

## **Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)**

**Twenty-Sixth Session**  
**Geneva, July 26 to 30, 2021**

### **REPORT ON WIPO'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND ITS ASSOCIATED TARGETS**

*Prepared by the Secretariat*

1. The present document represents the annual report on the contribution of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>1</sup> and their associated targets submitted pursuant to the decision taken by the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) at its 18<sup>th</sup> session, held from October 31 to November 4, 2016, requesting the Secretariat to present an annual report thereon at the Committee's first session of the year.
2. This is the fifth report submitted to the CDIP pursuant to that request. Based on the structure contained in the above-mentioned decision, the report provides an update for 2020 of the SDG-related:
  - (a) activities and initiatives undertaken individually by WIPO,
  - (b) activities undertaken by WIPO as part of the United Nations System, and
  - (c) assistance provided by WIPO to its Member States at their request.

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<sup>1</sup> SDG 1: No Poverty; SDG 2: Zero Hunger; SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being; SDG 4: Quality Education; SDG 5: Gender Equality; SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy; SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; SDG 10: Reduced Inequality; SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production; SDG 13: Climate Action; SDG 14: Life Below Water; SDG 15: Life on Land; SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

3. WIPO is fully engaged in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within its mandate and continues to support the achievement of the SDGs in many ways, in particular by promoting a balanced and effective intellectual property (IP) system that encourages innovation and creativity and supports the flow of knowledge and technical expertise within and among countries.

4. SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) is the most central to, and the most closely aligned with, the Organization's mandate. Innovation, which is at the heart of WIPO's mission, is also essential to achieving most of the other SDGs. WIPO continues to support its Member States in promoting an enabling environment for innovation and creativity, which are crucial drivers for the implementation of the SDGs. Such support is provided through a wide range of programs, partnership platforms, databases, technical assistance and capacity-building activities, which it carries out individually or in partnership with other institutions, including United Nations system organizations.

5. The WIPO Development Agenda (DA) guides WIPO's contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The effective implementation of the DA is a major component of the assistance WIPO can provide to its Member States to help to achieve the SDGs. WIPO's Program and Budget for the 2020/21 biennium mainstreamed development and the SDGs across the Organization's Strategic Goals and indicated, for the first time, the SDGs to which each of the WIPO programs contribute.

## **A. ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN INDIVIDUALLY BY THE ORGANIZATION**

### **I. Gender Equality, Inequalities and the Sustainable Development Goals**

6. Gender equality is not only an ethical and human rights issue, but also a key factor in the effectiveness of development initiatives at large. The SDGs recognize the crosscutting nature of gender equality and the fact that it is both an enabler and accelerator for the objectives of the 2030 Agenda. In the SDGs, gender equality is addressed as an explicit priority by featuring it as a stand-alone goal (SDG 5) and by mainstreaming it across all other Goals: eleven SDGs include explicit indicators related to gender equality. WIPO has embraced this two-pronged approach by embedding gender-targeted initiatives to eliminate disparities between individuals in the use of IP services in its Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium and related actions, and by working towards the mainstreaming of gender equality considerations in all other activities.

7. Furthermore, growing evidence suggests that reducing multidimensional inequalities within and between countries is not only an important goal in itself, following the principle of "leaving no one behind", but it is also instrumental to ensuring inclusive progress, improved economic efficiency, increased productivity and environmental sustainability. As all of these have implications for gender equality, it is evident how SDG 5 and SDG 10 are closely connected and mutually reinforcing. For this reason, these two Goals are crosscutting topics throughout WIPO's Program and Budget.

### **II. The Economics for Intellectual Property**

8. WIPO's statistical and analytical reports contribute to promoting an effective innovation ecosystem. Two reports were produced in 2020:

9. The Global Innovation Index: innovation is widely recognized as a central driver of economic growth and development. The aim of the Index is to provide insightful data on innovation and, in turn, to assist economies in evaluating their innovation performance and making informed innovation policy considerations. Over the last 13 years, the Index has established itself as a central policy tool for innovation and innovation measurement around the

world. A number of countries now have innovation policy legislation in place that refers to the Index as a “yardstick” for innovation performance. The Index also supports the achievement of SDG 9. Additionally, the Index is considered a gauge of innovation by the United Nations General Assembly, as noted in its resolution 74/229 on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development at its 74<sup>th</sup> session in 2019. In 2020, the Index shed light on the state of innovation financing by investigating the evolution of financing mechanisms for entrepreneurs and innovators, and by indicating progress and remaining challenges, including in the context of the economic slowdown and the new financing gaps introduced by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis.

10. The World Intellectual Property Indicators 2020 report: WIPO’s flagship statistics report covers the latest worldwide trends in IP activity based on statistical data collected from national and regional IP offices. Policymakers, IP and innovation stakeholders, researchers and the media around the world rely on the report to learn about the latest IP developments and take action accordingly. The Indicators support the achievement of SDG 9. The 2020 edition of the report describes how global IP filing activity evolved in 2019. Patent filings around the world stood at 3.23 million and the number of activities related to trademark filing reached 15.15 million. The report highlights the continuing geographical shift in IP activity, with Asia now accounting for more than two thirds of all IP filings worldwide. Patent filing statistics suggest that computer technology was the leading field of innovation, followed by electrical machinery, measurement, medical technology and digital communication.

### III. WIPO Platforms

11. WIPO platforms help to improve access to the IP system and the technological and business intelligence that it generates, and enable national IP offices to better respond to business and policy trends and deliver improved services to their clients. These platforms include:

- a. Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs): national networks of TISCs have been established in 80 countries and comprise more than 1,150 individual TISCs hosted in institutions such as universities, research and development centers, and other appropriate institutions. TISCs provide innovators with access to locally based, high-quality technology information and related services, which support innovators in exploiting their potential and creating, protecting and managing their intellectual property rights (IPRs). These services contribute to the achievement of SDG 9 and include access to online patent and non-patent resources and IP-related publications, assistance in searching for and retrieving technology information, training on database searches, on-demand searches, monitoring technology and competitors, basic information on industrial property laws, management and strategy, and technology commercialization and marketing. Following the annual end-of-year survey completed by TISCs around the world, it was estimated that TISCs had received an estimated 1.4 million enquiries in 2020, which represents a 15 percent increase from the reported figures for 2019.

In 2020, training was given virtually in 14 WIPO Member States at their request. Two regional meetings for member states of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) and of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) were held virtually to discuss the further development of these regional TISC networks, in particular through support given between their respective member states. Best practices and experiences in patent searches, analytics and other related areas are also be shared by TISCs through a virtual network provided through the eTISC platform.

TISCs also actively promote resources that are specifically developed for their users, but which can also be used by everyone. These include two practical guides to identify

inventions in the public domain by teaching people how to retrieve and analyze patent documents to determine whether specific inventions are protected, and how to use and integrate subject matter found in patent documents, as well as other information and knowledge in the public domain, into new product design and development. These two guides were translated into all six official languages of the United Nations in 2020.

A DA project on “Intellectual Property Management and Transfer of Technology: Promoting the Effective Use of Intellectual Property in Developing Countries, Least Developed Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition” was completed in 2020. It developed a training needs assessment manual and a toolkit to enable better targeting of technology transfer-related training activities in terms of audience, subject matter and delivery. The methodology described in the manual and the templates from the toolkit, together with the mapping of innovation value chains in pilot countries, were used to establish targeted training plans for key stakeholders, such as funders, researchers, managers and users of IP, according to which training was implemented on a limited project basis.

- b. The WIPO INSPIRE (Index of Specialized Patent Information Reports) platform was launched in 2020 and provides inventors, researchers and entrepreneurs with clear, accurate and objective information on patent databases, in particular their documentation coverage, as well as their search and analysis functionalities, so as to be able to identify and use the most appropriate patent database.
- c. WIPO provides technical assistance to IP offices in developing and least developed countries (LDCs) to assist them with the digital transformation of their operations and to provide online services to their stakeholders. The foundation of this program is the WIPO IP Office Suite – a platform for the paperless and online processing of patents, trademarks and industrial designs, from filing through to post-registration processes. A total of 90 IP offices benefit from this assistance, including more than 25 that have been directly assisted in digitizing their paper records. The program is also linked to WIPO’s global IP databases to increase the reach and accessibility of IP information globally.
- d. The WIPO Centralized Access to Search and Examination (CASE) system enables participating patent offices to securely share search and examination documentation related to patent applications. This enables patent examiners to increase the quality and efficiency of their work by sharing technical information that might not otherwise be accessible to them. WIPO CASE is currently in use in 36 participating IP offices and more than 100,000 documents are exchanged each year.
- e. The WIPO Digital Access Service (DAS) allows the secure electronic exchange of priority documents between participating IP offices. The system enables applicants and offices to meet the requirements of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property for certification in an electronic environment. WIPO DAS currently has 32 participating IP offices and more than 100,000 documents are exchanged each year.

#### IV. Partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals

12. WIPO continues to help to strengthen the global innovation ecosystem and to stimulate the implementation of the SDGs through various partnership initiatives, as recommended in SDG 17. These partnerships include WIPO GREEN, WIPO Re:Search, the Patent Information Initiative for Medicines (Pat-INFORMED), the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC), the Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI), the Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI), the Inventor Assistance Program (IAP) and WIPO Match.

*i. WIPO GREEN*

13. WIPO GREEN is making tangible contributions to achieving the SDGs. It brings together key players to catalyze green technology innovation and diffusion through its database, network and acceleration projects. SDG 17 (recognizing multi-stakeholder partnerships as important vehicles for sharing knowledge, expertise and technologies, and for engaging businesses and other stakeholders) is at the core of WIPO GREEN's mission, structure and activities. WIPO GREEN supports green tech innovation, infrastructure and innovators, in particular in developing countries. It connects those seeking cutting-edge, environmentally sustainable solutions with technology and service providers, in particular in developing countries. These connections are facilitated by a free online database of green technologies, needs and expertise, as well as through a broad range of activities undertaken in collaboration with partners. Many of the SDGs have a technology component. As they are interconnected and interdependent, our activities extend to at least the following Goals: 2, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 15. Based on a request from the National Institute of Industrial Property of Brazil (INPI Brazil) in 2019, WIPO GREEN initiated an Acceleration Project in Latin America with a focus on climate-smart agriculture. Partners also included the National Institute of Industrial Property of Chile (INAPI Chile), the National Institute of Industrial Property of Argentina (INPI Argentina) and the Ministry of Foreign and Cultural Affairs in Argentina. The project explored local challenges and potential green opportunities in:

- intensified crop rotation, soil re-carbonization, carbon sequestration, zero-till agriculture and forest management in Argentina;
- zero-till or conservation agriculture in Brazil; and
- wine production in Chile.

14. WIPO GREEN and its partners implemented matchmaking activities from October 2019 to March 2020. In the first phase of the project, 17 technology seekers, 31 needs and 65 solutions were identified. Following the identification of potential matches and the necessary introductions, 10 letters of intent were signed by interested parties as a formal indication of their common interests and as a basis for further discussions. Originally implemented as a short-term activity, the project is now entering its second phase. New activities include conducting sectoral studies that will help to identify major innovators, technologies and demands in specific areas, as well as matchmaking events for green technology businesses. In December 2020, WIPO GREEN released its new Global Challenges Brief entitled "Innovative Technologies Tackling Food Loss", which explores the use of cutting-edge technologies to reduce food loss in the supply chain. In May 2020, WIPO GREEN published a Global Challenges Brief entitled "Innovative Technology in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector". This edition of the series explores the water supply aspect of water, sanitation and hygiene, and highlights the role of technological innovation in relation to managing limited freshwater resources in situations of scarcity and/or threats to the quality of the water supply.

*ii. WIPO Re:Search*

15. WIPO Re:Search continued to advance the SDGs throughout 2020. Significant provisions of SDG 3 and SDG 17 are built into the WIPO Re:Search framework and underpin all activities of the WIPO Re:Search Consortium. Additionally, the Consortium prioritizes the engagement of scientists and institutions in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in its collaboration and fellowship activities. By providing LMIC partners with access to research and development (R&D) resources and know-how not readily available in their countries, WIPO Re:Search enhances their capacity to conduct innovative research in pursuit of SDG 9. At the end of 2020, WIPO Re:Search collaborations (past and present) totaled 165, with 52 active collaborations, of which 11 were advancing through key project milestones. In 2020, WIPO Re:Search established eight new targeted-collaborations, i.e., those addressing unmet medical needs, including two firsts in terms of disease categories – snakebite and leprosy. The 2020

collaborations involve 13 member organizations and companies across 11 countries, 5 of which are LMICs (Brazil, Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria and Zambia).

16. Also, in 2020, the following three WIPO Re:Search collaboration teams published peer-reviewed papers on their research:

- MSD and Walter and Eliza Hall Institute – on the discovery of a novel class of lead antimalarial agents. Published in *Cell Host & Microbe*.
- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and Eisai – on the role for protease-activated receptor 1 in promoting blood-brain barrier disruption in cerebral malaria. Published in *Wellcome Open Research*.
- University of California, San Francisco and Medicines for Malaria Venture -- on new trioxolane antimalarial compounds. Published in *ACS Infectious Diseases*.

The following five organizations joined WIPO Re:Search in 2020:

- Foundation for Neglected Disease Research, India.
- Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya
- Federal University of Health Sciences of Porto Alegre, Brazil
- University of Tokyo, Japan
- University of Antioquia, Colombia (WIPO Re:Search's 150<sup>th</sup> member)

17. By the end of 2020, the WIPO Re:Search Fellowship Program (enabled by Funds-in-Trust (FIT) grants from the Government of Australia) had coordinated 20 capacity-building sabbaticals in advanced industry and academic laboratories for scientists from 11 LMICs. During the year, the Consortium completed coordination and preparatory work for an additional six fellowships – three in Australia, two in Singapore and one in the United States of America. These fellowships involve scientists from five LMICs. WIPO Re:Search also prepared three “reverse fellowships,” whereby scientists from Australian host institutes will travel to the fellows’ home-country research centers for short visits. Fellowships energize and empower LMIC scientists to advance their R&D programs, while also nurturing their home institutions’ research activities through knowledge exchange and collaborations (all fellowships arranged in 2020 are currently on hold owing to COVID-19 travel restrictions.)

### *iii. The Patent Information Initiative for Medicines*

18. The Patent Information Initiative for Medicines (Pat-INFORMED) is a collaborative project launched in 2018 between WIPO and 21 pharmaceutical companies that hold patents on medicines in six therapeutic categories. Pat-INFORMED responds to the need expressed by many stakeholders to have access to clear and readily understandable information about the status of a specific medicine in a given country. Patent information on many products, including modern medicines, is usually complex and most medicines are protected by numerous patents. Pat-INFORMED provides a search engine and open access database to facilitate easy access to find out whether a medicine is patented or not. In 2020, Pat-INFORMED had over 50 products and 5,000 patent listings added to the database. Currently, there are almost 250 medicines and 22,000 patents available for searching. While there are a number of sources that provide similar information, Pat-INFORMED includes a unique contact feature with which procurement authorities can contact the patent holder directly and receive more information about the product and its patent status. By increasing the availability and accessibility of the patent status of medicines, Pat-INFORMED contributes in a material way to both SDG 3 and SDG 17.

