Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)

Twenty-Second Session
Geneva, November 19 to 23, 2018

INTERNAL COORDINATION, UN COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION WITH
NATIONAL AND REGIONAL IP OFFICES

prepared by the Secretariat

1.   The Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) at its eighteenth session held from October 31 to November 4, 2016, approved a six-point proposal which *inter alia* requested the Secretariat to "continue improving internal coordination within the Organization, collaboration with UN Agencies and Programs and other relevant international organizations, as well as cooperation with national and regional IP offices on issues related to technical assistance, capacity building and development oriented cooperation." The proposal also requested the Secretariat to "identify new proposals to that effect and report back to CDIP."[1]

2.   This document responds to the above-mentioned request.

I.   INTERNAL COORDINATION

3.   The Medium-Term Strategic Plan for WIPO for 2016-2021 states that "all Programs of the Organization are delivered with the development dimension in mind and all Sectors of the Secretariat are cognizant of this imperative". Strategic Goal III, consisting of "facilitating the use of IP for Development" is therefore considered a horizontal objective, with the result that "coordination of the various inputs of the Organization [is reflected] into coherent plans and projects that are

---

[1] Appendix I of the Summary by the Chair of the seventeenth session of the CDIP is available at
http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=335277.

delivered in a coherent manner." To attain this Strategic Goal, the Medium-Term Plan highlights seven specific strategies, the first one of which calls for "continued focus on coordination of the horizontal inputs of the Secretariat for the achievement of coherent delivery of effective, demand-driven technical assistance and development cooperation."[2]

4.   Compliance with the imperative to provide development cooperation reflected in plans and projects that are delivered in a coherent manner is evidenced by the introduction, over the last biennia, of a series of mechanisms and systems which have helped the Organization improve internal coordination among all Programs and Sectors.

5.   The Program and Budget 2018/19 presents in its Results Framework Chart the 38 organizational Expected Results which provide the mandate for the Programs contributing to those results. The Chart also indicates that the WIPO Development Agenda (DA), Gender and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are cross-cutting issues, which are mainstreamed across the Strategic Goals. Each Program clearly indicates the relevant cross-program collaboration it carries out in the implementation of its activities and refers to specific DA recommendations guiding the Program implementation strategies.

6.   Also indicative of the continuous improvement of internal coordination is the inclusion in the Program and Budget 2018/19 of shared indicators involving the joint responsibility of multiple relevant Programs in the attainment of the same Expected Result. Such approach, showing shared responsibility and therefore increased coordination among Programs, is further reflected at the work-planning level, where individual Programs are required to mention which other Programs are collaborating in the implementation of specific activities.

7.   Another aspect of improved internal coordination concerns the work of WIPO External Offices, for which an External Offices Coordination Unit has been established in the Office of the Director General. External Offices participate in the Program and Budget planning and approval cycle through meetings in Geneva, and in systematic videoconference meetings for continuous coordination and monitoring of work-planning activities.

8.   Internal coordination is also strengthened by improved reporting systems and tools. The WIPO Performance Report (WPR) for 2016/17, presented at the 28th session of the Program and Budget Committee in September 2018 is an example of improved and streamlined reporting of performance data across the Organization. The WIPO Performance Report "consolidates the former Financial Management Report (FMR) and the Program Performance Report (PPR) and provides a comprehensive and transparent assessment of programmatic and financial performance in the biennium 2016/17. The report eliminates the duplication of information produced in the FMR, the PPR, and the Annual Financial Report and Financial Statements. Efforts will continue to further streamline the report for the 2018/19 biennium."[3] The WPR is also a tangible example of internal coordination, where information related to performance management has been streamlined across Programs.

9.   Notwithstanding the horizontal nature of the inputs provided by all Sectors and Programs of the Organization toward "the achievement of coherent delivery of effective, demand-driven technical assistance and development cooperation", the main internal coordination role is played by

---

[2] Medium-Term Strategic Plan for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for 2016-2021, A/56/10, available at http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=347516
[3] WIPO Performance Report, Program and Budget Committee, 28th Session, September 2018, WO/PBC/28/7.

the Development Sector, in particular by Regional Bureaus. As the custodians of technical assistance plans in Member States, Regional Bureaus have the primary responsibility and mandate to efficiently coordinate, streamline and prioritize specific organizational inputs, in line with each country's development objectives and absorption capacity.

