

## **Working Group on the Legal Development of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs**

**Fourteenth Session**  
**Geneva, October 6 to 8, 2025**

UPDATE OF THE STATISTICS CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT H/LD/WG/12/8

*Document prepared by the International Bureau*

### **BACKGROUND**

1. At its thirteenth session, held from October 21 to 23, 2024, the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs (hereinafter referred to as the “Working Group”), discussed document [H/LD/WG/13/5](#) entitled “Proposal by the Delegation of China”. The proposal was made in the context of the possible introduction of new languages into the Hague System and followed an agreement by the Working Group at its twelfth session to continue discussions on the possible introduction of new languages in the spirit of promoting the Hague System<sup>1</sup>.
2. The Working Group requested the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to prepare, for its next session, a document providing:
  - (i) an updated financial analysis of the introduction of new languages;
  - (ii) possible options regarding technical solutions for reducing the cost in translation, such as differentiated translation practices and machine translation; and
  - (iii) an update of the statistics contained in document [H/LD/WG/12/8](#)<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> See document [H/LD/WG/12/9](#) “Summary by the Chair”, paragraph 15. See also document [H/LD/WG/7/5](#) “Proposal by the Delegation of the Russian Federation”.

<sup>2</sup> See document [H/LD/WG/13/6](#) “Summary by the Acting Chair”, paragraph 16.

3. The International Bureau has prepared three documents to meet the request made by the Working Group<sup>3</sup>. This document provides an update of the statistics contained in document H/LD/WG/12/8.

### UPDATED STATISTICS

4. The Annex to document H/LD/WG/12/8 presented statistical information for possible criteria to assist the Working Group in their deliberations concerning the introduction of new languages into the Hague System. These criteria were:

- (a) the number of designs contained in international applications,
- (b) the number of designs contained in designations in Hague applications,
- (c) the number of designs contained in direct applications filed abroad,
- (d) the Hague Market Share,
- (e) the number of native speakers of a language worldwide,
- (f) the number of states with that official language, and
- (g) being an official language of the United Nations (UN).

5. The statistical information for items (a) and (b), above covered the five-year period between the years 2018 and 2022, and the first three quarters of 2023<sup>4</sup>, while the statistical information for items (c) and (d), above covered the five-year period between the years 2018 and 2022. The statistics for items (e) and (f), above were based on 2023 figures.

6. This document presents the same updated statistical information, with items (a) and (b) covering the five-year period between the years 2020 and 2024<sup>5</sup>, and the first half of 2025<sup>6</sup>, and items (c) and (d) covering the five-year period between the years 2019 and 2023. The statistics for item (e) are based on 2025 figures. The statistics for item (f) remained unchanged.

### Number of Designs Contained in International Applications

7. Tables I and II, below, show the number of designs contained in international applications filed by applicants from Contracting Parties by the language spoken in the jurisdiction of the applicant. For jurisdictions where more than one language is spoken, the numbers have been allocated in proportion to the percentage of the population speaking each language. The tables show the top 20 languages in descending order.

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<sup>3</sup> Document H/LD/WG/14/7 concerns technical solutions for reducing the cost in translation; and document H/LD/WG/14/8 provides an updated financial analysis of the introduction of new languages.

<sup>4</sup> The document provided figures not only for the five-year period from 2018 to 2022, but also for the first three quarters of 2023, to also report on recent figures for Contracting Parties that acceded to the Hague System during that period. For more information, see Annex to document [H/LD/WG/12/8](#).

<sup>5</sup> The Geneva Act (1999) of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs (hereinafter referred to as the "Geneva Act") entered into force during the period from 2020 to 2024 with respect to the following new Contracting Parties: Samoa (January 2, 2020), Israel (January 3, 2020), Mexico (June 6, 2020), Belarus (July 19, 2021), Jamaica (February 10, 2022), China (May 5, 2022), Mauritius (May 6, 2023), Brazil (August 1, 2023) and Saint Kitts and Nevis (October 8, 2024).

<sup>6</sup> Since the Working Group is scheduled from October 6 to 8, 2025, the International Bureau reports on the filings of the first half of 2025. The Geneva Act entered into force in 2025 with respect to the following new Contracting Parties: Uzbekistan (January 10, 2025) and Saudi Arabia (April 7, 2025).