*iv. The Accessible Books Consortium*

19. The Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) is a public-private partnership led by WIPO that brings together all of the key players – organizations representing people who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print-disabled, authors, publishers, collective management organizations, libraries and other authorized entities, as well as standards bodies. ABC was established in June 2014 to implement the goals of the WIPO administered Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, which now has 76 contracting parties covering 102 countries, as the European Union ratified the treaty as one bloc.

*v. The Access to Research for Development and Innovation*

20. Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI) is a public-private partnership with the world's foremost scientific and technical publishers and is aimed at increasing the availability of scientific and technical literature in developing countries. ARDI provides access to nearly 50,000 subscription-based scientific and technical journals, books and reference works, in particular in pure and applied sciences and technologies. The ARDI program is also part of the Research4life partnership, which is comprised of four other United Nations agency programs from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Labour Organization, offering access to peer-reviewed literature in their respective field of activity. There are over 10,000 registered institutions and access to over 131,000 resources within the Research4Life partnership.

*vi. The Access to Specialized Patent Information*

21. Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI) is another public-private partnership administered by WIPO that is made possible through the cooperation of nine leading patent information providers. It allows free or low-cost access to sophisticated tools and services for retrieving and analyzing patent data for eligible developing countries and territories. Over 65 institutions are registered and active users of the ASPI program.

*vii. The Inventor Assistance Program*

22. The Inventor Assistance Program (IAP) empowers under-resourced inventors to transform their ideas into assets. Inventors receive support in navigating the patent procurement process in their own country and selected jurisdictions with assistance from an experienced patent professional. The Program also helps inventors to obtain patents in their own country and selected jurisdictions; as securing a patent facilitates the scale-up of innovation either by the inventors themselves or through collaboration. Through IAP, WIPO thus helps to foster innovation (SDG 9) and reduce inequalities (SDG 10), while also contributing to a sustained and inclusive economic growth and decent work for all (SDG 8). In 2020, IAP grew by 70 per cent for the third consecutive year and added an additional participating country. During the same period, the program introduced digital infrastructure that enabled continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic, improved the transparency of program operations and lowered the bar to entry for future participating countries. Targeted capacity-building, in the form of virtual interactions that leveraged IAP volunteers and sponsors, also contributed to the continued expansion and increased impact of IAP. These events allowed for a direct and focused engagement with the technical areas for improvement identified by existing and potential beneficiaries from each participating country.

*viii. WIPO Match*

23. Being a South-South and Triangular Cooperation facilitator, in 2020 the WIPO Match platform continued to contribute to the attainment of the SDGs. The three following examples initiated by the WIPO Match platform are good illustrations of how WIPO Match can play an

important role in matching and empowering relevant IP stakeholders to realize concrete projects, and how it can be an impartial technology broker advocating and sponsoring open global technology innovation collaborations and partnerships (SDGs 9 and 17).

- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Directorate General of Intellectual Property (DGIP) Indonesia and twenty member states of ARIPO for the provision of a customized software for ARIPO to facilitate the registration of copyright and works involving genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore;
- Building an emergency COVID-19 ventilator prototype used to minimize the influx of patients in hospital intensive care units in the case of a pandemic outbreak. With SEAT Spain, VW Mexico, 4D-Life Group Spain and all WIPO Match supporters, a ventilator was successfully built and designed for REDOTTEC Mexico. A first batch of 50 devices was manufactured at the VW plant in Puebla, Mexico, and the manufacturing lines are prepared to reproduce up to 5,000 more devices (SDGs 3, 9 and 17);
- Swiss start-up MAGMA Learning developed an eLearning application customized for ARIPO with artificial intelligence-powered training for ARIPO patent examiners (SDGs 4, 9 and 17).

24. WIPO's services enable users of the IP system – individual inventors and businesses – to protect their assets in global markets. WIPO's filing and registration services make it easier for inventors, researchers and businesses to protect their IP assets in multiple countries.

## V. Patents and Technology

25. The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) helps applicants to seek patent protection for an invention simultaneously in a large number of countries by filing a single “international” patent application instead of filing several separate national or regional patent applications. In so doing, the PCT supports the international dissemination of the technical information relating to innovations via a freely accessible repository.

26. As the Organization responsible for administering the PCT, WIPO provides a wide range of services to this end including: receiving and storing all PCT application documents; providing assistance to patent offices in the efficient and fully-informed processing of patent applications; translating various portions of PCT applications; and publishing data on applications, thereby providing the public with an invaluable resource of information on inventions and innovation. WIPO's role in disseminating such technical information relating to patents and in providing technical assistance to developing countries in the development of their patent systems is therefore aligned with the implementation of SDG 9, in particular in regard to supporting and fostering innovation.

27. WIPO's PATENTSCOPE database<sup>2</sup> is the primary mechanism through which WIPO carries out this technical information dissemination function. In 2020, between 2,664 and 8,606 new PCT applications (containing the disclosure of the invention) became available on PATENTSCOPE every week. The availability of the database on the Internet free of charge facilitates increased access to patent information, in particular, and contributes to the implementation of SDG 9 (specifically target 9.c)

28. As regards the PCT's technical assistance objective, WIPO continues its work to assist all nations, in particular developing countries and LDCs, in leveraging the IP system for economic, social and cultural development. Technical assistance programs provided by WIPO include PCT-specific activities, such as training for office staff in PCT-related matters, user seminars and assistance in adapting national legislation to PCT requirements. In 2020, the International Bureau

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<sup>2</sup> [Patentscope Search](#)

of WIPO organized or participated in 69 PCT-related events for the benefit of developing countries and LDCs, such as online PCT seminars and workshops mainly for office staff, potential users of the system and other stakeholders. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting travel restrictions, nearly all events were delivered remotely, either by WIPO headquarters, WIPO external offices or PCT member state offices using different platforms, and were attended by nearly 5,000 participants from 84 countries. While the substantive content of these PCT-related technical assistance activities remained similar to in-person events, their delivery was adapted to a new mode of virtual participation. Without the need to travel and secure a venue, many events attracted more participants from a wider range of locations, thereby expanding the scope of the PCT's contribution to SDG 9. At the same time, challenges in the remote delivery of training on PCT information technology (IT) tools and services had to be addressed, in particular in developing countries and LDCs, owing to technical constraints. Further detailed information on the coordination of technical assistance under the PCT can be found in the document presented to the 2020 PCT Working Group entitled "Coordination of Technical Assistance under the PCT".<sup>3</sup> Depending on the needs and situation of the beneficiary countries, these activities were aimed not only at officials of IP offices (related to SDG 9.b), but also at researchers (SDG 9.5), micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) (SDG 9.3) and educators.

29. Furthermore, WIPO continues to offer discounts amounting to 90 percent of the international filing fee and certain other International Bureau fees for international applications filed by natural persons from developing countries and all applicants from LDCs (SDG 9.3).

30. The PCT provides a number of services for the purpose of preparing, filing and managing PCT international applications electronically, thereby contributing indirectly to SDG 9 and SDG 10. The ePCT is WIPO's online portal for filing and managing PCT applications. It takes the form of a browser-based service and is a highly stable production environment for applicants and offices, offering a very wide range of validations based on the latest reference data available to the International Bureau. This facilitates the filing of PCT applications, especially for applicants from developing countries and small offices that, unlike larger offices, cannot afford to install their own electronic filing systems. In 2020, the following national or regional offices gained access to ePCT services: El Salvador, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Zambia and ARIPO. By the end of 2020, ePCT-filing was being offered by 71 receiving offices and filed documents can be uploaded through ePCT to 84 offices in their role as either receiving office or International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority. A total of 95 offices now have access to ePCT office services in their role as receiving office, International Searching Authority or designated office, with 76 of these offices using the browser-based ePCT office services as their main tool for processing international applications as receiving offices. The eSearchCopy service is now in use in 342 out of the 343 total possible pairs of receiving offices and International Searching Authorities where those roles are not played by the same office.

31. Improving the skills of those filing patent applications is indispensable in supporting local innovators to actively participate in and benefit from the patent system and protecting local innovation. The WIPO International Patent Drafting Training Program thus contributes to SDGs 9 and 10 through the provision of interactive and skill-based training that contains many practical drafting exercises. In 2020, even during the pandemic, tailor-made virtual patent drafting training sessions with progressive and flexible modules were organized in cooperation with the interested Member States. Adapting to the needs of beneficiary countries, the training was addressed to the staff of institutions dealing with technology and innovation support, technology transfer offices of universities, government agencies involved in providing technology development assistance, and patent agents and patent agent candidates.

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<sup>3</sup> Document PCT/WG/13/7 REV lists all the activities delivered and planned as at September 21, 2020. Available at: [Coordination of Technical Assistance under the PCT](#)

32. The Standing Committee on the Law of Patents serves as a forum for discussing issues, facilitating coordination and providing guidance on the progressive international development of patent law. The Committee not only produced a number of documents and studies relating to various aspects of patent law, including policy considerations and practical implementation of laws, but also held a number of sharing sessions during which Member States shared information on their respective laws and practices, as well as their experiences in implementing the laws. In 2020, such sharing sessions were held with respect to the patentability issues relating to artificial intelligence, challenges and opportunities surrounding patent licensing provisions in healthcare technologies, and patent law provisions and practices that had contributed to effective transfer of technology. These various methods used in the Committee contribute to reducing the information asymmetry among WIPO Member States in the area of complex patent law. They also contribute to informed decision-making by WIPO Member States in formulating their national patent policy, law and practices, thus addressing SDGs 9 and 10. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee was held in a hybrid format in 2020. While this posed challenges for the Committee in terms of its deliberations, the number of participants in the session was slightly higher in 2020 compared to previous years.

33. The Arbitration and Mediation Center (WIPO Center) continues to be an important element of the global IP services provided by WIPO in promoting a balanced and effective international IP system and thereby advancing the contribution of WIPO to the implementation of SDGs 9 and 17. Through a range of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) options – notably mediation and arbitration, as well as domain name dispute resolution – the WIPO Center facilitates the time and cost-effective resolution of disputes concerning innovation and technology between private parties. ADR can empower parties by enhancing their control over the dispute resolution process. Its consensual nature often results in a less adversarial experience, allowing parties to begin, continue or enhance profitable business relationships. ADR procedures can also help to unburden national IP offices and other IP authorities, including national court systems. In offering these benefits, ADR contributes to the optimal development and commercialization of IP assets in the economy, thus fostering the innovation and creativity necessary for supporting the implementation of SDGs 9 and 17.

34. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 the WIPO Center increased its offering of online seminars and training activities on ADR and online tools to facilitate the conduct of WIPO ADR proceedings. The WIPO Center strengthened its efforts to contribute to SDG implementation through a number of activities, including, inter alia, training events for industry, legal, academic and other IP stakeholders, as well as publications and freely available online resources on ADR options. In response to increasing demand, the WIPO Center focused on the development of best ADR practices for the resolution of disputes related to creative and innovation processes in the digital environment. Despite the challenges it faced in 2020, the WIPO Center saw an increase in the number of ADR cases that it administered: 77 mediation, arbitration and expert determination cases, in addition to 105 requests for good offices, were filed with the WIPO Center, involving parties from 45 countries; and 4,204 domain name cases were filed with the WIPO Center, involving parties from 128 countries and covering 7,257 domain names.

## VI. Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications

35. Under Program 2, the Department for Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications of WIPO is responsible for the following activities, inter alia, which contribute to the SDGs:

- Facilitate discussions aimed at enhancing cooperation among Member States to develop a balanced international normative framework for agreed topical subjects regarding trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications. This activity also promotes an exchange of information and experiences regarding office practices, with a view to

increasing transparency within the practical functioning of the international IP system and fostering, where possible, enhanced consistency at the practical level. The activity contributes in particular to SDGs 9, 10, 16 and 17;

- Continue broadening the geographical coverage of the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks, to further the simplification of trademark registration procedures worldwide. The activity supports SDGs 9, 10 and 16 in particular;
- Provide balanced, demand-driven, country-specific policy and legislative advice to Member States, in particular developing countries and LDCs. This activity contributes in particular to SDGs 8, 9, 10 and 16;
- Organize and participate in technical assistance and capacity-building activities for relevant authorities and stakeholders, in particular in developing countries, LDCs and economies in transition, in the fields of trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications, thus enhancing the human resource capacities able to deal with the broad range of requirements for the effective use of IP. This activity contributes in particular to SDGs 4, 5, 9 and 10;
- Manage the CDIP project on “Intellectual Property and Gastronomic Tourism in Peru and other Developing Countries: Promoting the Development of Gastronomic Tourism through Intellectual Property”. The project is being implemented in Cameroon, Malaysia, Morocco and Peru. The project seeks to promote the knowledge and use of IP related to culinary traditions (food and beverages) for use in the tourism sector. It contributes in particular to SDGs 4, 8, 9, 10 and 16.

36. Upon request, WIPO provides policy and legislative advice to Member States in the fields of trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications, in particular to developing countries, LDCs and countries in transition. In 2020, the Department provided 14 pieces of policy and legislative advice to 10 countries from five different geographical regions.

37. In line with SDG 3 and SDG 17, WIPO continued its cooperation with WHO on International Nonproprietary Names for Pharmaceutical Substances (INNs). Following the conclusion, in 2018, of a MoU enabling the exchange of information contained in the WHO INN Global Data Hub and the WIPO Global Brand Database (GBD), the two organizations pursued their liaison to provide Member States with up-to-date information on newly proposed and recommended INN names. The replacement of previous paper circulars and hard carriers (CD-ROMs) for electronic communications further contributes to SDG 13.

38. Trademark examiners in WIPO Member States may now search the GBD for INN names in an accessible format and by using different filters that facilitate the textual comparison between INNs and verbal marks. With the help of this new tool, they will be able to fulfill the public interest in keeping these names free and available for use by pharmacists and medical practitioners around the world, thus preventing medication errors.

39. At the other end, information on existing trademarks that have been properly granted for use on pharmaceutical products is key in avoiding counterfeiting in an area crucial to global health and well-being. National pharmacopeia commissions and experts in the naming of pharmaceuticals can also use the trademark data in the GBD to avoid proposing or recommending new INN names that may cause confusion with existing trademarks, therefore contributing to enhanced pharmacovigilance and more reliable medicines. In response to the sanitary emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, a special edition, containing 25 proposed INN names, was published on the WIPO GBD as List No. 124, on November 2, 2020. These names will be used on compounds of future vaccines and medicines to treat patients infected with COVID-19.

40. WIPO provides legislative advice to prospective and current parties to the Singapore Treaty, upon request, by advising them on the compatibility of their legislation with the Treaty,

drafting implementing provisions or explaining the context and application of this international standard. By using neutral language when formulating the advice, WIPO endeavors to eliminate the long-standing gender bias in legal texts, therefore reinforcing SDG 5. Under the Resolution by the Diplomatic Conference supplementary to the Singapore Treaty, WIPO shares, on a multilateral basis, information and experience on legal, technical and institutional aspects regarding the implementation of the Treaty and how to take full advantage of the opportunities and benefits resulting from it. During 2020, WIPO provided this type of assistance to Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Uruguay. Such activities support SDGs 4 and 16.

*i. The Madrid Registry*

41. Under the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks, a single international trademark registration can have effect in as many as 123 countries covered by the 107 members of the system. The countries represent all continents, including developed countries, developing countries and LDCs.<sup>4</sup> The Madrid System facilitates and widens access to international trademark protection, which contributes to the goal of promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable development by promoting development-oriented policies that support productive activities (SDG 8, target 8.2). Trademark protection is essential for preserving and capitalizing on the most identifiable feature of brand equity and value. Enterprises of all sizes seeking to position their products or services in international markets stand to benefit from the simple and cost-effective procedure for international trademark protection offered by the Madrid System.