10.   A relevant improvement in internal coordination is represented by the integration of the WIPO Technical Assistance Database (IP-TAD)[4] into the Enterprise Performance Management (EPM) system. This major adaptation of the IP-TAD into the organization-wide EPM system allows for greater consistency and reliability of the information related to the Organization's TA activities, capturing data from different Programs and Sectors performing development oriented cooperation activities.

II.   COLLABORATION WITH UN AGENCIES, PROGRAMS AND OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

11.   WIPO's mandate regarding collaboration with United Nations (UN) Agencies, Programs and other relevant intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) is reflected in the WIPO Program and Budget (Program 20) which states, *inter alia*, that such collaboration aims "to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for SDGs, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and other shared global goals."[5] Furthermore, liaising closely with other Programs, WIPO aims "to facilitate timely provision of WIPO's technical contribution and information to relevant multilateral processes and initiatives."[6]

12.   In collaborating with other UN Agencies and Programs, WIPO embraces the overall approach of multilateral processes which is currently focusing on the "Means of Implementation" for the SDGs, with the aim of covering both finance and the scaling up of support for innovation, capacity building and the development and transfer of technologies for sustainable development. The establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM), established by the Outcome Document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development: the AAAA, and adopted in the 2030 Agenda, confirms this trend. It is recalled that the purpose of the TFM is to facilitate multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships through the sharing of information, experiences, best practices and policy advice among Member States, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community, UN entities and other stakeholders.

13.   As a founding member of the UN Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (IATT),[7] WIPO is fully involved in promoting coordination, coherence, and cooperation within the UN system on STI-related matters, with the aim of enhancing synergy and efficiency, in particular to improve capacity-building initiatives. The IATT currently counts some 38 UN entities, and meets regularly at the UN in New York. Through its New York Coordination Office, WIPO is closely involved in these processes and, together with UN Women and UNESCO, has

---

[4] WIPO Technical Assistance Database (IP-TAD) provides information on technical assistance activities undertaken by WIPO where the beneficiary countries were either a developing country, a LDC, or a country in transition.
[5] WIPO Program and Budget 2018/19, Program narrative by strategic goal, Goal VIII, page 160.
[6] *Idem.*
[7] The TFM is composed of (a) a UN Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (IATT), (b) an annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs, and (c) an Online Platform to provide a cohesive overview of UN initiatives on science, technology and innovation, and to facilitate access to, and use of, such technology-related initiatives.

initiated a sub-group within the IATT on Gender and STI for SDGs. The objective of the sub-group is to promote cohesiveness across the UN system on gender-related initiatives in this field.

14.   Technology, innovation, creativity and cultural development remain central components of the multilateral processes in which WIPO participates. These include continuing negotiations in the framework of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and a number of other IGO processes of importance to WIPO, such as on the digital divide, public health, and non-communicable diseases. In this context, the Organization continues to play its role in the creation of multi-stakeholder alliances around key issues and in strengthening its relationships with traditional partners such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization *(*UNESCO), International Telecommunications Union (ITU), United Nations department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), as well as with the United Nations Economic Commissions.

15.   In particular, trilateral cooperation and practical coordination on issues around public health, intellectual property (IP) and trade is the result of a consolidated partnership involving the WHO, WIPO and the WTO. This partnership is bound to be expanded and strengthened in coming years, with the shared goal of boosting innovation to improve health outcomes in countries around the world.

16.   Greater coordination and coherence in the delivery of WIPO's specialized technical assistance is the direct result of working with the full range of stakeholders (IGOs, NGOs and the private sector) at the global, regional and national levels. In this regard, collaboration with relevant international organizations is particularly important in the context of Regional Economic Communities or Groupings, where the regional dimension of economic, social and technological development of countries is involved[8]. The strategic engagement of a wide range of non-governmental stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private enterprises and civil society at large with varied technical expertise and insights, help advance WIPO's Strategic Goal VIII, consisting of providing "A responsive communications interface between WIPO, its Members and all stakeholders". Securing more strategic and effective engagement with all these non-governmental stakeholders continues to be a critical component of a policy dialogue that can truly contribute to the use of IP as a tool for development through international and multi-stakeholder cooperation.

