

Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)

Thirty-Sixth Session
Geneva, May 4 to 8, 2026

REPORT ON WOMEN AND IP: INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES, STRATEGIC DIRECTION

prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) took the following decision at its twenty-sixth session, held from July 26 to 30, 2021, when discussing the topic “Women and Intellectual Property (IP)” under the agenda item “IP and Development”:

“The Committee considered the Follow-up Proposal by Mexico on Women and IP contained in document CDIP/26/10 Rev. The Committee approved the proposal contained in that document” (para. 7 of the [Summary by the Chair](#)).

2. The above-mentioned Follow-up Proposal by Mexico, *inter alia*, requested the Secretariat to undertake a series of actions and decided “to revisit the issue ‘Women and IP’ periodically, when WIPO Secretariat deems to be necessary, under the IP and Development agenda item, starting at the CDIP spring session of 2023”.

3. This document reports on WIPO’s strategic action plan to support and empower women in the field of IP, and provides an overview of the complementarity of the Organization’s internal and external activities. It also responds to the Committee’s request to assess further work to be undertaken in this area. The reporting period covers the year 2025.

I. GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND INTERNAL EFFORTS

4. Ensuring that women and men participate equally in creativity and innovation ecosystems lies at the core of WIPO's mission to contribute to "a world where innovation and creativity from anywhere is supported by IP for the good of everyone". This vision is reaffirmed in the [Medium-Term Strategic Plan \(MTSP\) 2022-2026](#) and continues to be implemented through different strategies, including the [IP and Gender Action Plan \(IPGAP\)](#), the [Policy on Gender Equality](#), and the [Human Resources \(HR\) Strategy 2022-2026](#).

5. WIPO has made significant progress in recent years in strengthening gender mainstreaming across all organizational functions. In 2025, WIPO began reporting under the new *United Nations System-Wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women 3.0 Framework*, which introduces a more ambitious and expanded set of indicators, including new areas of assessment with higher entry requirements. Although the official assessment was pending at the time of this report, due to WIPO's continuous work in this area, the Organization anticipates maintaining a performance level exceeding that of other technical agencies within the UN system.

6. Several initiatives were launched in 2025 to strengthen the integration of gender equality and inclusion considerations across WIPO's work. They included a review of the *Gender Equality Marker (GEM)* coding guidance, aimed at improving consistency and data quality when tracking the investment WIPO makes in the advancement of women. WIPO also introduced a new *Guidance on Gender Analysis* to help staff systematically design, deliver, and evaluate programs and projects, so that they address the needs of women stakeholders and beneficiaries.

7. In addition, WIPO strengthened its internal inclusion architecture and inclusive organizational culture, by consolidating the *Inclusion Focal Point Network*. While maintaining a strong focus on gender equality, the Network also integrates other dimensions of inclusion, such as age, nationality and disability. Efforts to promote a respectful and inclusive workplace culture were reinforced through awareness-raising activities on respect at work, implemented under the umbrella campaign *Connect, Belong, Innovate*. These actions were complemented by the introduction of culture-related goals into WIPO's performance management framework for all staff.

8. Progress in balance within WIPO's governance structures was also observed. The proportion of women among elected officers has increased steadily in recent years: within the context of WIPO Assemblies, women accounted for 41.6 per cent of officers elected in 2025.

II. STRATEGIC DIRECTION

9. The commitment by WIPO to improve women's engagement in IP and innovation is underpinned by the IPGAP,¹ the Organization's first strategy addressing the role of IP in support of women and girls. Launched in 2023, the vision of IPGAP is "a world where innovation and creativity by women everywhere is supported by IP, for the good of everyone". The IPGAP provides a framework for WIPO's work with Member States and other stakeholders through three pillars: (i) strengthening institutional frameworks to create environments where women can fully participate in innovation (Pillar 1); (ii) collecting data and conducting research to build the evidence base that is critical to informing effective policies to close the gender gap in IP (Pillar 2); and (iii) creating opportunities for women and girls through impact-driven WIPO projects on IP strategy for business success and economic empowerment (Pillar 3). Strengthened communication and collaboration has increased coherent engagement across the

¹ WIPO established the IPGAP in 2022. Its internal implementation commenced in the second half of 2022.

