ADR infrastructure was essential to fostering national innovation, creativity and investment. The Delegation expressed support for continued dialogue and requested that the Center continued to tailor its ADR services to meet the unique needs of developing countries and SIDS. The Delegation reaffirmed its commitment to working with the Secretariat and Member States to ensure that ADR became an effective, cost-efficient, timely and easily accessible mechanism for resolving IP disputes.

294. The Delegation of Morocco said that the Center played a central role in promoting ADR mechanisms, thereby supporting and strengthening IP systems and fostering innovation. The arbitration and mediation services offered by the Center met the needs of users in resolving disputes related to IP and technology. The Delegation noted the dynamic increase in the number of cases handled by the Center and the diversification of the subject matter of those cases. Morocco launched a mediation procedure in collaboration with the Center and was working on national legislation in the area of ADR. It introduced annual training programs for mediators, and organized workshops and a national conference on mediation, which further contributed to the promotion of ADR. The Delegation commended the exceptional work of the Center and its fruitful cooperation with Morocco.

295. The Delegation of Kazakhstan, expressing its appreciation of the Center's work and its contribution to effective and accessible mechanisms for IP dispute settlement, said that ADR was important for supporting an innovation-based economy and protecting the rights of participants in creative industries, SMEs, startups and research and educational institutions. Kazakhstan was actively cooperating with the Center on integrating arbitration and mediation into its national IP protection system, and was studying the possibility of integrating those mechanisms into its administrative and judicial processes. The Delegation expressed its gratitude for the awareness-raising and training sessions offered by the Center, and confirmed its readiness to engage in further dialogue with the Center.

296. The Delegation of Uganda, highlighting the challenges posed by court backlogs, including in IP disputes, and the 2024 MoU between Uganda and the Center on ADR for IP disputes, said that, in 2025, Uganda adopted a national policy to mainstream ADR in the administration of justice. The Delegation was grateful for the Secretariat's support for the establishment of an online IP mediation center and for building the country's capacities in IP mediation. A project was launched in April 2025 that focused on promoting mediation for the resolution of copyright disputes at the national IP office, as a first step towards establishing a fully-fledged ADR center. The proposed center would be aligned with the national ADR policy and would promote the quasi-judicial role of the Registrar of Copyright, in line with national legislation under consideration. The Delegation affirmed its commitment to continuing to build ADR capacities to promote access to justice.

297. The Delegation of Algeria, expressing appreciation for the continued efforts of the Center, particularly in the area of training, said that, under the MoU concluded between the Algerian Copyright Office and the Center, a national program for mediators specialized in copyright and

related rights was launched in November 2024. The program was aimed at promoting effective dispute resolution mechanisms in the area of culture, especially considering technological developments and the challenges faced by authors, and marked the start of a series of programs geared towards a first generation of mediators. A recent call for applications had resulted in the selection of 30 Algerian mediator candidates, who benefitted from an online conference on the theoretical foundations of mediation, mediation techniques, case examples and online case administration tools, as well as a training program organized by the WIPO Academy. Algeria planned to launch a new mediation case co-administration platform in 2025, in collaboration with the Center. The Delegation also highlighted the MoU concluded between the Algerian Industrial Property Office and the Center, under which various awareness-raising activities on ADR were organized. The Delegation welcomed its partnership and ongoing cooperation with the Center.

298. The Delegation of Zambia commended the Center for its continued and impactful work in promoting ADR mechanisms in the field of IP. It noted with appreciation the increase in the Center's caseload and the Center's strong engagement with national IP offices and judiciaries. The Delegation appreciated the Center's efforts to extend core administration support to Member States and build local capacities to manage IP disputes through mediation and arbitration, noting that such efforts were especially beneficial to developing countries and LDCs, where access to formal litigation could be cost-prohibitive and time-consuming for IPR holders. There was a growing need for sustained technical assistance aimed at strengthening the capacities of national IP offices, judiciaries and mediators to effectively manage IP disputes through ADR. Targeted support in the form of training, practical toolkits and regional knowledge-sharing platforms was critical to enabling domestic stakeholders to offer relevant ADR services. Such support was particularly important for judicial officers, who often adjudicated complex IP matters without specialized IP knowledge. The Delegation therefore urged the Secretariat to consider expanding structured programs for judicial training and institutional capacity-building on IP ADR, particularly in Africa. Such support would help to ease the burden on national courts and ensure quicker, fairer outcomes for stakeholders relying on the protection and enforcement of IPRs. The Delegation stated its readiness to collaborate with the Secretariat and Member States to advance the use of ADR as a viable, accessible and development-oriented avenue for resolving IP disputes.