42. Throughout the year, the Madrid Registry carries out promotional activities (seminars, workshops and training on the Madrid System) with Madrid System members, many of which are developing countries. The Madrid Legal Division has offered legal assistance to the following countries as part of their preparations for an accession to – or the later implementation of – the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks: Bangladesh, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Fiji, Kiribati, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu and the United Arab Emirates. This advice ranges from commenting on their legislation and its compatibility with the Madrid Protocol, to drafting provisions for their legislation, clarifying and explaining parts of the legal framework and answering legal and operational questions.

43. The Madrid Registry has offered technical assistance to a number of IP offices with electronic communication in the Madrid System. This assistance has involved providing these offices with access to the Madrid Office Portal tool and helping them to receive and communicate notifications under the Madrid System. In 2020, 25 more IP offices were granted access to the Madrid Office Portal, adding to the 73 original users. Assistance was delivered to: Armenia, Bahrain, Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Curaçao, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Korea, Egypt, Gambia, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Monaco, Namibia, Oman, Samoa, São Tomé and Príncipe, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

44. The Madrid Registry has undertaken a number of activities in 2020, to assist developing countries and LDCs. Some activities were physical while most involved virtual means owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. The activities concerned organizing seminars, training staff at the country level, inviting examiners from IP offices for virtual training and offering technical and legal assistance to offices for preparations for acceding to or implementing the Madrid Protocol. Beyond IP offices, webinars, videos and other communication tools have also been developed

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<sup>4</sup> [Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks](#)

to address the needs of a broad range of IP stakeholders, in particular trademark users and IP attorneys.

*ii. The Hague Registry*

45. Under the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs, a single international application may contain up to 100 industrial designs and have effect in as many as 91 countries covered by the 74 members of the Hague System. The countries represent all continents, as well as developed countries, developing countries and LDCs.<sup>5</sup> The Hague System facilitates and widens access to international design protection, which contributes to the goal of promoting inclusive and sustainable development by promoting development-oriented policies that support productive activities, in particular, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation (SDGs 8 and 9).

46. The Hague System is expanding its geographical scope. Since 2019, the following countries have acceded to the Geneva Act (1999) of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Deposit of Industrial Designs: Israel, Mexico, Samoa, Suriname and Viet Nam. The Hague Registry is currently assisting more than 20 countries with their preparations for a future accession to the 1999 Act of the Hague Agreement, including several developing countries and LDCs.

47. One of the implementation strategies of the Hague Registry is to constantly strive to enhance the user-friendliness of the Hague System by further developing guidance materials for applicants that take into account the impact of the expansion of the System, as well as enhancing user and customer experiences through responsive customer support services. The Hague System website<sup>6</sup> contains online solutions, such as platforms and tools, to support design owners during the international registration cycle, databases to facilitate access to information on registered designs and on the Hague System members, as well as educational resources tailored to assist design owners throughout the life cycle of an international registration. Many of the Hague System online solutions are also integrated in to the WIPO IP Portal, which is a one-stop shop for a full range of WIPO's online IP services.<sup>7</sup> Since March 2020, the Hague System notifications have been distributed to Hague customers by e-mail only and the use of paper-based communications has been discontinued.

48. Throughout the year, the Hague Registry carries out promotional activities (seminars, workshops and training on the Hague System) with Hague System members, many of which are developing countries, and speakers from the Hague Registry are regularly invited to events organized by private sector, partner organizations or IP offices. Since March 2020, all events have taken place in a virtual or hybrid format. Webinars, seminars, videos and other information materials are available on the Hague System website.

49. At the beginning of March 2020, before the lockdown imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, a sub-regional seminar on the Hague System was organized in cooperation with the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office and CarlPI (a European Union project) in Jamaica, in which delegations participated from Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Belize joined the 1999 Act in 2018, Suriname joined in August 2020, and the internal accession procedures in Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago are at an advanced stage.

50. The Mexican Institute of Industrial Property (IMPI) organized a post-accession webinar in May 2020, which was followed online by 437 local participants and within 24 hours had been

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<sup>5</sup> [Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs](#)

<sup>6</sup> [WIPO Hague](#)

<sup>7</sup> [WIPO IP Portal](#)

viewed 5,500 times. Mexico is the first Spanish-speaking country in Latin America to accede to the Hague Agreement and it is now expected that Brazil will be the next Latin American country to join the Hague System.

51. In 2020, the Hague Registry co-organized and participated in a series of regional and country-specific interactive webinars promoting the use of the Hague System, addressed to officials from IP offices and other stakeholders, among others, in: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

52. WIPO provides legislative advice to prospective and current members of the Hague System, upon request, advising on the interoperability of their legislation and IP office procedures with the System's legal framework and procedures. In 2020, the Hague Registry offered legislative advice to the following countries as part of their preparations for accession to – or the later implementation of – the 1999 Act of the Hague Agreement: Belarus, China, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uzbekistan. Similarly, legislative advice was provided to the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO).

53. The 9<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs was convened at WIPO headquarters from December 14 to 16, 2020. At the session, it was agreed that the requirements for using force majeure reasons to excuse a delay in meeting time limits would be relaxed, and epidemics were added to the list of force majeure reasons under Rule 5 of the Common Regulations of the 1999 Act and the 1960 Act of the Hague Agreement. Furthermore, the Hague Union Assembly, which was convened in September 2020, adopted the amendments to the Common Regulations to make the indication of an e-mail address mandatory in an international application so as to allow electronic distribution of Hague notifications to all Hague customers.

54. Upon request, WIPO contributes to the organization of technical assistance and capacity-building activities in the offices of current and prospective members of the Hague System. Technical assistance may include support in building or integrating solutions for the exchange of electronic communications with the International Bureau of WIPO. Capacity-building activities may include in situ training workshops and participation in workshops at WIPO headquarters, organized in cooperation with the relevant regional Bureaus.

### *iii. The Lisbon Registry*

55. Under the Lisbon System for the International Registration and Protection of Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications, small-scale farmers, artisans, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) or even larger companies, may collectively benefit from a simplified application process with WIPO and reduced costs for protecting their appellations of origin and geographical indications in foreign markets. The international registration under the Lisbon System ensures their protection – according to the standards set in the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration and its Acts – in those members of the System that have not refused protection in their respective territory within the prescribed time limit. The protection lasts for as long as the designation is protected in the

country of origin, without any need for renewal. This means, with the entry into force of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement in February 2020, that the protection of registered appellations of origin and geographical indications may extend, for the time being, in up to 54 countries depending on the Acts to which a member (a country or a contracting party) is party. In addition, the effects of the registration will extend to new members that may join the System in the future under the same conditions. The contracting parties to the Lisbon System include LDCs, developing countries and developed countries.<sup>8</sup>

56. The Lisbon System helps producers to obtain a fair return on their continuous investment and effort, often over several generations, in building the reputation of quality products linked to origin. By securing protection internationally for appellations of origin and geographical indications, the Lisbon System contributes to the promotion of inclusive and sustainable development, productive employment and decent work for all, by achieving higher levels of economic productivity including through a focus on value added and labor-intensive sectors, as well as the promotion of local culture and local productions (contribution to SDG 8). The share of international registrations from developing countries and LDCs increased from 6.6 per cent in 2008 to 14.5 per cent in 2020. In this context, it is worth mentioning that, in 2020, Cambodia – the first contracting party that acceded to the Geneva Act –, registered the first geographical indication under the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement: Kampot Pepper. International registration with WIPO will further contribute to the international success<sup>9</sup> of this unique spice by facilitating its commercialization and preserving its authenticity in foreign markets by providing producers with the legal means to protect their products with authentic geographical indications against fraud or counterfeit products.

57. An appellation of origin or a geographical indication identifies a product that originates from a specific geographical location. The quality, reputation or characteristics of that product are essentially attributable to that geographical origin. The intrinsic characteristics of appellations of origin or geographical indications – in particular their link with a specific geographical location and their collective management – can be instrumental in achieving the SDGs. The collective quality scheme linked to appellations of origin and geographical indications can give rise to a virtuous cycle and thereby foster rural and local development, food safety, the promotion of exports and local tourism. Producers of appellations of origin and geographical indications are increasingly recognizing and paying more attention to the need to effectively manage and maintain the particular natural environment in which their products originate, which in turn defines the unique quality and characteristics of their products. As such, those IPRs can play an important role in achieving the sustainable management of natural resources and preserving traditional cultivation techniques respectful of the environment. In this context, it is worth mentioning the cases of well-established appellations of origin protected under the Lisbon System, such as Banano de Costa Rica<sup>10</sup> and Grana Padano<sup>11</sup>, which embraced “green” policies long before consumers and the public started questioning big companies and brands about the impact of their operations on the natural environment. Such environmental awareness, however, is not limited to established appellations of origin or geographical indications. Producers of goods with the potential to qualify for geographical indication protection, such as the wild fruit, Madd de Casamance<sup>12</sup>, are also working to ensure that sustainability considerations are embedded in the regulations and control mechanisms

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<sup>8</sup> [Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration](#)

<sup>9</sup> Following the national registration of the geographical indication Kampot Pepper in 2010, the product has seen a steep increase in its export sales, with about 70 per cent of the production addressed to the international market, as well as a three-fold increase in its average purchase price (at farm gate) - rising from an average of 7.5 Cambodian riel pre-registration to 22.7 Cambodian riel ten years after registration. In 2019 the value of Kampot Pepper production amounted to more than 1 million United States dollars compared with 70,000 United States dollars of production value in 2009. (Source: Department of Intellectual Property of the Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia).

<sup>10</sup> [The Banano de Costa Rica Geographical Indication](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Grana Padano's commitment to the environment](#)

<sup>12</sup> [WIPO Magazine Article](#)

governing harvesting practices and the production of derivative products, which are currently under preparation.

58. In 2020, the Lisbon Registry undertook, at the request by WIPO Member States and in line with the Program and Budget for the 2020/21 biennium, technical assistance and capacity-building activities that directly contribute to achieving the SDGs, in particular SDGs 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12 and 15. Those activities were aimed at assisting competent authorities and interested stakeholders (local communities and producers) in identifying, developing and protecting appellations of origin and geographical indications, as well as improving their overall branding and commercialization, in order to support the integration of local communities and producers in the global economy. Those activities included:

- the organization of or the participation (only virtually in 2020 in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic) in national or regional events in current and prospective members of the Lisbon System to explain the strategic use of appellations of origin and geographical indications in fostering local and sustainable development and the benefits of the Lisbon System for securing their protection internationally, as well as to promote the use of the System by local communities and producers;
- the provision of legislative advice to prospective and current Members of the Lisbon System to explain the legal framework of the Lisbon System, assess the compatibility of domestic legislation with the Lisbon Agreement (1967 Act) and/or the Geneva Act (2015 Act), and/or develop implementing regulatory provisions; and
- the organization of technical assistance and capacity-building activities for relevant authorities and interested stakeholders from current and prospective Members of the Lisbon System. Technical assistance included organizational and operational capacity programs and needs assessment activities, and capacity-building activities included assistance in the development and implementation of sustainable appellations of origin and geographical indications (e.g., the geographical indication projects on the Koh Trung Pomelo and on Kampot (Sea) Salt and Kampot Flower Salt in Cambodia or the project on the Madd de Casamance in Senegal).

59. More specifically, the following results concerning the geographical indication projects implemented with the support of FIT China can be reported:

- Since the registration of the geographical indication Koh Trung Pomelo in 2018 and the progressive implementation of quality control mechanisms, as well as of branding and commercialization strategies with WIPO's assistance, the sale price of the Koh Trung Pomelo has increased and consumer demand for the product went from being local to national, and new export markets have been found, such as Thailand.
- Regarding the geographical indication project for Madd de Casamance,<sup>13</sup> the producer's association established in 2019 to bring together all those involved in the harvest, production and distribution of Madd de Casamance, has enabled them to exchange ideas and agree on common strategies for the management of the geographical indication value chain and the incorporation of sustainable considerations regarding harvesting practices for the preservation of the environment in the regulations for the use of the geographical indication. In the case of Madd de Casamance (a wild fruit that is also a valuable source of nutrition for the community), it is also worth mentioning that the ongoing process of securing geographical indication status is not only supporting the community's environmental goals (SDG 15), but also boosting the empowerment of young people and women (SDG 5). Young people, for example, are traditionally responsible for gathering the fruit. They use their earnings to finance their studies. Women, for their part, play a key role in processing and selling the juices, syrups and preserves derived from the fruit,

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<sup>13</sup> [WIPO Magazine Article](#)

as well as in building the reputation of their products and establishing its value chain. In fact, women took the first steps towards seeking geographical indication status for Madd de Casamance. The registration of the geographical indication was expected at the end of 2020, but owing to a delay in the implementation of the project caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it will most likely take place in 2021.

## VII. Copyright Sector

### *i. Publishers Circle and related projects*

60. The Publishers Circle initiative seeks to support the publishing industry in developing countries through new forms of cooperation and joint projects with public and private partners in order to develop a viable, globally connected and effective publishing sector. By the end of 2020, the Charter of the Publishers Circle had been signed by over 100 governmental and non-governmental international and national organizations, publishers, libraries and other partners, confirming broad support for the initiative from all regions and among different stakeholders. As part of the Charter's commitment, mentorship programs continued to be implemented, involving publishers from Burundi, Cameroon, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Tanzania, which partnered with publishers in Ireland, Morocco, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom. WIPO coordinated these performance-coaching programs and maintained a dialogue aimed at developing long-term partnerships, transferring practical knowledge and raising professional standards.

61. A MoU was signed between WIPO and the African Publishers Network to better scale the project through their network and empower this association with a responsibility to identify the beneficiaries and follow-up the mentorship activities in close cooperation with WIPO. The successful mentorship pilot programs organized by WIPO in 2019 and at the beginning of 2020 will serve as the first success stories for the future. During the pandemic in 2020, activities continued, especially in Asia, where an online mentorship program took place with the support of FIT Korea. A gap analysis has been launched with regard to the use of identifiers in the publishing industry in order to help publishers in the developing world to engage better with the digital market. These Publishers Circle activities contribute directly to the achievement of SDGs 4 and 17 through the reinforcement of the copyright framework as a solid basis for publishers and authors.

### *ii. The Accessible Books Consortium*

62. The three main activities of ABC are described below:

63. Capacity-building: ABC provides training and technical assistance in the latest production techniques for accessible books, as well as funding to produce accessible books to NGOs, departments of education and publishers in developing and least developed countries (LDCs). As of December 2020, over 13,700 accessible educational books have been produced in national languages in 17 countries through funding provided by ABC since the launch of its capacity-building activities. Within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing travel restrictions, capacity-building partners will be offered online training rather than in-person training. WIPO contracted with the DAISY Consortium to develop the ABC online course in accessible book production in English, French and Spanish. The English-language version of the course was completed in December 2020, with participants starting to register at the end of the year. Over 95 participants from partner NGOs will have taken the ABC online course by the first quarter of 2021. The skills and techniques acquired in the course will be immediately put into practice by the trainees to produce educational books in accessible formats. In 2020, following a worldwide call for proposals for capacity-building projects, ABC received 44 applications from 33 countries. The ABC secretariat worked with finalists during 2020 to develop comprehensive work plans for each partner organization. Six capacity-building projects have been implemented as of 2020 and 11 additional projects will commence in 2021. Through

the online training and funding provided by ABC to these 17 new projects in 2020-2021, ABC estimates that over 5,300 additional educational titles in both Braille and audio formats in national languages will be produced by ABC partners in developing countries and LDCs. ABC capacity-building supports the following SDGs:

- SDG 4, as it facilitates the production of accessible educational works;
- SDG 10, specifically target 10.2 (“empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status”), as it empowers individuals with visual disabilities;
- SDG 11, specifically target 11.4 (“Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage”), as the decentralized production of accessible materials allows regional partners to create accessible versions of works that have particular importance to their cultural heritage; and
- SDG 17, as ABC capacity-building activities offer financial and technical support to regional partners while also strengthening cooperation between partners worldwide.