Organization, as well as with Member States, national IP and innovation offices, and public and private sector partners.

10. The IPGAP has continued to be closely aligned with WIPO's MTSP 2022–2026 timeline and was designed to flow from and complement the MTSP pillars of work. This alignment enables all WIPO Sectors to plan and allocate resources for implementing the IPGAP and related activities on women and IP within their respective work and programs.

11. During the reporting period, WIPO strengthened awareness among Member States and the IP community, while continuing to expand and evolve on-the-ground activities with women entrepreneurs, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and women's associations in all regions. These activities included training on IP knowledge and skills relating to the protection, management, commercialization and enforcement of rights, mentoring initiatives, and building and sustaining networks, among other elements. WIPO also advanced research and data collection, through events such as the second edition of the [Global Research Experts Meeting \(GREM\) 2025 on Improving Women's Participation in Innovation, Creativity, and IP](#), sector-specific studies on women in industrial design, and economic working papers examining gender gaps in patenting. WIPO rounded out these efforts by launching a quarterly webinar series for IP and innovation offices, and by strengthening global outreach campaigns to promote evidence-based policies, inclusive innovation, and more opportunities for women to leverage IP for economic empowerment.

12. For the first time, in 2025, the third edition of the [Women and IP Symposium](#) was held from April 30 to May 2 at WIPO Headquarters in Geneva and online, bringing together more than 120 stakeholders from 64 IP offices and other innovation-focused government representatives. As a key initiative under IPGAP Pillar 1, the Symposium covered a comprehensive range of policy, data, program design, collaboration and communication topics through 10 thematic sessions and a keynote address. The Symposium was shaped through extensive consultations, including four working groups composed of volunteers from 12 IP offices who met regularly between December 2024 and April 2025. Symposium participants exchanged institutional practices and received practical guidance on mainstreaming policies to support women in IP offices, leveraging sex-disaggregated data, designing mentorship initiatives, building partnerships and developing post-symposium action plans. Additionally, a foresight workshop entitled "*IP Offices Enabling the Future of Women and IP*" was held during the Symposium. This workshop applied scenario-planning methodologies to explore how IP offices could enhance women's participation in the IP system over the next decade. It included an analysis of key drivers of change and alternative future scenarios.

13. Also under IPGAP Pillar 1, WIPO continued to expand and strengthen the [IPGAP Database](#), launched in 2024, by integrating additional policies and initiatives to address the gender gap in IP. WIPO convened regular quarterly meetings with IP and innovation offices under the new "*Advancing Women and IP: A Spotlight Series*", which highlights key practices featured in the Database. The [first session](#) of the series was held in September and under the title "*Legal and Financial Support for Women Innovators and Entrepreneurs in IP*". It focused on practical legal and financial support mechanisms implemented in the Philippines and Chile, such as patent assistance, trademark support and fee incentives, to strengthen women's participation in national innovation ecosystems. The [second session](#), held in December under the title "*Mentoring for Success – Building a Future of Women Innovation Leaders*", showcased mentoring models from Austria and Canada that foster women's professional development and greater participation in IP systems.

14. To provide additional policy support, WIPO developed a 10-page practical guide entitled *National IP Strategies: Inclusion, Diversity and Gender Equality in Focus* to assist Member States in formulating strategies that support underserved and underrepresented stakeholders, such as youth, women, persons with disabilities, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities, with garnering the benefits offered by the IP, innovation, and creative ecosystem.