---

[8] Collaboration in this regard is noted, *inter alia,* with a number of regional organizations including: the East African Community (EAC); Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); the Southern African Development Community (SADC; l'Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine (UEMOA); the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC); the League of Arab States (LAS); the Islamic Development Bank (OIC/IDB); the Association of Southeast Asian States (ASEAN); the Forum Islands Secretariat; the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO); the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

III.   COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL AND REGIONAL IP OFFICES AND OTHER PARTNERS

17.   WIPO cooperation with Member States through relevant government institutions, notably national IP Offices and sub-regional IP organizations, takes place with a view to ensuring the ownership and active participation of these institutions in the entire cycle of TA delivery and, ultimately, with a view to ensuring the sustainability of the results of these activities. In this regard, it is recalled that "TA is delivered in a comprehensive manner, involving all the relevant Divisions / Sectors within the Organization. Depending upon the nature of activities (bilateral, multilateral, regional), TA may be provided either directly by WIPO or in cooperation with other Member States, IGOs and / or regional organizations."[9] Other partners in technical assistance include, among others, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs), Universities and Research & Development institutions.

18.   The practices, methodologies and tools deployed by the Organization in the delivery of TA have been detailed in document CDIP/21/4[10] with regard to different categories of TA activities, namely:

    (a)   National IP Strategies and development plans;
    (b)   Technical and Administrative Infrastructure (solutions for IP offices, databases);
    (c)   Capacity Building;
    (d)   Legislative Assistance;
    (e)   DA-related projects; and
    (f)   Public-Private partnerships (multi-stakeholder platforms).

19.   It is recalled that in WIPO's approach to TA, four main steps guide the full implementation cycle, namely: (i) Needs assessment, (ii) Planning and design, (iii) Implementation and (iv) Monitoring and evaluation. These four steps are based on a range of internal practices, methodologies and tools, used at different stages. The involvement of IP Offices, IGOs or relevant regional organizations is required at each stage, making the delivery of TA an open, transparent and participatory process.

20.   While existing practices, methodologies and tools have been already described in detail in document CDIP/21/4, the present document attempts to highlight new proposals which have emerged with regard to the established categories of TA activities, building on existing processes and paving the way for the continuous improvement of cooperation with national and regional IP Offices on issues related to TA, capacity building and development oriented cooperation.

Proposals regarding national IP strategies and development plans

21.   Over recent biennia, WIPO has been using a consolidated methodology to support Member States in the formulation of national IP strategies and development plans. With a view to further improve its cooperation with countries involved in the national IP strategy development process, the Secretariat is exploring new options, which include: (i) undertaking a thorough, critical review (possibly through an expert forum) of the practices and methodology employed by WIPO during the IP strategy development process and make concrete recommendations to adapt/upgrade/improve

---

[9] Compilation of WIPO's existing practices, methodologies and tools for providing Technical Assistance, available at http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=46438
[10] *Idem.*

existing practices and tools accordingly; (ii) elaborating formal agreements (in the form of project documents, jointly signed by the concerned Member State and WIPO) for the formulation of a national IP policy which would be accepted and fully integrated in the national strategic planning system, therefore contributing, together with other sectoral public policies, to the attainment of national development objectives; (iii) considering the possibility to develop regional IP strategies for the purpose of leveraging resources among interested countries and identifying "champion" countries with relevant capability to assist other countries in the region in the strategy development and implementation process (a pilot plan for an ASEAN-wide IP strategy is currently being developed).

Proposals regarding Technical and Administrative Infrastructure (solutions for IP offices, databases)

22.   A number of new proposals and initiatives have been identified in addition to the Tools and Databases already listed in document CDIP/21/4:

-    WIPO JURIS, a specialized one-stop database of leading court decisions in the field of IP. The database is meant to address the need of Member States to have easy access to well-selected, valuable material on judicial and administrative court decisions in the field of IP, allowing them to share expertise from other jurisdictions, and bringing them the opportunity to share their own experience and practices. WIPO JURIS is intended to strengthen the skills of the judiciary and administrative authorities to deliver informed decisions on IP disputes. It would serve a broad audience including judges, magistrates, law enforcement officials, as well as researchers, the legal fraternity and other stakeholders. A pilot project to create the database is being launched in selected countries from the Latin America region, to be followed by a progressive expansion to cover other regions, similarly to the approach used to develop other databases such as PATENSCOPE and WIPO Lex.