64. **ABC Global Book Service:** The ABC Global Book Service is a global online catalogue of books in accessible formats that provides participating libraries for the blind, known as authorized entities as defined in the Marrakesh Treaty, with the ability to search, order and exchange accessible books across borders. To date, 93 authorized entities have signed an agreement with WIPO to participate in the Service, of which 41 per cent are located in developing countries or LDCs. As of December 2020, more than 590,000 titles contained in the ABC catalogue were available for cross-border exchange under the provisions of the Marrakesh Treaty. The main ABC application is a library-to-library service made available free-of-charge to authorized entities that have joined the Service. ABC has now developed a beneficiary application as a complement to its library application, which is also free. The beneficiary application is made available to member-authorized entities as a tool that they can provide to persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. It will give the patrons of participating authorized entities the ability to query and immediately download accessible format copies of titles in the ABC catalogue. Member-authorized entities will need to certify that the persons using the ABC beneficiary application are persons who are considered print disabled under the definition in the Marrakesh Treaty. A staged approach to releasing this beneficiary application has begun with an initial number of authorized entities that have indicated their interest in offering the beneficiary application to their patrons. This beneficiary application could be a game changer for beneficiaries resident in developing countries or LDCs that have ratified and implemented the provisions of the Marrakesh Treaty. The ABC Global Book Service supports the same SDGs as our capacity-building activities: SDGs 4; 10 (specifically target 10.2); 11 (specifically target 11.4) and 17.

65. **Accessible Publishing:** ABC promotes the production of “born accessible” works by publishers, that is, books that are usable from the start by both sighted persons and the print disabled. Publishers and publisher associations around the world are invited to sign the ABC Charter for Accessible Publishing, which contains eight high-level aspirational principles relating to digital publications in accessible formats. As of the end of 2020, 106 publishers have signed the charter. ABC’s work promoting accessible publishing aims to eliminate barriers to all published works including educational materials, thereby supporting SDGs 4, 10 and 17.

*iii. Development Agenda project on enhancing the use of intellectual property in the software sector in developing countries”*

66. The project aims at enhancing the use of IP in the software sector to support economic growth (SDG 8) in three beneficiary countries – Kenya, the Philippines and Trinidad and Tobago – by providing tools that could also be used in other countries. Through its activities and deliverables, the project contributes to building knowledge and expertise on when and how to use various IP tools in support of developing and commercializing mobile applications. The

project creates linkages among beneficiary countries and within each country between IP offices, information and communication technology (ICT) hubs, research institutions and industry. In 2020, WIPO finalized two tools: on alternative dispute resolutions for mobile application disputes and on IP contracts for mobile application developers. A website was launched on which educational material is offered. One physical workshop was held in Kenya in January and several online activities were held in the course of 2020. The project also supports SDG 9.

#### *iv. Copyright Management*

67. Under the mandate of the Copyright Management Division, the active implementation of the DA is a priority and one of the components of the technical assistance that the Division delivers to developing countries and LDCs to help them to achieve the SDGs. For that reason, the Division continues to work with governments, collective management organizations (CMOs), international federations and other stakeholders to establish and strengthen CMOs that function effectively and efficiently, and enable a positive environment for advancing the SDGs. Against this background, the Division conducted a project related to the collective management of reprography and private copying in Benin in 2019, lasting until the end of 2020, together with the Beninese Copyright Office (BUBEDRA) under the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports, and the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organizations. The project continued in 2020, with CMOs from Algeria, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, Senegal and Tunisia as additional beneficiaries. A similar project, with the Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO) began in 2020 and will continue in 2021. The aim of these projects is to implement functioning and viable collective management systems to facilitate access to educational materials while sustaining a viable national text and image-based publishing industry by giving compensation to authors and publishers for the use of their works. The projects support SDGs 4 and 17.

68. The delegations of Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates tabled a project proposal on the creative economy in the CDIP. At their request, the WIPO Secretariat is working with these delegations to develop further the project proposal and its approval by the Committee. WIPO Connect is becoming a very attractive tool for Member States wishing to modernize the functioning of their CMOs to suit the digital environment. WIPO Connect is an integrated system, with a local module and a central module, facilitating copyright and related rights management. WIPO Connect is succeeding WIPOCOS, which has become outdated from both a technical and functional perspective. Since the transfer in August 2019 of the responsibility for both WIPO Connect and WIPOCOS from the Global Infrastructure Sector/Intellectual Property Office Business Solutions Division to the Copyright Management Division, the implementation of WIPO Connect has been intensified. The Division continues to assist CMOs using WIPOCOS, but its goal is to migrate all of them to WIPO Connect as soon as possible. Despite the health crisis, the implementation continued on a remote basis. WIPO Connect was installed for about 20 CMOs. Some royalties for related rights and copyright were distributed during the pandemic using WIPO Connect modules. This was very well received by music creators and performers, who were significantly affected by the crisis.

69. During the first quarter of 2020, WIPO finalized an agreement with the Swiss CMO SUISA, and, during summer 2020, another agreement with the International Confederation of Societies of Composers and Authors (CISAC). These agreements will give WIPO Connect beneficiary CMOs direct access to the Interested Party Information database for assigning and listing identifiers for music authors and publishers. They will also allow a connection with the CISNet, so that they may assign International Standard Work Codes to musical works and upload their repertoires to CISNet, thus enabling CMOs in other countries to identify and remunerate their rights holders. The waiting list for installation of WIPO Connect is growing and the challenge for 2021 will be to be able to respond to such a great demand.

v. *Copyright Development*

70. The technical assistance and capacity-building activities of the Copyright Development Division provided to developing countries and LDCs continued to be guided by the DA and the achievement of the SDGs in those countries. These activities were further streamlined during 2020, while social distancing and quarantine measures imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented challenges and trials to the world. The pandemic, which has affected all creative industries around the world, has an even more dramatic impact in developing countries and LDCs faced with the digital divide that hampered any effort for cultural activities to be moved online, as well as a lack of public subsidies to mitigate the drop in revenue for local creators. The operations and functions of national copyright administrations have, at the same time, also encountered extraordinary demands and challenges.

71. Consequently, the technical assistance and capacity-building activities delivered by the Division were adjusted to meet the new reality by reinforcing cooperation and sharing knowledge and experiences through digital interactions and platforms, as well as by, inter alia, developing innovative tools and mentoring programs. This enabled the continuity and even expansion of services in some countries. In addition, special efforts were made to engage more actively with government agencies and related stakeholders in the creative ecosystem in order to continue developing human resources, building institutions and updating knowledge fundamental to the establishment and enhancement of the infrastructure needed for a robust copyright system both during and after the pandemic. A solid copyright system will support and contribute to the achievement of cultural, social and economic objectives in line with the SDGs by 2030.

72. Through enhanced coordination and cooperation with other Divisions and External Offices, technical assistance provided by the Copyright Development Division reached 56 developing countries and LDCs with 1,900 participants from government agencies and creative industries on various topical issues of particular relevance and interest to these parties. Some of the programs and projects are highlighted as follows:

- a. Developing and tailoring technical assistance activities to assist national copyright offices in performing their functions and delivering services to stakeholders in response to the challenges of the pandemic:
  - Sub-regional and national meetings for heads and other senior officials of national copyright offices to provide information and guidance on how to advance the copyright agenda at the national level during the pandemic, as well as to share experiences between countries on adjusting the operations and services of copyright offices, in order to respond to the new challenges;
  - Sub-regional meeting on enhancing the policy formulation capacities of copyright offices in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea to share information on and best practices in addressing changes and needs in the field of copyright and related rights;
  - In-house training programs for the heads and staff of copyright offices. These included newly established and restructured offices in Africa with hands-on training on the operations and functions of copyright offices, as well as experience and options for supporting creative industries and CMOs;
  - Tools and information materials to enhance understanding of copyright and related rights and their roles in promoting and protecting creativity. A modern version of a public service announcement was developed in cooperation with the Government of Guatemala. The project served as an advertising strategy to influence society on a range of fronts: encouraging creativity in various forms and expressions; boosting respect for copyright and related rights; making the benefits and advantages of copyright known to the public;

and strengthening public-private partnerships with the various stakeholders of copyright and related rights.

- b. Exploring innovative approaches to support creators and creative industries within and among countries, including enhancement of South-South cooperation:
- Specialized webinars for developing countries and LDCs in different regions of the world, with the objective of sharing information and know-how on the promotion and protection of creators and creative industries. These included webinars on videogames aimed at enhancing the knowledge and practical skills of the emerging and strategic creative industry in Ecuador and Peru. The webinars highlighted business and legal issues relevant to videogame developers and creative hubs, and how to extract the benefits from the copyright system, as well as international market trends and practices;
  - Practical training programs focusing on the music business (promoting and selling music during and after the pandemic) in cooperation with the copyright offices of Botswana and Zambia. The training programs and the coaching that followed were intended to provide musicians and performers with practical tips and skills on how to better monetize and add value to their content both in the local and international markets and in the digital environment during and after the pandemic;
  - Special workshop on the protection of copyright and related rights in cooperation with the Japan Copyright Office, Agency for Cultural Affairs of the Government of Japan for ASEAN countries. The event focused on sharing information and best practices to promote and protect copyright and related rights in the digital environment, at the levels of both policy and practice.
- c. Encouraging and supporting implementation of the relevant SDGs as part of the national copyright development policies and strategies, with regard to the achievement of SDGs 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10:
- Webinar on copyright and creativity to empower creative women in cooperation with the National Directorate of Intellectual Property (DIGEPIH) of Honduras in support of the implementation of the "Ciudad Mujer" (Women's City) project, launched by the Presidency of Honduras with the aim of providing women with support to develop their capacities (SDG 5). The digital conversation was to motivate and inspire creative women in Honduras and to provide them with knowledge on how to use copyright to start, develop and extract benefits from their creative endeavors. It also promoted a conversation to highlight the important role of women in the field of art and other cultural and creative sectors;
  - Seminar focusing on copyright and related rights issues that were of particular relevance and interest to research and development institutions for the National Agency for the Promotion of Research Results and Technological Development (ANVREDET) of Algeria jointly with the relevant government agencies;
  - Various technical assistance was provided to the Government of Cambodia in its efforts to build a modern copyright system in the country, including by promoting and supporting the newly established collective society for the protection and management of the copyright and related rights of creators and other related stakeholders in the music industry;
  - Taking into account the challenges faced by copyright offices of developing countries and LDCs, priority was given, through FIT arrangements between WIPO and the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea, to supporting the translation of information materials, toolkits and international treaties into local languages. These information materials will be used for awareness-raising and education programs and will contribute to improved understanding of copyright and related rights and their roles in sustainable cultural and economic development among creators, related stakeholders and the public.

*vi. Copyright Law Division*

a. Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights: limitations and exceptions

73. As part of the activities focused on SDG 4 and SDG 17, the WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights proceeded with the next steps on the topic of limitations and exceptions for libraries, archives, museums and educational and research institutions. This included the preparation of a report by the Secretariat following three regional seminars and an international conference held in 2019, in which specific issues related to education, including online distance education, were addressed. Through this process, a number of Member States and stakeholders recognized the need for provisions and mechanisms on limitations and exceptions to be integrated into their legislation and regulations in order to ensure a balanced copyright system that allows access to educational materials while providing the necessary conditions to trigger the development and progress of creative industries in those countries. A full range of mechanisms were identified, including agreements between stakeholders in the value chain and interested parties. In the publishing sector, for example, roundtables and discussions among copyright offices, CMOs, universities, research centers, libraries and perhaps other government ministries concerned, such as ministries of education, could provide opportunities to arrive at mutually beneficial arrangements. The key is to follow a holistic approach in order to achieve a balanced system.

b. Internet Governance Forum

74. The Division was involved in coordinating WIPO's engagement during the 15<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF 2020), held online under the overarching theme of "Internet for human resilience and solidarity" (see Section B below).

VIII. Development Sector

75. The development sector continued to provide support for Member States, in particular developing countries and LDCs, through a number of activities aimed at promoting innovation, creativity and the effective use of the IP system for their economic, technological, social and cultural development. The implementation of DA projects continued during 2020, delivering a set of outputs that could be used by Member States for their sustainable development. Among them, the Development Agenda Coordination Division is managing the DA project on "Registration of Collective Marks as a Cross-Cutting Economic Development Issue", which is being implemented in four beneficiary countries: Bolivia, Brazil, the Philippines and Tunisia. The project aims at building capacity and raising awareness about the potential benefits of the registration and use of collective marks among SMEs and local businesses in developing countries, as well as empowering local and national institutions to support businesses in this area. This project, hence, indirectly contributes to SDGs 8, 9, 10 and 16.

*i. National Intellectual Property Strategies*

76. The Methodology and Tools for the Development of National IP Strategies (NIPS) is a key WIPO instrument for supporting national initiatives in developing and implementing national and sectoral policies to foster innovation, creativity and competitiveness through the use of the IP system. In 2020, the NIPS Methodology was fully revised. It has SDG 9 at its core. The Methodology is designed to help countries to develop and strengthen their national and regional IP institutions, infrastructure and resources, enabling them to use the IP system to achieve the desired level of economic, social, cultural and technological development. A new implementation tool with best practices for the efficient navigation of this essential phase of the process was developed, leading to a higher level of efficiency in attaining SDG 9. In addition, the revised Methodology covers the main economic sectors, institutions and clusters that are most likely to influence a country's economic, social, cultural and technological development

and that may be affected by the IP system. From this perspective, the Methodology also contributes to the attainment of other SDGs; for example, SDGs 2, (target 2.3), 3, 4, 8 (target 8.9), 9 and 15.

*ii. Division for Least-Developed Countries*

77. In 2020, the Division for Least-Developed Countries continued implementation of the Program on the Transfer of Appropriate Technology to LDCs, which is designed to support LDCs in the identification, management, administration and utilization of technical, scientific and patent information, with a view to building their institutional and national capacity on appropriate technology for development. The Program is currently being implemented in three LDCs: Mozambique, Senegal and Uganda. The Program's objectives include furthering the realization of national development objectives, including poverty alleviation and wealth generation, through the use of appropriate technology in particular at the rural community level. This links the Program to SDG 1. In addition, the methodology and implementation modalities of the Program also directly focus on building national innovation and technological capabilities and promoting the use of technology as a tool for development in LDCs, which links it directly to the implementation of SDG 9. The Program also contributes to the achievement of SDG 5 both in the context of the application of the technologies that are transferred to the beneficiary countries, which have positive gender-related effects, and in terms of encouraging gender equitable participation in the national institutions established by the Program, such as National Expert Groups. The Program also involves partnerships and the participation of a range of players, from individuals to private and public institutions, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which is relevant to SDG 17.