15. As a core initiative under IPGAP Pillar 2, the [second edition of the IPGAP Global Research Experts Meeting \(GREM\) on Improving Women's Participation in Innovation, Creativity, and Intellectual Property](#), held from November 24 to 25, 2025, built on the inaugural meeting in 2024 and convened leading economists, researchers, and thought leaders from all regions in a hybrid, two-day format. The meeting strengthened the global evidence base on women's participation in innovation and IP, explored emerging data methodologies, and presented new empirical findings to inform policymaking. It brought together 21 speakers and more than 120 participants, and featured a keynote lecture entitled "*Inclusive Innovation and Industry Clusters as Drivers of Growth and Competitiveness*", as well as seven thematic sessions. The meeting introduced new indicators for measuring gender gaps in innovation and IP, strengthened regional and global research collaboration, and expanded an international network committed to innovation and women's economic empowerment.

III. DATA, RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE

16. Throughout the reporting year, WIPO continued to develop new methodologies and analyses on the subject of women, innovation and creativity, highlighting the importance of collecting data on women's participation in the IP system to help inform policymakers.

- (i) WIPO expanded its flagship [WIPO Pulse](#) perception survey to 35,500 respondents in 74 countries, 49 per cent of whom are women. The Survey generated new sex-disaggregated insights on awareness and perceptions of IP. No significant differences were observed overall between female and male consumers in awareness index scores or general perceptions. However, male consumers scored slightly higher on the awareness index for patents and geographical indications (GIs), and female consumers scored higher on designs. Female consumers also scored higher than male consumers on several indicators relating to perceptions of IP rights. In line with Pillar 2 of the IPGAP, the inclusion of sex-disaggregated data provided valuable insights into IP awareness and perception gaps. These metrics will continue to be included in the future editions of the survey.
- (ii) In addition to producing analytical publications, WIPO organized the online launch and presentation of the pilot study on the [Gender Gap in Industrial Designs in the Central European and Baltic States](#). The event featured panel discussions on challenges faced by creators and the role of education and awareness-raising in empowering women in design. In this way, it contributed to policy dialogue and stakeholder engagement across the Central European and Baltic States (CEBS) and Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia (EECCA) region.
- (iii) WIPO completed a new global study on [Digital Access to Knowledge and Women in Science](#), thereby strengthening the evidence base on women, innovation, and IP. Its findings indicate that providing free or low-cost access to scientific literature substantially enhances women's participation in research and academic publishing across a broad range of institutions and countries.
- (iv) WIPO delivered technical workshops on gender indicators and methodologies for IP policymakers in El Salvador, Bhutan, Indonesia and Côte d'Ivoire.

- (v) A WIPO analysis, entitled [Accelerating Harmony: How Music Charts a Path Toward Gender Equality](#), revealed that the share of top-streamed tracks by female artists has nearly doubled since 2017. This underscores the role of inclusive digital platforms and movements such as #WomenInMusic in driving systemic change toward greater gender equality in the music industry.
- (vi) To strengthen WIPO's analytical capacity, a full-time Gender and Innovation Economic Research Fellow (2024–2027) and a part-time Young Expert Professional (2025–2027) were engaged to advance economic research on the gender gap in innovation and IP.
- (vii) WIPO also organized and delivered two dedicated sessions on “*Gender and IP*” during the *2025 European Policy IP Conference*, in which academic researchers and policymakers worked on evidence-based approaches to IP policymaking in support of women and IP.

IV. EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES: CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

17. In 2025, WIPO continued to implement and expand on-the-ground projects that promote women's participation in the IP system through targeted training, mentoring and community-based initiatives, in line with Pillar 3 of the IPGAP. For example, the “*IP for Her*” program, launched in late 2025, is a new WIPO global community engagement platform, specifically designed to empower women entrepreneurs, innovators and creators. Its aim is to ensure the sustainability of WIPO-led projects and skills, and knowledge-building activities by providing a continuous support ecosystem that fosters networking, mutual learning, growth and advocacy. Building on the successes of 2024, both new and ongoing projects targeting women entrepreneurs, SMEs support institutions and women's associations have furthered the use of IP for women's economic empowerment and inclusive innovation.

V. THEMATIC ACTIVITIES

A. Sharing Sessions on Women and IP

18. The Seventh Sharing Session on Women and IP, entitled “*Closing the Gender Gap in IP: Women in Design*”, was held in May 2025, and brought together more than 120 stakeholders from around the world. The session featured accomplished designers from Guatemala, Jordan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nigeria and Poland, who shared good practices on empowering women in design through IP tools.