299. The Secretariat was pleased to note the positive comments shared by the Delegations and took note of their guidance on future activities.

300. The WIPO General Assembly took note of the document "WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, Including Domain Names" (document WO/GA/58/11).

ITEM 17 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

PATENT LAW TREATY (PLT)

301. Discussions were based on document WO/GA/58/12.

302. The Secretariat introduced document WO/GA/58/12, which contained information on the activities of WIPO facilitating the filing of communications in electronic form in developing countries and LDCs as well as countries in transition, as reflected in item 4 of the Agreed Statements by the Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of the PLT. The Secretariat noted that Annex I to that document described the relevant activities held from March 2023 to February 2025, and that its Annex II contained a list of the PLT Contracting Parties, which was up to date.

303. The Delegation of Kazakhstan welcomed document WO/GA/58/12 and expressed its gratitude to the Secretariat for its systematic support to countries with economies in transition, developing countries and LDCs. The Delegation reported that since joining the PLT in 2011, the country was consistently implementing the provisions of the treaty in national practice. The Delegation expressed its high appreciation to WIPO's initiatives aimed at the digital transformation of patent offices, the development of infrastructure and the expansion of opportunities for electronic interaction with applicants and international bodies. The Delegation emphasized that Kazakhstan would continue to cooperate with WIPO within the framework of technical support programs, including the modernization of their digital IPRs management systems and personnel training. The Delegation also stated that it was ready to share its experience with other countries and to support efforts to expand the coverage of the PLT and its effective implementation.

304. The WIPO General Assembly took note of the information on "Technical Assistance and Cooperation regarding the Patent Law Treaty (PLT)" (document WO/GA/58/12).

ITEM 19 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE TO CONCLUDE AND ADOPT A DESIGN LAW TREATY (DLT)

305. Discussions were based on document WO/GA/58/13.

306. Delegations and observers commended the Director General, the Secretariat and the authorities of the host country, Saudi Arabia, for their support in bringing to a successful conclusion the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude and Adopt a Design Law Treaty. They thanked the Saudi Authorities for their hospitality throughout the Conference.

307. The Secretariat stated that the content of the report on the outcome of the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude and Adopt a Design Law Treaty was self-explanatory. The Secretariat assembled a video presentation with highlights of the event.

308. A short video presentation relating to the Diplomatic Conference was shown.

309. The Representative of the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) said that the Design Law Treaty adopted in Riyadh in November 2024 was an historic milestone in the journey towards protecting industrial designs. The Diplomatic Conference was chaired by Dr. AISwailem, the Chief Executive Officer of SAIP, and attended by 153 delegations from Member States, alongside representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. SAIP, supported by WIPO, made all possible logistical and organizational arrangements to provide an environment conducive to dialogue and success. The event underlined the growing leadership role of Saudi Arabia in the global IP system. SAIP would work with all partners to implement the treaty and build a more balanced, inclusive and equitable IP system.

310. The Director General hailed the historic adoption of the Riyadh Design Law Treaty (RDLT). That achievement was all the more important for having come soon after the adoption of the GRATK Treaty in May 2024. It was a testament to how Member States could come together as a global community and, at a difficult time for multilateralism, agreed by consensus on such a complex treaty. The treaty was no mere political statement, but rather a solid, technically dense, multilateral instrument that was negotiated for some two decades. That two treaties were adopted in one year was unique, and a result of the desire shown by Member States to achieve success. It was also the first time that a WIPO treaty was concluded in the Gulf region, a sign of its increasing engagement with IP matters. It was especially pleasing that the treaty was adopted by consensus rather than by vote. Concluding a treaty should mean coming together and reaching the difficult compromises needed to agree on a result. It was not

easy, and thanks must go to SAIP and Dr. AISwailem, regional coordinators, experts from the Member States, the chairs of Main Committee I and Main Committee II, committee members, the WIPO Office of Legal Counsel, the WIPO Brands and Designs Sector and, in particular, the Department for Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications team, which worked towards concluding the treaty for 20 years. The Secretariat would now make every effort to assist Member States as they weighed acceding to and ratifying the treaty, which currently had 25 signatories. Perhaps Saudi Arabia would be the first to ratify.