78. In Mozambique, two areas with particular development needs were identified and two patent search requests were prepared for the following two areas:

- Design and production of anaerobic digesters for conversion of waste into biogas and biofertilizers for smallholder farmers in Mozambique;
- Development of a fish incubator adapted for the production of high quality "tilapia fry" and "fingerlings" to support small and medium-scale farmers in Mozambique.

79. Capacity-building in the use and search of patent and scientific information for the identification of appropriate technologies in two areas was undertaken through virtual means on June 18, 2020 and August 17, 2020. These sessions thereafter facilitated the completion of patent search reports for the two development need areas. The application of anaerobic digesters for the conversion of waste into biogas and biofertilizers at the community level by farmers will have implications on environmental sustainability (SDG 15), food security (SDG 2), rural incomes and employment (SDG 8). Fish incubator technology will have implications for food security and rural development (SDG 2) with a long-term impact on decent work and economic growth (SDG 8).

80. In Senegal, the development needs assessment process has been completed and the following two areas have been identified as requiring appropriate technologies:

- Drying of onions and mangoes;
- Value addition of agri-food waste through oil conversion.

81. Two patent search requests and patent search reports have also been prepared for the two areas of need. The technology identified for the drying of onions and mangoes will have positive implications on agriculture and food security (SDG 2), employment creation and economic growth (SDG 8), including through strengthening the export potential of these food products.

82. The implementation of the Program is also ongoing in Uganda where two development needs areas have been identified: rainwater harvesting and treatment; and environmentally friendly brick stabilization. Patent search reports for the two areas are being finalized. A virtual activity on the use of patent information for technological capacity-building was held on October 16, 2020.

83. The Division is continuing to undertake a number of initiatives towards the creation of a center of excellence on the use of appropriate technology, including the documentation of success stories and the preparation of tools to facilitate the implementation of the project on the use of appropriate technology for development, as well as capacity-building for national science and technology institutions.

#### *iii. Activities in the Area of Gender Equality*

84. The Division for Least-Developed Countries has also undertaken a number of activities in relation to the achievement of SDG 5, and the promotion of gender equality through the use of IP tools in LDCs is a priority area of work. IP and gender equality is a stand-alone substantive program topic in the WIPO-PRV-Sida Advanced International Training Program on Intellectual Property for LDCs, organized by WIPO in cooperation with the Swedish IP Office (PRV) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Participants are also encouraged to include gender equality considerations during project implementation. As part of a national project emanating from this Training Program, the Division virtually participated in two seminars to raise awareness of IP among women entrepreneurs in Uganda in 2020. These seminars were attended by approximately 30 women entrepreneurs who were interested in learning on how to use the IP system for value addition and business growth. The Division also initiated the preparation of an IP needs assessment exercise to ascertain the use of IP tools by women entrepreneurs in Tanzania and to identify the difficulties they faced when using the IP system. The preparation of an IP training manual in Kiswahili for use by women entrepreneurs has also begun.

#### *iv. Sectoral Studies*

85. The Division for Least-Developed Countries is also preparing two sectoral studies on crosscutting thematic issues relevant to the use of IP to promote economic growth and development in LDCs. The study on agriculture aims to examine how IP tools can be harnessed for the benefit of LDCs, including for food security, income generation, poverty alleviation, export competitiveness and overall national development. The study has links to the achievement of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 12 and 15.

### **IX. Regional Bureaus**

86. The forthcoming study on education will explore the relevance of entrepreneurial institutions of research and higher learning in LDCs, documenting the successful experiences of these types of institutions and explaining their contributions to specific development areas, including the education, agriculture, health, environment, industry and service sectors. This study has links to SDGs 1, 2, 4 and 9.

#### *i. Regional Bureau for Africa*

87. In line with the activities undertaken in previous years, in 2020 the Regional Bureau for Africa intensified its cooperation with ARIPO and the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) with the aim of promoting the use of an effective IP system for the economic, technological, cultural and social development of their respective member states through the organization of a number of activities. These activities are aimed at promoting a policy environment conducive to encouraging research and public-private partnerships between universities, R&D institutions, and industry.

88. As a follow up to the adoption by ARIPO and OAPI of the Guidelines on Developing Institutional Intellectual Property Policy by Universities and R&D Organizations in African Countries, and the organization of IP Weeks<sup>14</sup> in selected countries in 2019, the Bureau has begun developing handbooks on conducting IP audits and establishment of Technology Transfer Offices in universities and R&D institutions. This project falls under the implementation of the WIPO/ARIPO/OAPI (WAO) Agreement<sup>15</sup> and the Harare Action Plan.

89. Under the WAO Agreement, in 2020 the Bureau jointly organized a Regional Roundtable under the theme of “Contributing to a Balanced and Effective Intellectual Property (IP) System in the Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)” at WIPO headquarters in Geneva. The Roundtable drew participation from representatives of the African Union and some African regional economic communities, namely, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa; the Economic Community of the Central African States; the Economic Community of the West African States, the Southern African Development Community and the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa. This meeting was organized in view of the future launch of Phase II of the AfCFTA negotiations on IP, investment and competition policy. The objective of the Roundtable was to provide the participants with an opportunity to exchange views on the importance of protecting and exploiting IP assets to enhance competitiveness and regional and global market access. It also aimed at enabling them to, inter alia, examine the relevance of the IP system in credibility, transparency of commercial activities, on the one hand, and the promotion of healthy competition and the attraction of investment, on the other. Finally, it was also a means of exploring the establishment of a cooperation program for better integration of IP in development policies and strategies of the regional economic communities.

90. The Bureau also organized a WebEx meeting on the topic of “The Global Innovation Index (GII): Challenges and Opportunities for African Countries”. This meeting aimed to provide insights into the rankings in the 2020 Index, examine Africa’s rankings over the past decade and offer participants an opportunity to discuss possible policy ramifications for governments and policymakers in the development and improvement of existing innovation ecosystems. The meeting also served to raise awareness of the promotion of innovation and discuss measures that countries could adopt to unlock their innovation potential. Participants in the WebEx meeting included representatives of African IP offices, the African regional economic communities, innovation ministries, agencies and institutions, universities, R&D institutions and SMEs. All of these activities contribute to the implementation of SDG 9.

91. In the area of capacity-building, to mitigate the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bureau organized a series of capacity-building webinars for SMEs, universities, R&D institutions and young innovators. This activity had several objectives, such as raising awareness of IP and helping the targeted stakeholders to understand how to benefit from the IP system to promote innovation and creativity, and obtain access to knowledge and technology transfers. During the webinars, the Bureau also stressed the need for the stakeholders to commercialize their IP assets. This activity falls under SDGs 8, 9 and 10.

92. During the same period, the Bureau supported the launch of “IP and Branding Projects” in Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Madagascar and Mauritius. These projects consist of engaging

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<sup>14</sup> The “IP Week” concept is an initiative adopted by the Regional Bureau for Africa with the main objective of unlocking the potential of leading achievers in innovation from selected countries (Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda), moving them in the right direction in the effective use of IP and establishing them as benchmarks to help to ‘pull-up’ the other countries in the region. The IP Week provided an opportunity to build the capacity of two groups of national stakeholders, universities and research institutions, as well as SMEs, recognized in priority areas identified in their country’s national IP policy and strategy

<sup>15</sup> WIPO/ARIPO/OAPI (WAO) Cooperation Agreement signed in 2018

in discussions with national stakeholders to use IP tools to develop branding strategies for the commercialization of their products. These activities are in line with SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 10.

93. Furthermore, the Bureau organized several other activities in line with SDGs 1, 3, 8 and 16:

- Master's degree programs in IP, in collaboration with ARIPO and OAPI, at Africa University in Harare, Zimbabwe and University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon;
- A project to provide trainers with training and the development of training modules on IP in training schools/institutions for judges in OAPI member states in collaboration with the French National IP Institute (INPI), the National School of Magistrates (Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature) in France, the WIPO Academy and the WIPO Judicial Institute;
- The development of IP office portals<sup>16</sup> with the aim of designing a professional and dynamic website with the maximum possible self-service user support, thereby enabling work efficiency to encourage investment and contributing to economic development;
- The project to harmonize the OAPI and ARIPO systems is aimed at exploring the feasibility of harmonizing the granting or registration systems of industrial property titles between ARIPO and OAPI and proposing an effective way of achieving that harmonization in a way that satisfies users.

94. It is worth mentioning that gender-related considerations are part of the Bureau's policy when implementing its activities.

*ii. Regional Bureau for Arab Countries*

95. Various activities have been undertaken in 2020 by the Regional Bureau for Arab Countries at the national, sub-regional and regional levels, mostly contributing to the achievement of SDGs 9 and 17. National activities included:

- Three webinars on the PCT were organized in Algeria: on August 24, 2020, for the National Agency for the Valorization of Research Results and Technological Development (ANVREDET); on November 10, 2020, for start-ups; and on December 9, 2020, for the University of Constantine 3. The objectives of these webinars were to: (i) provide PCT training to the user community; (ii) demonstrate the new "look and feel" of the ePCT platform to users; (iii) promote PCT awareness and exchange best practices; and (iv) foster strategic thinking on commercialization and technology transfer among the user community.
- Expert mission: Training staff of the Bahraini industrial property office on the Madrid System (Bahrain, February 18 to 20, 2020). The purpose was to provide training as the industrial property office is small and recent staff changes made it necessary to provide staff training to ensure that the office is able to meet its obligations as a member of the Madrid System.
- Virtual expert missions to provide support for the development of the TISC network in Djibouti (June 16 to July 15, 2020) and in Mauritania (November 1 to 30, 2020). The objectives were to strengthen the innovation ecosystem and help to develop use of the industrial property system as an efficient tool for protecting innovation and monitoring technology.
- WIPO provided comments on the Iraqi IP bill to ensure its compatibility with the Madrid Protocol on January 23, 2020. WIPO also provided comments on the bill on geographical indications, industrial designs and trademarks on April 8, 2020.
- WIPO also provided comments on the traditional knowledge provisions in the Iraqi IP bill and on a document entitled "Towards Developing a National Strategy and Policy on Intellectual Property, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions", on November 30, 2020 (SDGs 9, 11 and 12).

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<sup>16</sup> Botswana, Malawi and Kenya

- Provision of legislative comments to Jordan on law No. 8 on Geographical Indications on March 12, 2020.
- Two WebEx meetings for the IP Policy for Universities project in Jordan (August 24 and November 4, 2020). The objective was to provide coaching to Jordanian universities on how to formulate/update IP policies (SDGs 4 and 9).
- Virtual study visit for Jordanian IP office (IPPD) officials and stakeholders on the PCT (Jordan, November 16 to 19, 2020). The objectives were to gain in-depth insight on the role of the receiving office/International Bureau and PCT e-services and on the use of ePCT for applications and offices.
- Webinar for IPPD patent examiners on e-learning resources (Jordan, December 15, 2020). The objectives were to explain the format of the compilation of e-learning resources and introduce various topics covered by the compilation and present selected examples.
- Signing of a new service-level agreement transferring the legal responsibility of TISCs to the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (September 23, 2020), requested by Saudi Arabia. The objective was to define responsibilities with respect to establishing and developing TISCs in Saudi Arabia.
- National workshop on the development of TISCs (Tunisia, January 27 and 28, 2020). The objectives were to re-launch TISC activities in Tunisia and promote the exchange of information/networking among national TISCs.
- Expert mission for the provision of support for the WIPO Industrial Property Administration System Office System (Tunisia, February 27 to March 4, 2020). The objective was to provide relevant support to the National Institute for Standardization and Industrial Property (INNORPI).
- Webinar on PCT for universities and research institutions on the system for the worldwide filing of patent applications (Tunisia, September 16 and 17, 2020). The objective was to promote PCT among users and INNORPI staff.

96. Sub-regional activities included:

- Virtual sub-regional meeting on the arbitration and mediation of IP disputes, requested by Morocco but also benefiting Algeria and Tunisia (June 16, 2020). The objective was to provide IP offices with an update on WIPO ADR services for the resolution of IP disputes, including the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center's collaboration with IP offices, and to explore opportunities for further ADR-related collaboration with these offices.
- Sub-regional webinar: "Bridging the Gap between National Academic Institutions and Industry to Enhance the Competitiveness of SMEs in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Countries", November 17 and 18, 2020, (requested by the GCC IP Training Center). The objective was to raise the awareness of academic institutions and SMEs of the importance of IP collaboration to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs.
- Sub-regional webinar on the Hague System for five Arab Member States (Egypt, Morocco, Oman, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia), July 21, 2020. It was aimed at clarifying issues that IP offices may face in their attempts to make better use of the Hague System. The webinar focused on the formal examination of an international application by WIPO and an overview of the various Hague online resources.
- Sub-regional virtual workshop on the Madrid System (December 1 and 2, 2020), for GCC countries (requested by Saudi Arabia). The objective was to inform IP officials of the main legal and operational features of the Madrid System, the roles of IP offices and the available technical cooperation (SDGs 9, 12 and 17).
- Virtual sub-regional meeting on PCT for selected Arab countries in cooperation with the Lebanese Ministry of the Economy and Trade (December 2 and 3, 2020). The objective was to provide PCT training to IP offices. (Beneficiary countries: Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic).

- Virtual sub-regional meeting on the Singapore Treaty for Agadir Member Countries, October 19 and 20, 2020. (Beneficiary countries: Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia). The objective was to provide relevant information/issues related to joining the Singapore Treaty with a view to promoting accession.
- Virtual sub-regional meeting on PCT for selected Arab countries, in cooperation with Egypt (October 21 and 22, 2020). The objective was to provide PCT training to IP offices. Beneficiary countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Mauritania, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Tunisia.

97. Regional activities included:

- Webinar for WIPO focal points at permanent missions on “Gender in Intellectual Property (IP): Recent Trends and Overview of Gender and IP in the Arab Region” (September 18, 2020). The objectives were fourfold: (i) placing emphasis on WIPO’s commitment to promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment in IP; (ii) updating Arab countries on recent gender-related IP trends; (iii) ensuring that promoting the participation of women in IP systems remains on the agenda of the competent authorities in the Arab region; and (iv) ensuring continuity in the activities of the Regional Bureau for Arab Countries to empower Arab women in IP (SDGs 5 and 9).

*iii. Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific Countries*

98. The Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific Countries has three initiatives contributing to the SDGs (9 and 17). These are interventions at the community level with direct stakeholder engagements:

a. Enabling environment for technology scouting and deployment

99. With a view to launching an initiative to help countries to incorporate technology scouting and deployment capabilities into their national development strategies, a virtual conference was held where experts and practitioners shared their insights on existing programs that search globally for suitable technical solutions and deploy them for specific local needs and circumstances in countries. The key message conveyed was that instead of devoting scarce time and resources to reinventing the wheel, technology scouting can help countries to bypass older technological solutions and find, adapt, adopt, learn to use and deploy solutions that have already been developed and implemented elsewhere by others. Experts explained that technologies new to the world, the country and the firm are possible variations of technology scouting depending on the priorities, R&D capacity and stage of development of the searcher. Harnessing innovative technical solutions is an essential first step but the indispensable – and frequently overlooked -- second step involves embedding these innovations in products and services of businesses and government institutions that will adapt and deploy them, not merely on a small-scale pilot basis, but on a scale commensurate with the size of the problem. More often than not, this is the more difficult challenge.

