

WIPO General Assembly

Sixtieth (33rd Extraordinary) Session **Geneva, July 7 to 15, 2026**

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

prepared by the Secretariat

1. During the period under consideration, the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) held its forty-ninth session (March 30 to April 2, 2026). The session was chaired by Ms. Lilyclaire Bellamy (Jamaica) and held in hybrid mode. The Summary by the Chair is published as document [SCT/49/7](#).
2. The SCT elected, for the fiftieth session, Ms. Grace Ama Issahaque (Ghana) as Chair, and Mr. Simion Levitchi (Republic of Moldova) and Mr. Sergio Chuez Salazar (Peru) as Vice-Chairs.

TRADEMARKS

3. The SCT considered a Revised Proposal Concerning Examination Guidelines for Trademarks Which Consist of or Contain Country Names or Geographical Names of National Significance (document [SCT/43/6 Rev.2](#)), presented by the Delegations of Georgia, Iceland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Peru, Senegal, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates. The Chair concluded that the SCT would continue the discussion on a further revised version of that document at its next session.
4. The SCT also considered a Second Revised Proposal by the Delegation of Jamaica for a Joint Recommendation Concerning Provisions on the Protection of Country Names (document [SCT/43/9 Rev.](#)). The Chair concluded that the SCT would continue the discussion on a revised version of that document at its next session.

5. The SCT further considered an Updated Proposal by the Delegations of Brazil, Ecuador, Georgia, Iceland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Peru, Senegal, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates Concerning the Protection of Country Names and Geographical Names of National Significance in the Domain Name System (DNS) (document [SCT/41/6 Rev.2](#)) and decided to maintain this document on the agenda of the SCT and to reopen the discussion thereof upon new developments.
6. The SCT also considered a Proposal by the Delegations of Ecuador and Peru on Nation Brands (document [SCT/48/3](#)). The Chair concluded that the SCT would continue the discussion on a revised version of that document, at its next session, taking into account the comments provided by SCT members during the forty-ninth session.
7. The SCT considered document [SCT/49/2](#) presenting updates on trademark-related aspects of the DNS, and requested the Secretariat to keep members informed of future developments in the DNS.
8. The SCT considered a Proposal by the Delegation of the United Kingdom Regarding the Protection of Well-Known Marks (document [SCT/49/3](#)). The Chair concluded that the Secretariat was requested to prepare and circulate a draft survey on the protection of well-known marks, invite SCT members to provide comments on the draft survey before the next session of the SCT, and incorporate those comments in a revised draft for consideration by the fiftieth session of the SCT.
9. The SCT also considered a Proposal by the Delegation of the United States of America for a Questionnaire on the Legal, Administrative, and Procedural Aspects of Examination and Registration of Certification Marks (document [SCT/49/6](#)). The Chair concluded that the Secretariat was requested to: (i) invite SCT members to provide additional questions to be included in the Questionnaire; (ii) circulate the draft Questionnaire to SCT members for comments; (iii) finalize and circulate the Questionnaire to SCT members; and (iv) compile all returns into a document for consideration by the fiftieth session of the SCT.

INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS

10. The SCT considered an Updated Proposal by the Delegations of Canada, Israel, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the European Union and its Member States for a Joint Recommendation Concerning Industrial Design Protection for Designs for Graphical User Interfaces (document [SCT/44/6 Rev.4](#)), as well as a Proposal by the African Group for a Study on the Impact of Design Protection for Graphical User Interface (GUI) Designs on Innovation (document [SCT/46/5](#)). The Chair concluded that the SCT would continue the discussion on both documents at its fiftieth session.
11. The SCT considered a Proposal by the Delegation of the United States of America for a Study on Industrial Design Protection for New and Emerging Technologies: Approaches to Protection of New Technological Designs, Including Projected Designs, Holographic Designs, and Virtual/Augmented Reality Designs (PHVAR Designs) (document [SCT/49/5](#)). The Chair concluded that the Secretariat was requested to prepare and circulate a draft survey on the current approaches to protection of PHVAR Designs, invite SCT members to provide comments on the draft survey before the next session, and incorporate those comments in a revised draft for consideration by the fiftieth session of the SCT.
12. The SCT also noted the progress in the implementation of the Digital Access Service (DAS) for industrial designs by members. The Chair concluded that the SCT would revert for an update to that item at its fiftieth session, and that the SCT agreed to hold an Information Session on the WIPO DAS in conjunction with that session.

GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS

13. The SCT agreed to hold an Information Session on Geographical Indications in conjunction with the fiftieth session of the SCT on the following topics: (i) transparency and public notice in geographical indication registration practices; (ii) trans-border geographical indications; and (iii) comparing quality control and related mechanisms in the legal protection systems of geographical indications and trademarks for agricultural, craft and industrial products. Moreover, the SCT invited members to submit to the fiftieth session of the SCT proposals for topics for an Information Session on Geographical Indications, to be held in conjunction with the fifty-first session of the SCT.

14. In conjunction with the forty-ninth session of the SCT, an Information Session on Geographical Indications took place on March 31, 2026, featuring the topics “Inclusive Governance of Geographical Indications and Sustainability” and “Plant Names and Geographical Indications”, respectively.

15. The program and presentations of the information sessions are available at:
https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=91368

16. The WIPO General Assembly is invited to take note of the “Report on the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)” (document WO/GA/60/5).

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