

Program and Budget Committee

Thirty-First Session Geneva, September 7 to 11, 2020

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP (UNSDG) MEMBERSHIP

prepared by the Secretariat

1. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has been invited to become a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) (letter of invitation attached in the Annex).
2. The General Assembly in resolution 71/243, on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (QCPR), called for a system-wide strategic document for collective action to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In response to that call, the United Nations Secretary General (UNSG) presented a report entitled “Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: ensuring a better future for all” (A/72/124-E/2018/3). Seven measures were proposed by the UNSG for the repositioning of the UN system, including a system-wide strategic document to ensure collective responsibility and accelerate the alignment of the United Nations development system in support of the 2030 Agenda. The system-wide strategic document included among other actions, the revitalization of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) to enhance strategic direction, impartial oversight and accountability regarding the system’s in-country contributions to the implementation of the agenda. The UNDG was renamed UNSDG and is comprised of a large number of UN agencies and programs (list attached in the Annex).
3. The WIPO Director General, after consideration of the invitation to become a member of the UNSDG, requested information on the proposed share in the cost allocation estimated for WIPO that would be intended to support the Resident Coordinator (RC) system for field work versus the proposed share that would be intended to support the implementation of the SDGs on a global basis. In this context, the WIPO Director General stated that given the predominately digital and virtual expression of many of WIPO’s programs and services, which is

also reflected in the presence of well over 95 per cent of WIPO staff at Headquarters in Geneva, the Organization's use of the resident coordinator system is significantly reduced as compared to that of other agencies.

5. The financial implication of becoming a UNSDG member is estimated at 400,000 Swiss francs per biennium. The formula for the membership cost sharing is currently being reviewed in the framework of the discussion on the QCPR and will be adopted at the forthcoming UN General Assembly.

7. Besides the financial implications, there may be administrative and reporting implications of becoming a member of UNSDG.

8. *The Program and Budget Committee (PBC) is invited to consider the invitation for WIPO to become a UNSDG member as contained in this document (WO/PBC/31/10) and its Annex.*

[Annex follows]



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

26 April 2018

Dear Mr. Gurry,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) to invite the World Intellectual Property Organization to become a member of the renewed UNDG.

A recalibrated and impactful UNDG – more inclusive in its composition – is a critical stepping stone in the efforts of the Secretary-General to reposition the United Nations development system (UNDS). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is indeed a paradigm shift in the way we deliver support to countries and the people we serve – individually and across the system. Responding effectively will require significant changes in the skill sets, leadership and accountability mechanisms of the UNDS, with the UNDG at its center.

Moving forward, the UNDG will need increased capacities to steer and provide greater strategic direction, oversight and accountability to the UNDS. This is particularly true at the country level, where we envision the emergence of a new generation of United Nations country teams – guided by an enhanced and responsive United Nations development assistance framework and led by empowered and impartial Resident Coordinators.

In the coming weeks, the recalibrated UNDG will be renamed into the “United Nations Sustainable Development Group” (UNSDG). It will include all entities of the United Nations system that contribute significantly to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the country level. The observer status is to be eliminated. The list of proposed UNDG members has been updated accordingly, as outlined in the enclosed document.

In this regard, I would be delighted if you could join us for our forthcoming Principals meeting on Wednesday, 2 May 2018 at the International Organization for Migration Headquarters in London. The meeting will serve to discuss system-wide priority actions in support of the reform agenda of the Secretary-General to reposition the UNDS for the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. Francis Gurry
Director General
World Intellectual Property Organization
Geneva

The year 2018 presents us with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to fundamentally reposition the UNDS to deliver together a better future for humanity. To succeed in our collective mission to better support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, all members of the undg will need to engage fully in undg agreed priorities and actions in implementing the vision of the Secretary-General.

Bringing about transformational change is our collective responsibility. I look forward to your positive response to this invitation, thus laying the foundation for an even closer and deeper collaboration in support of the UNDS. I am grateful for the opportunity to embark on this collective effort with you in 2018, and look forward to taking these reforms further with you at our undg Principals meeting next month.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A J M', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amina J. Mohammed

United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Proposed Membership

UNDG Members		
No.	United Nations Entity	
1	FAO*	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
2	IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
3	ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
4	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
5	ILO*	International Labour Organization
6	IMO	International Maritime Organization
7	IOM	International Organization for Migration
8	ITC	International Trade Centre
9	ITU	International Telecommunications Union
10	OHCHR*	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
11	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
12	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
13	UN DESA*	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
14	UNDP*	United Nations Development Programme
15	UN DPA	United Nations Department of Political Affairs
16	UN ECA*	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
17	UN ECE*	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
18	UN ECLAC*	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
19	UNEP*	United Nations Environment Programme
20	UN ESCAP*	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
21	UNESCO*	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
22	UN ESCWA*	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
23	UNFPA*	United Nations Population Fund
24	UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
25	UNHCR*	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

26	UNICEF*	United Nations Children's Fund
27	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
28	UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
29	UN OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
30	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
31	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
32	UN PBSO	United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office
33	UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
34	UN Women*	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
35	UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
36	UPU	Universal Postal Union
37	WFP*	World Food Programme
38	WHO*	World Health Organization
39	WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
40	WMO	World Meteorological Organization

* Members of the UNDG Core Group; the Regional Economic Commissions are jointly represented with a rotational seat

[End of Annex and of document]