100. All technology relies on a technical ecosystem, both upstream and downstream. Someone must build that ecosystem and connect the scientists who patented the technology or the technology vendors with entrepreneurs attempting to organize financially viable enterprises that will produce and sell an affordable product. Innovators might not have the resources or inclination to search for customers in distant countries, and the customers for a particular technology might not be obvious as they could be ministries, community-based cooperatives, private sector investors or village officials. Successful technology deployment generates income, promotes inclusive growth and creates well-paying formal sector jobs. It also serves to address the current pandemic and prevent future ones. Scouting and deploying the right technology, tailored to the specific needs of regions, countries and communities contributes to transforming the economy by developing smarter, more productive and competitive industries

and services, and promoting sustainable, inclusive and affordable access to necessities such as potable drinking water, off-grid electricity, renewable energy, food security, high-quality healthcare and Internet connectivity.

b. Enabling Innovation Environment for Intellectual Property and Technology

101. The Enabling Innovation Environment for IP and Technology project helps countries to make better use of IP generated in universities and research institutions and to build local capacities to obtain valuable outcomes from research. Working at the community level and in partnership with key actors in innovation, the project also creates networked communities that can share experiences, obtain IP and collaborate in technology development. In particular, the project is focused on targeting the long-term impact of making technology transfers (occurring between technology generators and technology users) more effective by assisting in the creation and development of the skills needed by relevant institutions and individuals in IP-based technology transfers, IP management and IP commercialization.

102. A core component of the project is the remote guidance and mentoring program where technology transfer experts from all over the world assist project beneficiaries in developing their institutions' own technologies with a view to commercialization and provide one-on-one training in a practical, real-world environment. A total of 144 technologies benefited from mentoring from 100 entities, and several of the mentored technologies have engaged in licensing negotiations, received grant funding for prototype development and been involved in potential marketing engagements following support, training and advice from the project experts. Each mentor and their designated mentee meet virtually at least once per month, where the mentor gives guidance and provides information, advice and guidance on ways the mentee can better increase their prospects of licensing or commercializing the institutions' technology. The mentor provides off-line assistance and is available for further discussion, and the mentee is required to follow through with relevant actions in advance of the meeting the following month. This has provided a focused learning platform for institutions' own technology, leading to improved engagement and providing direct technical assistance and real-world technology outcomes. In addition to direct support for the technology from the institution, each mentor also provides guidance to the mentee as requested in areas including governance structures, general operations and contemporary international practices in IP-based technology and knowledge transfer relevant to universities and public research sector institutions.

c. Enabling Innovation Environment for brands and designs

103. The Enabling Innovation Environment Brands and Designs project helps entrepreneurs and local industries to create and benefit from brands and designs as a value-addition and competitive business tool, increasing their experience and building their confidence in IP. By establishing a local institutional unit, a branding bureau comprised of a country's IP office and other relevant government agencies, as well as professionals from various disciplines, the project provides access to affordable IP-for-business services to MSMEs and start-ups, especially those run by women and young people.

104. Thus far, the focus of the project activities has been on organizing branding bureaus within countries and building the capacity of branding bureau members to provide business enhancing services related to branding and design. The emphasis is on practical IP knowledge, online and off-line marketing and other business skills, and several tools were developed and customized by country to ensure that branding bureaus are well equipped to help businesses to develop, protect and use trademarks, collective or certification marks, geographical indications and industrial designs. The ultimate goal is for branding bureaus to operate sustainably and to effectively assist local businesses in generating more IP beyond brands and designs, and for MSMEs and start-ups to use IP to increase their viability, profitability and competitive edge, thereby benefiting the local economy and generating jobs.

*iv. Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC Bureau)*

a. National IP Strategies (SDGs 4, 5, 9 and 16)

105. WIPO is ideally placed to draw on its technical experience to support beneficiaries in developing IP strategies and facilitating the integration of IP into innovation, economic, social and cultural policies. In 2020, the LAC Bureau worked with Brazil on developing and adopting a NIPS and continued to assist Antigua and Barbuda and Peru in the process of adoption of its NIPS.

b. National Intellectual Property Strategy for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises for Mexico (SDGs 8, 9)

106. WIPO began the preparation of the first national IP strategy in the LAC region specifically designed for SMEs. This public policy document aims to provide guidance, concrete recommendations and a proposed course of action to promote the use of the IP system by SMEs.

c. Partnerships with regional stakeholders (SDG 17)

107. In the spirit of partnership and collaboration of the 2030 Agenda, WIPO seeks to foster the exchange of knowledge between stakeholders beyond government officials, including civil society, academia, the private sector and international organizations. During 2020, the LAC Bureau strengthened partnerships with regional stakeholders, such as the Ibero-American Program on Industrial Property, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Andean Community, the Inter-American Association of Intellectual Property, the Industrial Property Offices of the Regional Cooperation System on Aspects of Operational Information and Industrial Property (PROSUR), the European Union Intellectual Property Office and the Inter-American Development Bank. Two Memorandums of Understanding were approved in 2020 with CARICOM and OECS respectively.

d. Regional collaborative training program for patent examiners in Latin America (SDGs 4, 9, 17)

108. A pilot training program was launched in an online format on September 7, 2020 with the aim of building the skills of a group of examiners from Central American countries and the Dominican Republic. The pilot focused on computer-implemented inventions and was organized in two phases from September to December. This pilot was implemented by WIPO in collaboration with regional IP offices from Brazil (INPI), Chile (INAPI), Colombia (SIC), Mexico (IMPI) and Peru (INDECOPI), as well as with partners, namely the IP offices of Spain (OEPM), the United States of America (USPTO) and Canada (CIPO), the European Patent Office (EPO) and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO).

e. WIPO LEX-Judgments database project (SDG 9)

109. The WIPO LEX-Judgments database initiative originated in the Latin American region and Spain, and was made available on September 24, 2020, becoming a new WIPO global database with judicial decisions from around the world. The initiative aims to: (i) provide easy access to selected court decisions in the field of IP, thereby facilitating the sharing of valuable information and expertise from other jurisdictions; and (ii) strengthen the skills of authorities to deliver informed decisions on IP disputes, thus contributing to the legal infrastructure of the innovation ecosystem.

f. Project on the development of IP and spinoff policies for universities and research institutions in Colombia (SGD 9)

110. WIPO continued its collaboration on the preparation of IP policies for universities and research institutions in Colombia. The objective is to stimulate the transfer of knowledge in universities and research institutions by identifying opportunities for improvement and providing support on: (i) establishing and/or improving the IP policy framework; and, (ii) building professional skills for the effective use of the IP system with emphasis in the areas of innovation, transfer of knowledge and development of spinoffs.

g. Online course on technology transfer and commercialization of intellectual property for Latin America and the Caribbean (SGD 9)

111. The pilot phase of this course was carried out online from December 7 to 18, 2020 and benefited Argentina, Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Jamaica, Panama, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago. The objective was to provide broad understanding, valued information and practical tools in relation to the effective transfer of knowledge and IP for commercialization. The course is aimed at supporting the efforts of Member States to promote innovation, entrepreneurship and the commercialization of research outcomes and to provide assistance for the development of knowledge transfer capacities and management of IP assets.

h. Specialized online mentoring on intellectual property, innovation, technology transfer and business models in Chile (SGDs 3, 9)

112. In the context of the competition “INAPI Running – COVID-19 Technologies”, which aimed to promote the development of new technologies to prevent, diagnose, and/or treat COVID-19, WIPO provided assistance by structuring a specialized mentoring program for the finalists of the competition. The mentoring contributed to fostering innovation and encouraging the development of new technology-based solutions to combat COVID-19.

i. Regional program on intellectual property, innovation and gender equality (SDGs 5, 9, 17)

113. This program was developed by the LAC Bureau in 2017 to support the implementation of the WIPO Policy on Gender Equality and has been organized annually through meetings at the level of heads of IP offices. The last meeting was held online in November 2020. Participating IP offices shared the progress made on the program guidelines related to: (i) fostering the development of gender-related institutional policies by IP offices; (ii) developing a gender-responsive managerial environment; (iii) sharing the best practices of IP offices for encouraging use of the IP system among women; and (iv) establishing a network of gender-responsive IP offices. Furthermore, WIPO hired a consultant to design a gender equality network of IP offices with the guidance of the IP offices of Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Peru. The proposal has been approved and the network is to be established in 2021.

j. Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) project to promote the strategic use of intellectual property by export industries

114. This project is aimed at building the skills of export agencies and SME stakeholders on the strategic use of IP and interaction within the IP innovation ecosystems for competitiveness. In this framework, an online preparatory meeting was organized on October 27, 2020 with the participation of the heads of the IP offices of OECS countries and representatives from their respective export agencies. The meeting addressed the role of export agencies in providing support to producer groups, and related initiatives.

v. *WIPO Academy*

115. The WIPO Academy is the core entity in WIPO for the delivery of IP education and training and skills development services, for the benefit of the public and private sectors, in

particular developing countries, LDCs and countries in transition. It has continued to support the Organization's commitment to achieving the SDGs, as part of the United Nations System, by responding to the training needs of Member States. It contributed to several SDGs in 2020, in particular to SDGs 4, 9 and 17, as well as SDGs 5 and 10. The Academy introduced strategic shifts, investing in IT and distance learning solutions, in order to address the various challenges prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The WIPO Academy's training courses foster the human IP capacity of countries in innovation-led industries through the development of specific skills among government officials in the area of policymaking, academics in IP teaching and research, professionals in the private sector, including SMEs, and students and young people in using IP for economic, social and cultural development.

116. The WIPO Academy's distance learning program attracted a record number of participants worldwide, reaching over 149,000 participants from approximately 190 countries in 2020. Relying on its eLearning delivery capacity, the Academy was quick to respond to the demand for virtual learning and training caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. It offered 330 sessions in the six official languages of the United Nations and delivered approximately 100 live online training seminars. The Academy also offered 23 tailored professional development courses to 183 government officials during 2020, which included video conferences.

117. The Academy's joint master's degree programs, which facilitate access to higher education in IP, saw over 221 participants graduate from eight degree courses in 2020. Through its partnerships with universities and national IP offices, one face-to-face, one hybrid and four online intensive two-week summer school programs were offered to over 1,292 participants. All of the Academy's courses and projects contribute to SDGs 9 and 4.

118. The professional development courses are designed and delivered in partnership with a range of stakeholders. National and regional IP offices, universities and a global network of academics and IP experts collaborate with the Academy every year. These multi-stakeholder partnerships take into account a strong South-South cooperation, which continues to improve the efficacy of the training provided by the Academy. In 2020, the goal of localizing the WIPO Academy General Course on IP (DL-101) and other specialized courses for national use was achieved in collaboration with nine developing countries and countries with economies in transition. In addition, the Academy's national IP training projects support countries in developing their own national IP training capacity and empower them to design and deliver IP training that best meets their development needs. Since the inception of these projects, the nine established IP training institutions have organized over 5,000 IP training activities for over 250,000 participants contributing to the capacity-building targets of SDG 17.

119. In 2020, the Academy's distance learning program continued to serve as member of the Steering Committee of UN SDG:Learn, an initiative established by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to provide a common gateway to eLearning resources on topics associated with the SDGs. The initiative has attracted approximately 60,000 participants. The WIPO Academy's Primer on IP and General Course on IP are planned to be uploaded on the UN SDG:Learn platform in order to achieve WIPO's objective of reinforcing the relevance of IP knowledge to innovation and economic, social and cultural development and, in particular, SDGs 9 and 4.

120. The Academy's programs make a further contribution to the implementation of SDG 5 by ensuring parity between male and female participants. In 2020, women constituted 54 per cent of participants, while men accounted for 46 per cent.

121. The Academy continued to offer its accessible versions of the Academy's General Course on IP in all of the official United Nations languages and Portuguese, and 650 visually impaired or otherwise print disabled participants took the course. This course was designed to increase

the reach of works to give greater opportunities for training and education to persons with disabilities and enable them to develop professionally (SDG 10).

## X. Transition and Developed Countries

122. The Department for Transition and Developed Countries is responsible for providing support to improve the participation of Central European and Baltic States, Central Asian, Eastern European and Caucasian countries, as well as some Mediterranean countries, in the international IP system. The Department also works to ensure that these states share in the economic and social benefits of innovation and creativity. This is achieved in many ways, including by improving opportunities to make the most of creative and innovative potential, and by enhancing foreign investment and technology transfer activities. The Department also focuses on strengthening institutional relations with developed countries, and works on improving the coordination, promotion and delivery of WIPO services and programs in those countries. The Department also covers work with NGOs and industry with an emphasis on cross-sectoral cooperation. It aims to leverage relationships with NGOs and private sector groups in order to raise awareness of IP services, such as the PCT and the Madrid System, including multi-stakeholder platforms in the field of global health. The Department also manages activities concerning support for SMEs, universities and research organizations.

123. Under Program 10, the Department has taken a number of initiatives that further contribute to achieving SDGs 4, 5, 8 and 9.

124. In relation with SDG 4, the following activities have been undertaken in 2020:

- Support and coordination was provided for the translation of the DL101 WIPO Academy course into Latvian, Lithuanian and Romanian;
- A number of activities also took place with the objective of enhancing quality IP education at the master's degree level, with joint programs in Poland and Turkey. Under WIPO's professional development program, a joint online training course on geographical indications, organized by WIPO and the National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia (SAKPATENTI), took place from September 15 to 18, 2020;
- IP teaching issues were central to the framework of the development of IP strategies for Albania and Montenegro in 2020;
- An online meeting with universities in Turkmenistan on the subject of IP teaching was organized in May 2020;
- Participation in the lecture on IP hosted by Ono Academic College, Israel, on August 28, 2020. This online meeting raised awareness of the work of the Organization on the protection of IPRs, and recent developments and emerging issues being addressed at the global level.

125. Under SDG 5, roving webinars have been planned to promote gender equality, thus emphasizing the importance of gender diversity in the innovation and creativity. The cases presented during the webinars were showcasing the role of women in the creative process. In this regard, the Section for the Coordination of Developed Countries organized a series of roving webinars in English, French, Spanish, Italian and Russian (roving webinars on WIPO services and initiatives organized on May 26, 2020, attended by 1,230 participants; on June 24, 2020, attended by 995 participants; on October 1, 2020, attended by 190 participants; on October 22, 2020, attended by 355 participants; on November 6, 2020, attended by 139 participants; and on November 24, 2020, attended by 249 participants).

126. Under SDG 8, three activities have been undertaken:

- Support and coordination of the development of national IP strategies in Belarus, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan;
- Organization of national consultations on the Global Innovation Index in Uzbekistan (September 9, 2020) and Belarus (October 29, 2020);
- Support for the organization of the National Seminar on Accession to WTO in Uzbekistan (December 3, 2020).