311. The Delegation of Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group (APG), welcomed the adoption of the RDLT, which was a significant achievement for the global IP community. It provided a harmonized framework within which to streamline and simplify design registration procedures. That would help to foster innovation, creativity and inclusive growth. The inclusion of provisions on technical assistance and capacity building, and the progress made with reference to TK and TCEs as an essential component in design registrations were most welcome. More needed to be done, however, to fully accommodate diverse national perspectives and interests in the global IP framework.

312. The Delegation of Ecuador, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, welcomed the adoption by consensus of the RDLT, which, it hoped, would strengthen registration systems. GRULAC remained committed to building a development-focused IP system.

313. The Delegation of China congratulated the successful conclusion of the historic diplomatic conference and the adoption of the Riyadh Design Law Treaty. The Delegation stated that the significant achievement was the culmination of two decades of efforts by Member States and WIPO. It will not only bring greater convenience to designers worldwide and further promote global innovation in industrial designs but also represented a new breakthrough in international norm-setting in IP, once again demonstrating the victory of multilateralism. The Delegation expressed its gratitude to the Government of Saudi Arabia, the host of the diplomatic conference, for its high-level organizational work, and to Dr. AISwailem, the Chair of the Diplomatic Conference, for his excellent leadership. It also thanked Director General Daren Tang and Deputy Director General Binying Wang for their diligent efforts in leading the Secretariat, and highly appreciated the flexibility and constructive approach demonstrated by all parties during the negotiations and consultations. The Chinese government attached great importance to that diplomatic conference and consistently participated in the consultations and coordination with a professional, open, and constructive attitude. China looked forward to the early entry into force of that Treaty through the joint efforts of all parties, so as to bring more benefits to designers worldwide.

314. The Delegation of Japan, speaking on behalf Group B, commended the Secretariat on the meticulous documentation of the Diplomatic Conference's outcome. The adoption of the treaty by consensus, with 135 Delegations signing the final Act, reflected a shared desire to modernize global design protection frameworks. The procedural harmonization enshrined in the treaty was in line with Group B's priorities and would expedite the process for designers seeking to protect their designs around the world. The treaty thus filled the last remaining gap in international rules for patent, trademark and design application procedures.

315. The Delegation of the Russian Federation thanked Director General Daren Tang, Deputy Director General Binying Wang, and representatives of the Secretariat for the preparation and presentation of the Report on the Outcome of the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude and Adopt a Design Law Treaty. The Delegation noted with satisfaction the successful completion of work on the text of the Design Law Treaty adopted in November of last year, which was now proudly referred to as the Riyadh Treaty. The Delegation expressed gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and representatives of the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property for hosting that Diplomatic Conference. The Delegation also thanked them for their hospitality and comprehensive support throughout the negotiation process and extended special appreciation

to the President of the Diplomatic Conference Dr. Abdulaziz AISwailem. The Delegation thanked the Member States that were committed to productive multilateral dialogue during the negotiations. The Delegation of the Russian Federation also expressed gratitude to the Delegation of Peru, which organized the Interregional Technical Meeting to finalize the draft Treaty text and align the positions of Member States, significantly contributing to achieving consensus. The Delegation emphasized that the Treaty was the result of many years of diligent work by all parties and significant compromises reached during the lengthy negotiation process, noting that the spirit of constructive cooperation led to the creation of a balanced international treaty aimed at fostering innovative development and ensuring further growth and progress for states and designers from our countries. The Delegation once again thanked all those involved for their contributions to this meticulous collaborative effort and congratulated everyone on the historic adoption of the Design Law Treaty.

316. The Delegation of Mexico observed that the constructive approach of Member State delegations made it possible to adopt the RDLT by consensus. The treaty had the potential to strengthen creative industries and to support designers. Provisions therein on TK and TCEs showed that the IP system was becoming more inclusive and increasingly taking into account the legitimate concerns of all regions. The success of the Conference demonstrated that, with political will and openness, the multilateral system could deliver results. It was up to Member States to seize that momentum and work to achieve their goals.

317. The Delegation of Zambia commended the Secretariat on its concise report on the outcome of the Diplomatic Conference. Zambia recently signed the treaty and was working towards its ratification and implementation. It would significantly simplify and harmonize design registration procedures, in particular for SMEs in developing countries, and support national efforts to promote innovation and industrial competitiveness. The adoption of the RDLT showed that multilateral cooperation under WIPO continued to deliver meaningful outcomes for Member States. Indeed, WIPO remained a prime example of multilateralism working for the global good.