*Table I: Number of Designs Contained in Hague Applications (2020-2024)*

Ranking	Language	Number of Designs in Hague Applications
1	German	29,415
2	<b>English</b>	18,782
3	Chinese	12,631
4	<b>French</b>	11,662
5	Italian	10,789
6	Korean	7,121
7	Dutch	5,442
8	Japanese	4,743
9	Turkish	2,961
10	Danish	1,827
11	Swedish	1,774
12	Greek	1,715
13	<b>Spanish</b>	1,538
14	Polish	1,264
15	Maltese	1,010
16	Norwegian	805
17	Hebrew	792
18	Czech	546
19	Russian	525
20	Ukrainian	457

*Table II: Number of Designs Contained in Hague Applications (January to June 2025)*

Ranking	Language	Number of Designs in Hague Applications
1	German	3,075
2	Chinese	2,762
3	<b>English</b>	2,279
4	Italian	1,302
5	<b>French</b>	1,004
6	Korean	528
7	Dutch	511
8	Japanese	493
9	Danish	227
10	Turkish	217
11	Swedish	210
12	Polish	177
13	Maltese	155
14	Czech	148
15	Greek	133
16	<b>Spanish</b>	96
17	Norwegian	79
18	Portuguese	74
19	Russian	74
20	Ukrainian	54

Number of Designs Contained in Hague Designations

8. Tables III and IV, below, show the number of designs contained in designations, per language of publication under the domestic systems in the designated Contracting Parties. This follows the methodology applied by the International Bureau for the statistics regarding the number of designations under the Madrid System<sup>7</sup>. The tables show the top 20 languages in descending order.

*Table III: Number of Designs Contained in Hague Designations (2020-2024)*

Ranking	Language	Number of Designs in Hague Designations
1	<b>English</b>	218,448
2	German	49,218
3	Turkish	25,351
4	Japanese	19,803
5	<b>French</b>	18,735
6	Korean	17,224
7	Norwegian	17,080
8	Russian	14,455
9	Chinese	13,690
10	Ukrainian	9,627
11	<b>Spanish</b>	8,342
12	Arabic	6,292
13	Hebrew	4,462
14	Vietnamese	4,187
15	Serbian	4,006
16	Montenegrin	3,359
17	Bosnian	3,184
18	Portuguese	2,801
19	Macedonian	2,684
20	Moldovan	2,478

*Table IV: Number of Designs Contained in Hague Designations (January to June 2025)*

Ranking	Language	Number of Designs in Hague Designations
1	<b>English</b>	26,302
2	German	4,613
3	Chinese	3,016
4	Japanese	2,369
5	Korean	2,194
6	Turkish	1,989
7	Norwegian	1,448
8	<b>French</b>	1,382
9	<b>Spanish</b>	1,255
10	Portuguese	1,173
11	Russian	1,148
12	Ukrainian	775

<sup>7</sup> See document MM/LD/WG/23/7, paragraph 10.

Ranking	Language	Number of Designs in Hague Designations
13	Vietnamese	725
14	Arabic	617
15	Hebrew	551
16	Bosnian	338
17	Albania	320
18	Serbian	311
19	Montenegrin	290
20	Macedonian	257

Number of Designs Contained in Direct Applications Filed Abroad

9. Table V, below, shows the number of designs contained in direct applications filed abroad (excluding designs contained in Hague designations), as reported by the Offices receiving such applications, by the language spoken in the jurisdiction of the applicant. For jurisdictions where more than one language is spoken, the numbers have been allocated in proportion to the percentage of the population speaking each language. The table shows the top 20 languages in descending order.

*Table V: Number of Designs Contained in Direct Applications Filed Abroad (2019-2023)*

Ranking	Language	Number of Designs in Direct Filings Abroad
1	Chinese	243,707
2	<b>English</b>	199,048
3	German	118,100
4	Italian	76,387
5	<b>French</b>	62,368
6	Japanese	47,286
7	Dutch	32,264
8	Korean	31,141
9	Polish	26,647
10	<b>Spanish</b>	21,049
11	Danish	12,386
12	Finnish	6,341
13	Hebrew	3,590
14	Bulgarian	3,156
15	Romanian	2,488
16	Norwegian	1,702
17	Turkish	1,561
18	Russian	1,513
19	Portuguese	1,323
20	Estonian	1,184

Total Number of Designs Contained in Filings Abroad (Hague and Direct Filings) and Hague Market Share

10. Table VI, below, shows the total number of designs contained in applications filed abroad, that is applicants seeking protection for designs outside their home country, by either filing applications directly with an Office in a foreign jurisdiction or by filing a Hague application. The filings abroad by language were estimated taking into account the language spoken in the jurisdiction of the applicant. For jurisdictions where more than one language is spoken, applications were allocated in proportion to the percentage of the population speaking each language. In addition, the table shows the Hague market share in relation to all filings abroad.