127. In support of SDG 9, several initiatives and events were co-organized and coordinated:

- International e-Conference on Intellectual Property: Vision Without Illusion, organized on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Patent Office of the Republic of Latvia (LPO), on May 21, 2020 (Latvia);
- 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Conference on Innovation and Creativity in the Economy: What's Up Brand – Corporate Image Design, on June 29 and 30, 2020 (Poland);
- Regional e-Seminar for judges and IP enforcement professionals, on September 10, 2020 (Latvia);
- Virtual ePCT training for Romanian applicants, on September 15, 2020 (Romania);
- International conference on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IP Office of the Republic of Serbia, on November 17, 2020 (Serbia);
- Regional webinar on the protection of appellations of origin and geographical indications, on December 8, 2020 (Republic of Moldova);
- National workshop on e-services of the PCT and the Madrid System for patent and trademark practitioners, on December 15, 2020 (Estonia);
- Regional WebEx webinar on the current trends and problems of IP commercialization in the countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern Europe, June 29, 2020;
- Online meeting on WIPO Connect, Belarus, June 15, 2020;
- National seminar (video) on copyright, August 28, 2020, Kazakhstan;
- National seminar (video) on arbitration and mediation, September 7, 2020, Ukraine;
- National seminar (video) on the Hague System, September 17 and 18, 2020;
- National seminar (video) on PCT, September 17, 2020, Tajikistan;
- TISC Congress, Kyrgyzstan, October 30, 2020;
- Conference on copyright, November 9, 2020, Kazakhstan;
- Marrakesh Treaty and ABC, online consultations, November 23, 2020, Belarus;
- National seminar on IP valuation, December 16, 2020, Uzbekistan;
- National webinar with the aim of increasing the capacity of research institutions, start-ups, libraries and technology transfer offices in Greece to understand and use IPRs in the digital context (in cooperation with the Hellenic Industrial Property Organization (OBI), the Onassis Foundation and the Hellenic Copyright Organization). In addition, the webinar contributed to the enhancement and improvement of the innovation and value production ecosystem in Greece.
- WIPO roving seminars and webinars on WIPO services and initiatives and presentation of the IP tools that industries and research institutions need to protect and leverage their intangible assets and to grow their businesses. These events resulted in the increased capacities of industries and academia to successfully use IP to support innovation and creativity and thus facilitate technology transfer.

128. In the framework of the development of an IP strategy for Albania and Montenegro in the course of 2020, themes falling under SDG 9 were very prominent as well.

129. A number of other activities also took place in 2020: support for the establishment of the regional Technology Transfer Offices network for Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania); a regional WebEx workshop on IP Commercialization: Collaboration between Academic Institutions and SMEs, on October 6, 2020 (Slovenia); and a webinar on the tools and services

for SMEs provided by the SMEs and Entrepreneurship Support Division for the heads of IP offices and SME support institutions in the Central European and Baltic States and Mediterranean countries, February 25, 2020 (all Central European and Baltic countries).

130. Under Program 30, the SMEs and Entrepreneurship Support Division (SESD) has launched a number of initiatives that further contribute to achieving SDGs 4, 5, 8 and 9. In particular:

131. SDG 4: In 2020, SESD organized a series of regional and national meetings on institutional IP policies in academic institutions, raising awareness of the importance of well-defined and customized legal frameworks for the creation, dissemination and management of knowledge and technology from universities and research institutions towards industry and society. In that context, the following events were organized:

- IP policy project in Egypt: the project was developed in collaboration with the Patent Office of Egypt and the Academy for Scientific Research and Technologies. The objective was to strengthen the capacity of 30 national academic institutions to transfer and commercialize their research results;
- SESD conducted an assessment of the Model Regulations on the Management of IPRs in Higher Education and Research Institutions of Kyrgyzstan.

132. SESD, in cooperation with the LAC Bureau, developed a series of three online training courses on technology transfer and IP commercialization:

- Four online training sessions were delivered for participants from the Caribbean between November 30 and December 11, 2020;
- Four online training sessions were delivered for participants from Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru between December 7 and 16, 2020;
- Four online training sessions were delivered for participants from Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Panama between December 10 and 18, 2020.

133. SDG 5: Program 30 is implementing a project approved under the DA on increasing the role of women in innovation and entrepreneurship, and encouraging women in developing countries to use the IP system, which completed its second year of implementation.

134. SDG 8: SMEs play an important role in employment creation and revenue generation. Efforts to enhance innovation, competitiveness and to upgrade cooperation between SMEs and academic institutions therefore indirectly contribute to countries' economic growth and the provision of decent work to the population. In this regard, SESD organized and participated in capacity-building activities for SMEs and businesses:

- Participation in the International Virtual Conference on Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship Eco System, organized by Eco System Consultants, Kuwait with 80 internationally renewed experts;
- GCC Program on Collaboration between Academic Institutions and SMEs for seven Gulf Countries, in collaboration with the GCC IP Training Center to support and upgrade cooperation among innovation stakeholders in the Gulf Region;
- SESD participated and contributed to the implementation of the virtual project on IP capacity-building for national SME support institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

135. The intermediaries and support institutions of SMEs have a key role to play in efforts to enhance IP awareness of SMEs. The effective use of IP by SMEs would lead to increased creation of employment and economic growth. In this regard, in the framework of the ongoing project on IP and SMEs in South Africa, several online training sessions were organized by

SME intermediaries targeting participants from SMEs, relevant SME intermediaries and SME business trainers. The activities included:

- Participation in training on “Assessing Business”, organized by Productivity SA and attended by 133 participants from selected SMEs;
- SESD participated in training organized by the South African Bureau of Standards on “Quality and Standards: Approach to Manufacturing”, attended by 161 participants from selected SMEs;
- Participation in training on “Intellectual Property: Trademarks and Patents”, organized by the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC). There were 134 participants from the Small Enterprises Development Agency (SEDA);
- SESD took part to the training on “CIPC Services to SMEs”, organized by CIPC and in which 144 participants from SEDA participated.

136. In addition to training the participants, the training showed how SME intermediaries could be a useful channel for sharing IP knowledge with SMEs.

137. Under SDG 9, SESD supported stakeholders from different sectors to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation through the following projects:

- National project on the establishment and enforcement of Technology Transfer Offices in Egypt: the objective of the project developed in collaboration with the Patent Office of Egypt and the Academy for Scientific Research and Technologies is to empower national academic institutions to create the necessary innovation infrastructure and to support them in providing upgraded IPR management services to researchers and their potential partners in industry. Currently there are 12 universities and R&D institutions benefiting from WIPO’s support;
- National WebEx workshop on IP valuation in academic and venture capital institutions for the IP Network for the Industry and Energy Sector of Colombia: the capacity-building program was created for professionals in that Network (Red de la propiedad intelectual, área de industria y energía) and the IP Management Networks for Strengthening Research Capacities in Industry and Energy (SECOPIND - Redes de Manejo de la Propiedad Intelectual para el fortalecimiento de la capacidad de investigación, Área de Industria y Energía);
- IP valuation training for academic and industry professionals in Uzbekistan was organized in collaboration with the IP Office of Uzbekistan and the Licensing Executives Society International;
- EAPO/WIPO joint project on enhancing the IP commercialization capacity of regional technoparks (Caucasus region): identifying strong points and challenges for important innovation infrastructures in the region to connect research institutions with industry sectors and provide stakeholders with adequate IP and innovation-related services;
- Regional WebEx webinar on IP commercialization for Balkan states in relation to university-SME collaboration in the region;
- National project in Belarus on the development of the National Model IP Policy for Academic Institutions, in collaboration with the National IP Office and Ministry of Higher Education. WIPO supported and sponsored a team of national experts to create a National Model IP Policy for Academic institutions;
- National IP policy project in Jordan: the project for the creation of a National Model IP Policy for Jordan was developed and is being implemented in collaboration with the IP Office of Jordan in 10 Jordanian academic institutions;
- Expert support and contribution to the international capacity-building program on technology transfer in academic institutions: International Technology Transfer Days.

This event was organized in collaboration with the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research;

- SESD, in cooperation with the Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific Countries, launched a national project in Mongolia to help Mongolian universities to develop their individual IP policies. A series of remote technical assistance sessions was delivered for two universities, with the support of a WIPO-sponsored expert. The project will continue in 2021;
- SESD supported a webinar on IP licensing and the Chilean IP ecosystem, organized by the Licensing Executives Society International and the National Industrial Property Institute (INAPI), Chile, December 1, 2020;

## XI. Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions

138. The Traditional Knowledge Division supports the implementation of the SDGs through its normative, policy and capacity-building activities that address IPRs management in genetic resources (GRs) and data and the IP protection of traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs). SDGs 2, 3, 4, 8, 11, 13, 14 and 15, in particular, were linked to WIPO's work in this field in 2020. Concretely, in 2020, the Division undertook a range of activities related to these specific SDGs, which include:

139. On SDGs 2 and 15, referring to GRs and agricultural productivity, WIPO, jointly with the Swedish Intellectual Property Office, provided specialized virtual training and project support for diverse stakeholders working on IP and GRs in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, with a view to building the capacity to use IP systems in relation to GRs in support of innovation as a contributing factor to increased economic growth and the reduction of poverty. The Division undertook activities in cooperation with the Access and Benefit-sharing Capacity Development Initiative, which is intended to enable development stakeholders to include IP issues in access and benefit-sharing agreements for GRs.

140. On SDGs 4, 8 (in particular target 8.3) and 11 (target 11.4), the Division's training activities and information resources contributed to the empowerment of indigenous peoples and facilitated their access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and to participate fully in society in line with the SDGs framework. The Division continued the mentoring phase of the Project-Based Training and Mentoring Program on Intellectual Property for Women Entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, which aims to strengthen the capacity of women entrepreneurs from indigenous or local communities to make strategic use of IPRs in support of small businesses and projects based on TK and TCEs. The strategic use of IPRs can allow the women to derive greater economic benefit from their innovation and creativity and holding IPRs may enable them to attract funding and investment. The Division organized webinars on the emerging opportunities and challenges that the digital economy is raising for indigenous peoples and local communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Division supported or contributed to virtual activities on the protection of TK and TCEs in various regions and countries.

141. In 2020, although the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore was not able to meet and negotiate an international legal instrument(s), without prejudging the nature of outcome(s), relating to IP, which will ensure the balanced and effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs, the Division continued to facilitate the process, in particular, facilitating intersessional consultation processes, developing new online resources and updating the existing resources to support the negotiations, which relate especially to SDGs 2, 3, 8 and 14.

## XII. Building Respect for Intellectual Property Division and the Sustainable Development Goals

142. The Building Respect for Intellectual Property Division (BRIP Division) is responsible for fostering international cooperation among Member States and other stakeholders to build respect for IP and to enforce IPRs in the interest of socioeconomic development and consumer protection. With this aim, the BRIP Division, inter alia, facilitates international policy dialogue on building respect for IP and assists Member States in the areas of awareness-raising, capacity-building and legislation, including in cooperation with other relevant international organizations. In its work, the BRIP Division is guided by WIPO Strategic Goal VI, as well as Recommendation 45 of the WIPO DA, which explicitly recognizes the need to view IP enforcement “in the context of broader societal interests and especially development-oriented concerns”. The BRIP Division’s work contributes to the implementation of various SDGs, most evidently and directly to SDGs 4, 8, 9 and 16. The following projects and activities undertaken by the BRIP Division over the course of 2020 are of particular relevance:

### *i. International policy dialogue and cooperation*

143. A central pillar of the BRIP Division’s work is to provide a forum for international policy dialogue on how to build respect for IP. To this end, the BRIP Division acts as the secretariat for the annual sessions of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE), which allow relevant stakeholders to share information and exchange experiences on the most pressing issues in IP enforcement and building respect for IP. In this way, the ACE sessions contribute to the implementation of SDGs 8 (in particular target 8.3) and 9 (in particular target 9.b) by promoting development-oriented policies at both the national and regional level, which in turn support decent job creation for all, research, creativity and innovation. Moreover, the emphasis on combatting counterfeiting and piracy in the framework of the ACE contributes to the realization of SDG 16 (target 16.4) in helping to reduce illicit trade and combat organized crime. WIPO contributes to the achievement of SDG 16 (in particular targets 16.3 and 16.4) by means of international cooperation under the WIPO ALERT initiative. WIPO ALERT is based on a secure online platform, which allows countries to share information with the advertising industry, with a view to reducing illicit financial flows to websites that massively infringe copyright on a commercial basis.

### *ii. Awareness-raising*

144. The work of the BRIP Division places particular emphasis on promoting awareness of IP, in particular among young people, thereby contributing directly to SDGs 4 and 9. For instance, over the past year the BRIP division launched an awareness-raising website in Spanish on respect for trademarks.<sup>17</sup> The website enables teenagers to explore concepts related to the protection of trademarks through entertaining activities and informative videos, contributing directly to the achievement of SDG 4 in its effort to foster knowledge of IP among young people, as well as to SDG 9 by cultivating an appreciation for the central role IP plays in the economy.

145. Similarly, with financial support from the Government of the Republic of Korea, the BRIP Division launched several animations for younger children in Arabic, Brazilian Portuguese, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish, based on the popular Pororo the Little Penguin character. These animations, available on the WIPO YouTube channel, contribute directly to SDG 4 by introducing children to the basic concepts of IP and the need to respect it. In addition, the BRIP Division developed a *Manhwa* webtoon on respect for copyright for young people, again with the assistance of the Republic of Korea, available in English, Korean and Spanish on the WIPO website and social media channels. Once again, this project contributes to SDG 4 in that it aims to provide accessible and engaging educational material to young people around the world. The project also contributes to SDG 8 insofar as it places particular

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<sup>17</sup> [Respeto por la PI](#)

emphasis on addressing copyright infringement issues arising in daily life, in particular in the context of the Internet, which is of fundamental importance when discussing the development of innovative and creative industries.

### *iii. Capacity-building*

146. Over the course of 2020, the BRIP Division organized and participated in a number of virtual capacity-building events for judges and law enforcement officials from various Member States on the topics of IP enforcement and building respect for IP.<sup>18</sup> The BRIP Division also developed tools to assist judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials with various aspects of IP enforcement. An Arabic-language casebook on the enforcement of IPRs, prepared by judge Nehad Al Hussban, provides an in-depth analysis of the applicable jurisprudence in the context of IP enforcement. In addition, the BRIP Division assisted two WIPO Member States in developing customized versions of WIPO's training materials for law enforcement officials and prosecutors investigating and prosecuting IP crimes. The materials provide guidance on the legal elements of piracy and counterfeiting and relevant investigative and evidential issues. These capacity-building activities and tools contribute directly to SDG 8 (in particular target 8.3) by promoting WIPO's development-oriented approach to IP enforcement, an indispensable aspect of fostering innovation and technological progress, and achieving full and productive employment, as well as SDG 16 (specifically targets 16.3 and 16.6) by assisting national institutions in ensuring their systems are as effective, transparent, as fair as possible and equipped to tackle illicit trade and effectively enforce IPRs.

### *iv. Legislative Assistance*

147. A major area of work for the BRIP Division is providing legislative assistance to Member States in order to help to create a sustainable environment that respects IP and to ensure compliance with the obligations laid out in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement). Over the course of 2020, the BRIP Division provided legislative assistance to eight Member States. The legislative assistance provided by the BRIP Division contributes to the implementation of SDGs 8 (in particular target 8.3) and 9 (in particular target 9.5 and 9.b) by promoting a favorable environment for economic growth, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, research, creativity and innovation. Moreover, the legislative assistance provided to Member States is aimed at preventing or countering illicit trade in IP-protected goods. This aspect of the BRIP Division's role contributes to SDG 16 (specifically target 16.4) in its aim significantly to reduce illicit financial flows.