-    WIPO Connect, an interconnected solution for the collective management of copyright and neighboring rights. It enables collective management organizations (CMOs) to locally manage their operations and to connect to regional and international networks for documentation data exchanges. WIPO Connect will progressively replace the existing copyright management software known as WIPOCOS, maintaining existing business features, and incorporating wider-ranging rights and functionalities, designed to give CMOs using the software a global reach. The new solution is being developed with a view to respond to the new challenges of the digital era, for example the unprecedented data volume increase related to the usage of copyrighted works on digital platforms such as YouTube or iTunes. It is currently deployed in 6 pilot countries, with a target of 12 by the end of the 2018-19 biennium.

Proposals regarding Capacity Building

23.   WIPO capacity building activities take the form of trainings, seminars, workshops, international, regional and national conferences, study visits, fellowship programs and awareness-raising activities. Coordinated by the Regional Bureaus and the Department for Transition and Developed Countries, and run in close cooperation with various Divisions / Sectors of WIPO, capacity building covers a wide range of legal, technical and practical aspects of IP, covering subjects such as Copyright, Patents, Trademarks, Industrial Designs, Geographical Indications,

Genetic Resources (GRs), Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs), Building Respect for IP, SMEs as well as the use of the PCT, Madrid Hague and Lisbon systems, and the WIPO's alternative dispute resolution services. The WIPO Academy, in particular, creates partnerships with various IP offices and universities and provides capacity building through its IP educational programs.

24.   Recent evaluations of capacity building offered by WIPO pointed out the importance of shifting the focus of capacity building assessments beyond the evaluation of participants' satisfaction, to the evaluation and monitoring of the impact of capacity building activities. Proposals are being considered for the progressive development of a new system for monitoring the impact of TA activities, which will be pilot tested in selected countries.[11]

25.   An innovative approach to capacity building involves the concept of creating an enabling IP environment. In such environment, the capacity building approach is not thematic, i.e. on selected IP areas, but rather on the full range of interconnected IP topics where a core group of trained IP professionals is empowered to address the various needs of different types of users of IP-related services, i.e. from patent search, to patent drafting, designs protection, brands development and product commercialization. In a similarly comprehensive approach to capacity building, initial experiences are being tested around the concept of technology/product-based capacity development, where stakeholders in the entire value chain of a particular technology/product are being exposed to the IP knowledge and skills required to make a particular technology/product commercially viable.[12]

26.   Innovative approaches to capacity building have been adopted in countries facing internal security concerns as a response to the necessity to suspend activities due to the prevailing circumstances. In such instances, WIPO has continued to provide capacity building assistance for the benefit of the adversely affected countries by organizing activities either in third countries or in Geneva.

27.   Another noteworthy approach to capacity building concerns the ability of WIPO to offer comprehensive training in languages where a gap had traditionally existed. New initiatives are being tested in this regard, aiming at offering a standardized curriculum of IP training for groups of countries sharing the same language. Such programs, coordinated by the concerned Regional Bureaus and the WIPO Academy, include a mix of distance learning and face-to-face courses in a host country which plays a pivotal role in the training process, offering resources and opportunities for knowledge-sharing. These programs, a vibrant example of South-South cooperation, aim to streamline many existing courses on IP substance, administration and management into one coherent and comprehensive curriculum with a view to increasing the skills and knowledge of IP officials using one common language.[13]

---

[11] Two countries in Latin America (Peru and Mexico) will be piloting the development of a new system for monitoring the impact of TA activities. The proposal for the implementation of that system will emerge from a meeting to be held in 2019, involving 5 countries selected on the basis of advanced strategic planning.

[12] Both approaches, i.e. toward "*creating an enabling IP environment*" and toward "*technology/product-based capacity development*" are being tested in the ASPAC region through a series of pilot projects.

[13] A new initiative has been jointly designed by the WIPO Academy, the Regional Bureau for Arab countries and the Moroccan IP Office (OMPIC), to offer a standardized curriculum of IP training in Arabic language for Arabic-speaking countries.