318. The Delegation of Morocco stated that the treaty would considerably strengthen the international system of protection for design, encourage innovation, stimulate competition among creators and contribute to economic growth. Its provisions aligned with the national strategies of Morocco, which aimed to promote handicrafts and the work of designers by protecting their IP. Morocco stood ready to work with all stakeholders to ensure that the treaty was implemented.

319. The Delegation of the United States of America aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Japan on behalf of Group B. The United States of America welcomed the adoption of the RDLT, which would make it more straightforward, faster and less expensive for designers to pursue protection for their industrial designs in jurisdictions around the globe. The adoption of such a modern treaty in industrial designs reflected the Organization's long-standing commitment to consensus-based outcomes. WIPO Member States rose to the occasion and stakeholders were excited by the prospect of a simplified administrative landscape in which to seek protection for their designs.

320. The Delegation of the United Kingdom said that Member States worked hard to achieve the RDLT. Negotiations were not easy, but flexibility and pragmatism brought success. The degree of harmonization across design systems ensuing from the treaty would benefit applicants, designers and businesses around the globe. The United Kingdom had signed the treaty the previous week in the presence of the Director General, demonstrating the country's commitment to and belief in it. WIPO and its Member States sent a strong message, that consensus-based multilateralism worked and that they would support stakeholders around the world to access and benefit from IP protection.

321. The Delegation of Egypt declared that it engaged fully in the negotiations leading up to the adoption of the treaty, which supported the global system for protecting designs, while simplifying administrative procedures and buttressing the rights of creators and designers. The flexibility built into the treaty would allow developing countries and LDCs to accede to it and obtain the technical assistance they needed. That in turn would help to make the system more effective. The adoption of two treaties in 2024 was a real accomplishment for WIPO and its Member States, which underlined their commitment to multilateralism and their ability to obtain results by working together. The Delegation looked forward to further such successes.

322. The Delegation of Australia hailed the adoption of the RDLT, a historic new treaty. The outcome was positive for designers, many of whom were individuals and small businesses who stood to benefit most. It would also facilitate greater recognition of and respect for First Nations peoples' contribution to designs, including their TK, TCEs and genetic resources (GRs). The outcome demonstrated that it was possible to bridge differences and that consensus-based processes could achieve measured and workable results. All Member States contributed to the momentous outcome of the Diplomatic Conference.

323. The Delegation of Brazil aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC. The adoption by consensus of the RDLT was yet another sign of the strength of multilateralism in turbulent times. It was the first treaty on harmonizing IP norms to be adopted since the establishment of the WIPO Development Agenda. The treaty was flexible enough to be implemented by developing countries in line with their national legal frameworks. The inclusion of provisions in the treaty on technical assistance created more robust guarantees of support for developing countries. Provisions allowing State parties to require the disclosure of the sources of TK, TCEs or GRs used in or incorporated into industrial designs would allow countries to enshrine in their own law greater protections and recognition for TK across the gamut of IP rights. The RDLT, coming in the wake of adoption of the GRATK Treaty in May 2024, was another step towards universal protection of TK in relation to all forms of IP. All in all, adoption of the two treaties added momentum towards achieving a more inclusive and representative IP system. It was hoped that accession to the RDLT would be broad, perhaps greater than in the case of patent and trademark treaties, thereby bringing real benefits to society and, in particular, individual designers and SMEs.

324. The Delegation of the Republic of Moldova said that the RDLT would enhance legal certainty, accessibility, transparency and coherence in the global design system, in particular for individual designers and SMEs. The Republic of Moldova took an active part in negotiations and was among the first countries to sign the treaty at the Diplomatic Conference. The process to ratify and implement it was underway. The Republic of Moldova would no doubt take up the Director General's offer of support in that process. The RDLT would stimulate broader use of the design system and serve as an additional catalyst for innovation and economic development.

325. The Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea said that the adoption of the RDLT was a turning point in the development of the design registration system. It was hoped that the treaty would enter into force soon. For it to be implemented successfully, the issues of technology transfer and capacity-building for developing countries should be prioritized as part of the mandate of WIPO.

326. The Delegation of Switzerland aligned itself with the statement delivered by Japan on behalf of Group B and welcomed the adoption of the RDLT. All participating delegations in the Diplomatic Conference were determined to achieve a consensual outcome. Switzerland had signed the treaty the previous week and encouraged other Member States to do the same.