## XIII. Judiciaries and Intellectual Property

148. WIPO's work with judiciaries<sup>19</sup> recognizes the vital role played by national judicial systems in ensuring a balanced and effective IP system, and therefore in enabling innovation to flourish in all countries (SDG 9). In 2020, WIPO continued its efforts to strengthen and expand its support for national judiciaries in adjudicating IP disputes, including in the specific contexts of developing countries and LDCs. This work contributed to the implementation of the SDGs through the following three central pillars of activities:

149. Firstly, WIPO continued to facilitate the exchange of experiences and good practices for the adjudication of IP disputes between judges from distinct legal and economic frameworks (SDG 16, target 16.6), while adapting to the conditions of the global pandemic:

- WIPO launched a Webinars for Judges series to continue the judicial dialogue in a virtual format. Three webinars were held to address common issues in IP adjudication, each with the participation of approximately 100 judges from 50 countries;

<sup>18</sup> [Training and Awareness-raising Activities](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Judiciaries and Intellectual Property](#)

- The third annual WIPO Intellectual Property Judges Forum was held virtually in November 2020, bringing together over 400 judges from 89 national and regional jurisdictions, to exchange information among their judicial peers on topical questions in copyright, trademarks and patents, as well as global perspectives on the influence of technology in judicial case management and multi-jurisdictional IP disputes.

150. Secondly, WIPO continued strengthening and expanding its judicial capacity-building activities:

- WIPO pursued its collaborations with Member States to develop the Continuing Judicial Education on IP programs initiated in 2019 in line with the preferences and circumstances of those countries during the COVID pandemic. The programs seek to enhance the capacity of national judicial training institutions in developing countries to deliver participatory, self-sustaining and long-term education for judges on the basis of national needs and ownership;
- In response to Member State requests, WIPO also contributed to judicial training activities in Latvia, Paraguay and Peru.

151. Thirdly, WIPO contributed to the availability of and access to information and data on judicial systems and decisions on IP worldwide (SDGs 9 and 16), with the public launch of the WIPO Lex-Judgments database in September 2020. WIPO-Lex Judgments<sup>20</sup> provides open and free online access to judicial decisions selectively curated by the relevant authorities in participating Member States that establish a precedent or provide a persuasive interpretation of IP law in their jurisdiction, as well as information on their national administrative and judicial structures for IP adjudication. At its launch, WIPO Lex-Judgments contained over 400 documents from 10 countries, with preparations under way for many more Member States interested to add their leading judicial decisions on IP to this free global resource.

#### XIV. Premises Infrastructure Division

152. WIPO has been actively contributing to the implementation of SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12 and 13 under the framework of the WIPO Strategic Goal addressing environmental responsibility, including by preserving biodiversity on the WIPO campus (a landmark park with century-old oak trees, three vegetation roofs with local plants and herbs, several species of trees and other exterior plantations, and interior gardens).<sup>21</sup> The “environment” criterion was introduced as one of several criteria for assessing and implementing renovations and maintenance of premises and technical facilities on the WIPO campus. Main illustrations of this include 100 per cent local hydroelectricity provision, LED light fixtures and presence detection to reduce electricity consumption, cooling using the Lake Geneva water system, waste management system with sorting and recycling corresponding to various materials, and water consumption management.<sup>22</sup>

153. Since 2020, WIPO has been part of the “2050Today” initiative aimed at achieving zero emissions in the Canton of Geneva by 2050, under the auspices of the host country at the federal and cantonal levels, including a number of international intergovernmental organizations, local public and private sectors, and NGOs.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> [WIPO Lex-Judgments database](#)

<sup>21</sup> [International Year of Biodiversity](#)

<sup>22</sup> See WIPO brochure at: [Environmental responsibility on the WIPO Campus](#)

<sup>23</sup> [2050 Today](#)

## **B. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE ORGANIZATION AS PART OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM**

154. In spite of the challenges caused by the COVID 19 pandemic, WIPO continued to contribute, within the scope of its mandate, to relevant discussions on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as a member or observer in various forums. WIPO provided technical contributions and information to the relevant multilateral processes and initiatives, ensuring that such initiatives fully benefit from WIPO's knowledge and expertise in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. WIPO also contributed factual information through a wide range of reports and publications to promote greater awareness of its programs and services so that these can be used for the achievement of the SDGs.

155. WIPO contributed to the activities and processes of the United Nations (such as the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity), the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol (such as the ad hoc technical expert group on digital sequence information on genetic resources), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (such as the FAO-oriGIn series of webinars on "Contributing to SDGs through quality linked to geographical origin") and other organizations.

156. The main focus of the United Nations System during 2020 was on issues of public health, digital cooperation, trade and climate change. WIPO continued to monitor closely the impact of COVID-19 on the international IP system and the resulting challenges. WIPO also adapted its work processes to ensure continued delivery of its IP services.

### *i. The High-Level Political Forum*

157. The 2020 edition of the High-Level Political Forum was held from July 7 to 16, 2020. It included a three-day ministerial segment during which 47 countries carried out voluntary national reviews of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Forum was held in a virtual format owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and addressed the theme "Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development". The discussions focused mainly on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the SDGs and how the international community can get back on track to achieve the SDGs, recognizing that the world was already not on track to deliver the Goals before the pandemic and that the way ahead might be even more challenging. The Forum noted in particular that the COVID-19 pandemic has deepened inequalities between and within countries, and that progress toward the SDGs has stalled and, in some cases, reversed. It emphasized that the 2030 Agenda should be placed at the heart of the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic as the guide to build back better and that innovative partnerships and institutional mechanisms to finance COVID-19 responses must be strengthened. In his progress report, the United Nations Secretary-General noted that progress had been made in some areas, yet even these advances were offset elsewhere by growing food insecurity, the deterioration of the natural environment and persistent and pervasive inequalities. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed an unprecedented crisis, causing further disruption to SDG progress.

### *ii. The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Team*

158. The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) is composed of a number of United Nations agencies including: the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the United Nations University-Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology; the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; UNEP; the World Bank; the International Telecommunication Union; the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; the Economic Commission for Africa; the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; the Economic Commission for Europe; the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and

WIPO. It is responsible for capacity-building in science, technology and innovation (STI) for achieving the SDGs, targeting policymakers and STI managers from developing countries. WIPO, as a member of IATT, joined forces with colleagues from more than ten other United Nations agency members of IATT in implementing a series of pilot online training workshops on STI in developing countries in order to help to achieve the SDGs. The three sessions, held in November and December 2020, attracted over 70 participants from 28 countries and 40 representatives from different United Nations bodies. The exercise was unique in bringing multiple United Nations agencies together to deliver a comprehensive program combining the unique expertise of each United Nations agency. WIPO, for its part, brought to the program its expertise in IP to demonstrate the relevance of IP to innovation policymaking. Through this program, WIPO was able to reach beyond its traditional stakeholders of IP offices to policymakers and make the case for IP within the broader context of creating the appropriate conditions for innovation to flourish.

*iii. Trade and health discussions*

159. WIPO participated in numerous intergovernmental and interagency meetings in the areas of trade and health in relation to SDG 3, ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages.

160. In the context of COVID-19, WIPO participated in WTO TRIPS Council meetings on October 15 and 16, 2020 and December 10, 2020, where discussions took place on the TRIPS Agreement waiver proposal pertaining to access to COVID-19 vaccines, treatment and equipment.

161. WIPO attended virtual sessions of the 73<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly on May 18 and 19, 2020 and the 147<sup>th</sup> World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board on May 22, 2020. The WHO resolution WHA73.1 on COVID-19 response expressly calls on international organizations to be consistent with TRIPS Agreement flexibilities in relation to their work in facilitating equitable and timely access to medicines and vaccines for COVID-19.

162. WIPO also participated in the Special Session of the WHO Executive Board on COVID-19, held in hybrid format, on October 5 and 6, 2020, and the resumed virtual sessions of the 73<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly and 147<sup>th</sup> WHO Executive Board from November 9 to 13, 2020 and on November 16, 2020, respectively. At these meetings, WIPO monitored the progress of COVID-19 response initiatives, such as the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility and the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool, which aim to accelerate the development, manufacture and access to COVID-19 vaccines.

163. In July 2020, WIPO, WTO and WHO launched an updated study on Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation. Building on the first edition from 2013, the updated publication examines the interplay among the policy domains of health, trade and IP, and how it affects innovation and access to medical technologies, such as medicines, vaccines and medical devices. It includes a special insert on COVID-19.

164. From November 30 to December 1, 2020, WIPO jointly organized a virtual sub-regional meeting on IP, innovation and public health (SDGs 3, 9 and 17) with WHO and WTO for selected Arab countries.<sup>24</sup> The objective of the meeting was to raise awareness on key issues in the field of IP and public health, in particular innovation, patents and patent rights, access to affordable health products, flexibilities in the TRIPS Agreement and the effective use of IP to foster pharmaceutical innovation.

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<sup>24</sup> Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

*iv. United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases*

165. As a member of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, WIPO continued to participate in its meetings. WIPO monitored various meetings on non-communicable diseases and COVID-19, including the 4<sup>th</sup> session on May 1, 2020, which focused on the use of digital technologies by United Nations agencies and their member states to address COVID-19 and non-communicable diseases. The 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Task Force from November 3 to 5, 2020 also included discussions on COVID-19 and non-communicable diseases, as well as access to essential medicines for those diseases. At this virtual meeting attended by WIPO, the WHO update of the implementation of the SDG 3 Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All listed “Research and Development, Innovation and Access” as one of its seven accelerator themes.

*v. Trade and digital issues*

166. UNCTAD eCommerce Week: Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the physical meeting of the eCommerce Week 2020 was replaced by an eWeek of online events, dialogues, and webinars from April 27 to May 1, 2020. WIPO, as a member of the eTrade for All initiative contributed to a session on “Who owns our data? What is the role of intellectual property?”, which considered the role of IP regimes in promoting the sharing of data and the role of international cooperation in this regard.

167. The World Summit on Information Society Forum: The 2020 Forum took place virtually from June 22 to September 10, 2020. WIPO contributed to a workshop on “ICTs and Accessibility” on United Nations collaborative efforts towards SDGs, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy implementation in Digital Accessibility. The workshop shared and discussed the work and initiatives carried out in promotion for and support to the implementation of policies, strategies and resources to ensure inclusiveness of all people including persons with disabilities in the framework of the SDGs, the Convention, the Strategy and other related global commitments.

*vi. Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum*

168. The Internet Governance Forum 2020 took place virtually from November 2 to 17, 2020, under the overarching theme of “Internet for human resilience and solidarity”. In line with its strong commitment to the Forum, WIPO organized a session on “Copyright and Inclusion”, which focused on the Marrakesh Treaty and ABC as key WIPO initiatives aimed at providing and improving access to content and information for persons with disabilities in both developed and developing countries (SDGs 4, 9, 10 and 17). WIPO also contributed to the Forum’s 2020 Best Practice Forum on Local Content, which focused on the topic of local and indigenous content in the digital space, i.e., the protection, preservation and sustainability of creative works and traditional knowledge (SDGs 4, 8, 9 and 10).

*vii. WTO Committee on Trade and Development*

169. WIPO virtually attended the 113<sup>th</sup> session of the WTO Committee on Trade and Development on November 20, 2020. The discussion on the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce highlighted the necessity to assist LDCs in making use of e-commerce by bridging the digital divide.

*viii. Global Trade Helpdesk*

170. WIPO participated in two meetings of the Steering Committee of the Global Trade Helpdesk on May 27 and November 19, 2020. The Helpdesk is a multi-agency initiative jointly led by the International Trade Center, UNCTAD and WTO that aims to simplify market research for companies, and especially MSMEs, by integrating trade and business information into a

single online portal. WIPO, in supporting this initiative, has provided information regarding the protection of IPRs for SME actors in the form of an IP diagnostic tool.

*ix. Climate change*

171. WIPO continued to follow the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process, in particular the discussions taking place on technology development and transfer. WIPO participated as an observer in the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Advisory Board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network from November 10 to 12, 2020, and the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Technology Executive Committee, which took place from November 17 to 21, 2020. Additionally, WIPO participated in the United Nations Climate Change Dialogues 2020 (Climate Dialogues) from November 23 to December 4, 2020.

172. Since 2009, under the auspices of the United Nations, through UNEP and in collaboration with the International Civil Aviation Organization, WIPO has contributed to the annual exercise of data collection on greenhouse gas emissions caused by facilities operations (at and away from Headquarters) and travel (for staff and third parties), for the purposes of the United Nations-wide “GHG Calculator”.<sup>25</sup> Since 2014, WIPO has been compensating the unavoidable emissions caused by facilities operations and travel, by purchasing credits under an arrangement with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol through which Certified Emission Reduction credits are issued and purchased for Clean Mechanism Development projects under the Kyoto Protocol.

173. In 2020, WIPO was one of the participating agencies in the Joint Inspection Unit “Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations System” (JIU/REP/2020/8).<sup>26</sup>

*x. Intellectual property and tourism*

174. The use of IPRs in tourism and cultural promotion is a new business model for the sustainable tourism industry, which can be translated into benefits for local communities and the economy as a whole. In 2020, WIPO and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) have collaborated and produced a publication entitled “Boosting Tourism Development through Intellectual Property”. It aims at raising awareness of the role of the IP system in promoting tourism-related economic activity in developing countries. This publication mirrors WIPO and UNWTO commitments to the SDGs and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; specifically, SDGs 8 (target 8.9), 9, 12 (target 12.b) and 14 (target 14.7). Moreover, to better illustrate the linkages between tourism, IPRs and the attainment of the SDGs, all the case studies included in the publication mention the specific SDGs to which they are linked. In addition, to raise awareness among tourism stakeholders, both at the policymaking and tourism industry levels, a short video was prepared on the possible synergies between IP, tourism and sustainable development.

*xi. South-South and triangular cooperation*

175. WIPO participated with other United Nations agencies in the drafting of a United Nations System-wide strategy document on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC). The ultimate objective of the strategy is to provide a system-wide policy orientation to United Nations entities in order to galvanize a coordinated and coherent approach to policy, programmatic and partnership support on SSTC and increase its impact across United Nations activities at the national, regional and global levels. Its implementation is governed by each entity individually, based on its mandate and program of work. The strategy will better position United Nations entities to coordinate and harmonize policies and operational and programmatic support on SSTC at the global, regional and country levels, with the aim of supporting the national priorities

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<sup>25</sup> See the most recent United Nations Greening The Blue Report, the 2020 edition, at: [Green in the Blue](#)

<sup>26</sup> [Report of the Joint Inspection Unit](#)

of countries of the South and to drive forward the 2030 Agenda and the Decade of Action in order to deliver on the SDGs.

176. The strategy will be implemented in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which poses serious challenges for the countries of the South and risks reversing the progress achieved towards the realization of the SDGs in many of these countries. SSTC during and after the crisis can lay the basis for longer-term cooperation on issues that will likely grow more acute after the pandemic has receded, as the world seeks new pathways towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. The strategy could become an additional tool for coordinating the SSTC efforts of United Nations entities to respond to all the dimensions of the pandemic and for building back better thereafter.

### **C. THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY WIPO TO MEMBER STATES AT THEIR REQUEST**

177. At the time of the preparation of this report, the Secretariat has not received any request from Member States seeking assistance specifically related to the attainment of the SDGs.

*178. The CDIP is invited to consider the information contained in this document.*