19. As part of its awareness-raising efforts, WIPO also convened a webinar, entitled “*Women who innovate: Real stories*”, in March 2025. It brought together women innovators and stakeholders to share practical experiences in using IP for innovation and entrepreneurship.

20. In addition to thematic webinars, WIPO's global IP systems continued to expand outreach to enhance women's participation. In 2025, the Madrid System Public Webinar Program delivered 42 webinars in seven languages, reaching 5,282 participants worldwide, approximately 80 per cent of whom were women. Complementing these efforts, WIPO organized two regional webinars for women from the Central Asian, Caucasus and Eastern European Countries (CACEEC), entitled “*Opportunities for Women in IP and Advantages of PCT for Women*”, which focused on opportunities for women in IP and the advantages of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). These two sessions collectively reached several hundred women participants and strengthened awareness of international filing pathways. In July 2025, WIPO held a kick-off webinar on accessing the Chinese market through e-commerce, with a focus on IP considerations for women entrepreneurs and SMEs seeking to expand cross-border commercial opportunities.

21. To increase the visibility of women's achievements in the innovation ecosystem, WIPO showcased a series of women entrepreneurs' success stories between May and December. The examples from countries such as Cambodia, China, Indonesia and Mongolia, illustrated pathways for leveraging IP for business development.

22. Two episodes of the [WIPOD - Design Talks](#) series highlighted the professional journeys of women designers and design-IP experts, thereby promoting greater visibility of women in design protection and in the use of the Hague System.

B. Mentoring and Matchmaking

23. Throughout the reporting year, WIPO continued to support women entrepreneurs from Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) through tailored training, mentoring and matchmaking programs on IP. These initiatives included the [WIPO Training and Mentoring Program on Intellectual Property for Women Entrepreneurs from IPLCs in the Pacific](#), as well as regional and subregional programs supporting women entrepreneurs in Central America, Mexico, the Dominican Republic and the Andean region.

24. WIPO also supported additional practical projects for women entrepreneurs from IPLCs with financial support from the WIPO Funds-in-Trust Japan. The aim of these projects, which were implemented in multiple countries, was to strengthen participants' capacity for leveraging IP tools in support of entrepreneurship, innovation and market access.

25. With support from the WIPO Funds-in-Trust Japan, WIPO continued to assist community enterprises in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, including mentorship for 18 women entrepreneurs on IP and business-related topics. By the end of 2025, some participating community enterprises had registered collective marks, thereby strengthening their market presence. A parallel practical-project track also supports IPLCs women entrepreneurs in Cameroon, Guatemala, Mexico, Nepal, Panama, the Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe, providing mentorship to 20 participants.

26. To reinforce learning outcomes and sustain networks among beneficiaries, WIPO organized a booster session for participants from the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru who had taken part in the third International Women's Entrepreneurship Program (WEP) on IP for women entrepreneurs from IPLCs. The session delivered additional tailored training to address participants' specific needs.

27. WIPO participated in the *Empowering Women in International Law 2025* networking event, organized by the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ). The event brought together female legal professionals and international law students to foster mentorship and the sharing of experiences. Speakers engaged with participants by sharing expertise and guidance to inspire the next generation of international legal practitioners.

C. Skills and Knowledge Building

28. The WIPO Academy continued its efforts to close the gender gap in IP knowledge by delivering a combination of large-scale training sessions and targeted, impact-oriented programs tailored for women. In alignment with the WIPO IPGAP and the UN-SWAP framework, the WIPO Academy has maintained a strong record on gender parity over time.

29. Between 2016 and 2025, the WIPO Academy consistently reported an overall gender balance across its main course offerings. In 2025, 166,535 women enrolled in the WIPO Academy programs, including the [Executive Training Program](#), [Summer Schools](#), [Joint Master's Degrees](#), [IP Colloquia](#), [IP Training Institutions \(IPTIs\)](#) and [IP eLearning Program](#). This represents an increase of 63,112 women compared to 2024, a 46 per cent increase over the 136,512 enrolled in 2024.