*Table VI: Total Number of Designs Contained in Filings Abroad (Hague and Direct Filings) and Hague Market Share (2019-2023)*

Ranking	Language	Designs in Hague Applications <sup>8</sup>	Total of Designs in Filings abroad (Hague and Direct) <sup>9</sup>	Hague Market Share (Percentage) <sup>10</sup>
1	Chinese	29,031	272,440	10.7
2	<b>English</b>	60,682	255,471	23.8
3	German	125,949	237,176	53.1
4	Italian	47,509	122,069	38.9
5	<b>French</b>	61,128	119,332	51.2
6	Japanese	13,930	60,653	23
7	Dutch	17,887	50,113	35.7
8	Korean	17,503	48,277	36.3
9	Polish	3,481	30,105	11.6
10	<b>Spanish</b>	7,174	28,176	25.5
11	Danish	7,087	19,461	36.4
12	Turkish	9,336	10,426	89.5
13	Finnish	1,301	7,640	17
14	Hebrew	3,000	6,325	47.4
15	Russian	3,367	4,675	72
16	Norwegian	3,261	4,506	72.4
17	Bulgarian	1,053	4,201	25.1
18	Greek	1,790	2,888	62
19	Romanian	424	2,861	14.8
20	Croatian	1,691	2,216	76.3

<sup>8</sup> This column shows the number of designs contained in Hague applications for all designations, as reported in the Hague System.

<sup>9</sup> This column shows the total number of designs contained in non-resident applications (Hague and Direct), as reported by the Offices receiving such applications.

<sup>10</sup> This column shows the percentage of the numbers in column "Designs in Hague Applications" in relation to the numbers in column "Total of Designs in Filings abroad (Hague and Direct)". The market share shows the percentage of applicants that opt to use the Hague System instead of filing direct applications with a foreign Office.

Total Number of Native Speakers per Language

11. Table VII, below, shows the total number of native speakers of a language worldwide.

*Table VII: Total Number of Native Speakers per Language*

Ranking	Language	Number of Native Speakers (in millions) <sup>11</sup>
1	Chinese	1,354
2	<b>English</b>	624
3	Hindi	576
4	<b>Spanish</b>	460
5	Arabic	379
6	Bengali	284
7	Portuguese	227
8	Punjabi	160
9	Russian	149 <sup>12</sup>
10	Japanese	124
11	<b>French</b>	111
12	Javanese	111
13	Telugu	104
14	German	96
15	Marathi	96
16	Urdu	93
17	Tamil	90
18	Vietnamese	89
19	Turkish	82
20	Korean	81

Total Number of States with that Official Language

12. Table VIII, below, shows the number of States with that official language.

*Table VIII: Total Number of States with that Official Language*

Ranking	Number of States with that official language	Number of States <sup>13</sup>
1	<b>English</b>	58
2	<b>French</b>	28
3	Arabic	23
4	<b>Spanish</b>	20
5	Portuguese	9
6	German	6
7	Italian	4
7	Malay	4
7	Russian	4
7	Serbo-Croatian	4

<sup>11</sup> See WorldData, available at: [www.worlddata.info](http://www.worlddata.info), February 2025.

<sup>12</sup> Furthermore, the attention of the International Bureau was brought to statistics provided by the Pushkin State Russian Language Institute, according to which there were 147,566 million Russian native speakers in 2023.

<sup>13</sup> This table is identical to the one provided in the Annex to document H/LD/WG/12/8, since no updated statistics were available.

Ranking	Number of States with that official language	Number of States <sup>13</sup>
7	Swahili	4
12	Dutch	3
12	Somali	3
12	Sotho	3
12	Persian	3
12	Tamil	3
17	Chinese	2
17	Greek	2
17	Korean	2
17	Romanian	2
17	Swedish	2
17	Turkish	2

Official Languages of the United Nations

13. Table IX, below, shows the six official languages of the United Nations.

*Table IX: Six Official Languages of the United Nations*

<b>UN languages</b>
<b>English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian</b>

14. *The Working Group is invited to*
- (i) consider the contents of this document; and*
  - (ii) provide further instructions to the International Bureau.*

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