327. The Delegation of Indonesia said that the adoption of the RDLT, which it signed recently, stood as a testament to the spirit of multilateralism within WIPO. Indonesia strongly supported

the goal of the treaty to better serve designers, creators and innovators globally. Its adoption was a milestone in addressing imbalances in the IP system. By simplifying and harmonizing industrial design registration procedures across jurisdictions, the RDLT would make it easier for designers, particularly MSMEs, to obtain protection and boost the creative economy worldwide. Indonesia was modernizing its industrial design law to better reflect global developments and WIPO norms and standards. That would increase legal certainty, encourage innovation and support the growth of the design and creative sectors. The adoption of the treaty provided better recognition and protection of design rooted in TK and TCEs, which was especially important to Indonesia. It would thus help to safeguard the rights of local communities and holders of TK. Indonesia trusted that the adoption of the RDLT would inspire progress in other ongoing text-based negotiations within WIPO.

328. The Delegation of Thailand aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the APG and hailed the RDLT as yet another historic achievement after the adoption of the GRATK Treaty earlier in 2024. It would provide a more predictable framework, benefiting designers in all Contracting Parties. Thailand welcomed provisions in the treaty on the requirement for disclosure of information relating to TK and TCEs relevant to the eligibility for registration of industrial designs, and on technical assistance and capacity-building, which were crucial if developing countries were to implement the treaty effectively. Member States should continue to nourish the spirit of multilateralism that led to the treaty's adoption.

329. The Delegation of Botswana said that the adoption of the RDLT was key for developing countries, such as Botswana, in which it would benefit designers and, in particular, SMEs. The treaty was not an end in itself and efforts must now be directed to demonstrating tangible benefits for designers. Botswana looked forward to the creation of programs to assist Member States in ratifying the treaty, enshrining it in national law and putting it into effect.

330. The Delegation of Serbia lauded the commitment shown by the participating delegations at the Diplomatic Conference. International treaties were created to improve people's lives. With the RDLT, the present generation took a step in the right direction, benefiting designers and creative industries that relied on IPRs. Along the way, there were misunderstandings and disagreements, but also good will, common sense and hard work. The Delegation hoped that future generations would build upon the foundation laid in Riyadh and continue to improve the system.

331. The Delegation of Eswatini said that the RDLT marked a milestone in the development of international IP law. It was a remarkable instrument that would be of much use to all designers working in diverse circumstances. Member States continued to strive for seamless and user-friendly IP systems and, in the case at hand, worked together to achieve adoption by consensus. Eswatini looked forward to the ongoing support of WIPO as Member States worked to enshrine the instrument in their national law.

332. The Delegation of Samoa aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the APG and welcomed the adoption of the RDLT, which showed that multilateralism was still alive. Samoa, a vocal advocate for protecting TK, TCEs and TK associated with GRs, welcomed the inclusion of a disclosure requirement in the design registration process. It was, however, dissatisfied that signs based on GRs and associated traditional knowledge were excluded from the scope of the provision. Equally regrettable was the absence of the voice of traditional and indigenous designers in the RDLT negotiations and at the Diplomatic Conference. Nevertheless, now that TKs, TCEs, GRs and associated traditional knowledge were a part of WIPO jurisprudence, it was only a matter of time before they were mainstreamed across all IP regimes.

333. The Representative of MALOCA *Internationale* stated that WIPO decided to separate GRs from TK and TCEs in 2012. As the Delegation of Samoa pointed out, GRs were excluded from

protection under the RDLT, which afforded legal protection only to TK and TCEs. Indigenous Peoples had a holistic worldview and the division of their knowledge systems into three parts was a colonial construct. The peoples of the seven sociocultural regions of the world had a right to self-determination; none of which was represented at the Diplomatic Conference.

334. The Representative of the Health and Environment Program (HEP) welcomed the consensus reached by Member States as the evidence that, at WIPO, multilateralism was alive and well. HEP was saddened by the lack of clarity in how IPLCs were defined by WIPO. Nonetheless, it welcomed the allocation of voluntary funds to Indigenous Peoples. HEP therefore encouraged Member States, including Switzerland, to ratify the RDLT, which was important for SMEs, other business and creators.

335. The WIPO General Assembly took note of the “Report on the Outcome of the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude and Adopt a Design Law Treaty (DLT)” (document WO/GA/58/13).

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