Proposals regarding Legislative Assistance

28.   WIPO has a long history of providing legislative assistance to Member States or regional intergovernmental organizations, based on request. Assistance is always tailored to the requestor's specific needs, level of socio-economic development and human and financial constraints, and it reflects the priorities agreed with the requestor.

29.   The sequence of methodological steps followed by WIPO in the process of providing legislative assistance have been documented in existing documents, notably in CDIP/21/4.[14] In this sequence, attention is drawn in particular to point 54 (vi) "In due course, WIPO endeavors to receive feedback from the requestor on the utility and relevance of its assistance. This information may not always be available but it does help WIPO to assess the quality of its work and make improvements in future cases."[15]

30.   Paying particular attention to these future developments, WIPO is considering methods to evaluate the longer-term impact of WIPO's legislative assistance. Currently, surveys are typically sent to Member States immediately after assistance is provided, while future efforts are intended to focus on assessing the effect of the advice after more time has elapsed. In addition, in order to improve response rates to the surveys about legislative assistance, the possibility is being explored of moving to online survey instruments using several tools available for this purpose.

Proposals regarding DA-related projects

31.   An analysis of content and scope of recent DA-related projects reveals an evolution in approach from recommendations-based projects to context-based projects. As development considerations have become more firmly engrained in the work of the Organization, and as DA recommendations have been progressively mainstreamed into substantive programs over the years, possibilities have appeared for Member States to propose new context-based projects aimed at showing the benefit for developing countries and LDCs of using IP in specific economic sectors, or for the benefit of specific target groups of users.

32.   Examples of recent projects, either under implementation or yet to be implemented, providing specific contexts to the implementation of strategies for more effective IP use are: (i) *IP, Tourism and Culture: Supporting Development Objectives and Promoting Cultural Heritage in Egypt and Other Developing Countries* (CDIP 15/7 REV); (ii) *Use of Information in the Public Domain for Economic Development* (CDIP/16/4 REV); (iii) *Strengthening and Development of the Audiovisual Sector in Burkina Faso and Certain African Countries* (CDIP 9/13); (iv) *Increasing the Role of Women in Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Encouraging Women in Developing Countries to Use the Intellectual Property System* (CDIP 21/12 REV); and (v) *Project proposal on Enhancing the Use of IP in the Software Sector in African Countries proposed by the Republic of Kenya* (CDIP/22/8).

33.   For all DA-related projects, increasing relevance is being placed on monitoring and evaluating DA project implementation, and on integrating the views expressed by Members States during the progressive reviews of DA projects, especially ensuring that DA recommendations are adequately reflected in project outputs and outcomes.

---

[14] Compilation of WIPO's existing practices, methodologies and tools for providing Technical Assistance, available at http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=46438 page 20.
[15] *Idem*, page 21.

Proposals regarding Public-Private Partnerships (multi-stakeholder platforms)

34.   Multi-stakeholders platforms are created with the aim of reinforcing the capacities of developing countries to participate in the knowledge economy, by enabling connections between stakeholders via specific databases and matchmaking events. Platforms such as WIPO Green, WIPO Re:Search, the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC), the Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI) program and the Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI) program allow the enterprise sector and civil society to share their expertise and provide funding for the advancement of a number of important public policies that underlie WIPO's mission.

35.   A noteworthy new initiative is being reported with regard to WIPO Re:Search, where a new online Resource Platform has been completed in June 2018. WIPO Re:Search is a public-private consortium dedicated to accelerating the discovery and development of technologies for neglected tropical diseases, malaria, and tuberculosis by sharing intellectual property with the global health research community. Replacing WIPO RE:Search former database, the new Resource Platform facilitates information-sharing on IP assets, collaboration opportunities and outcomes, and activities taking place within the consortium. Its interactive features enable Members to manage and update their own company and research institution profiles and data, thus improving user experience and engagement. Overall, the new online Resource Platform offers a more user-friendly interface, better showcasing successful collaborations, and bringing more visibility to developing country institutions. It is also the first Cloud-hosted WIPO initiative using a Software-as-a-Service solution. Its use of open-source modules offers ease of expansion, enabling other WIPO Divisions to benefit from the structural development and adapt its functionalities to their needs. This offers the possibility to accelerate development and limit duplication of efforts and costs throughout the Organization.

36.   The CDIP is invited to take note of the information contained in this document.

[End of document]