Academy Program	Female participation 2024	Female participation 2025
Executive Program	231	124
WIPO Summer Schools	1,443	1,723
Joint Master's Degrees and IP Colloquia	160	222
IP eLearning Program	78,180	90,074
Intellectual Property Training Institutes (IPTIs)	56,012	106,995
Overall Female Participants	136,026	199,138

30. The WIPO Academy supported women in the field of IP in 2025, including through specialized training initiatives it designed and implemented:

- (i) The WIPO Academy supported a total of 199,138 women across all its education and training programs. Among the total number of participants in WIPO Academy training, 55 per cent were women, and 67 per cent of those women were under the age of 35. Of the women participants, 64 per cent were professionals and 36 per cent students; 26 per cent were working at SMEs. Notably, 83 per cent of women participants originated from developing countries, underscoring the WIPO Academy's continued commitment to inclusive access to IP education. Across the WIPO Academy programs, women participants strengthened practical competencies in core IP areas, including patents, trademarks, copyright, international patent filing, licensing and commercialization, and IP in emerging technologies. For women from SMEs, training spanned both general and advanced course levels, supporting progression from foundational IP knowledge to applied IP management and strategic use.
- (ii) The WIPO Academy continued to strengthen leadership and IP management capacities among women scientists. In September, an in-person *Leadership Course on IP for Women Scientists* was delivered in the Republic of Korea, bringing together 20 award-winning women scientists from 14 countries. In addition, an *Online Leadership Course and IP Masterclasses for Women Scientists* were delivered between January and April, with 25 women scientists from 12 countries participating.
- (iii) The WIPO Academy supported Indigenous women and women professionals in several regions by providing customized and inclusive training. In Colombia, a tailored IP eLearning program was implemented for Indigenous Wayuu women artisans, benefiting 40 participants. Additionally, a Spanish-language customized distance learning course on IP for women professionals from SMEs was provided for the Andean Community, reaching 1,142 women participants, including 488 women from SMEs.
- (iv) The WIPO Academy also delivered training sessions to government officials through its Academic Institution and Executive Programs. Of the 213 trained government officials, 97 were women, representing 45 per cent of participants.
- (v) Women's participation remained strong across the WIPO Academy's higher education and advanced training programs. The Joint Master's Programs supported by the WIPO Academy recorded 211 women beneficiaries, representing 58 per cent of participants,

with 52 WIPO scholarships awarded to women. The *WIPO–Harvard Law School Course in Patent Law and Global Public Health* benefited 523 women, accounting for 52 per cent of total participants. The *WIPO-World Trade Organization (WTO) Colloquium for Teachers of IP* benefited 11 women, representing 42 per cent of participants.

- (vi) A total of 1,723 women from 72 countries benefited from the *WIPO Summer Schools Program* training. They made up 62 per cent of total participants, and nine were awarded WIPO scholarships. Under the IPTIs Program, the share of women participants among three training-of-trainers modules reached 55 per cent, and in the other 16 joint training initiatives it reached 50 per cent.
- (vii) The WIPO Academy introduced a new capacity-building program aimed at empowering African women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), in partnership with the East African Community (EAC). The program combined phased learning modalities, including online training and an in-person workshop, and a structured mentoring and coaching component, to strengthen participants' knowledge and practical application of IP to support creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.
- (viii) The WIPO Academy continued to expand IP education opportunities for women worldwide. Activities included IP masterclasses for the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) *eTrade for Women* programs in Latin America, and Asia and the Pacific², as well as leadership courses for women scientists held both in-person and online, benefiting 45 women from 26 countries.

D. WIPO Global Awards

31. The WIPO Global Awards continued to serve as a flagship program. The awards recognize innovative startups and SMEs that strategically use IP to grow, scale and create impact. The program is open to all applicants, but it places particular emphasis on promoting women entrepreneurs and women-led SMEs through targeted outreach, enhanced visibility and specific recognition, including the introduction of a new Special Mention category for “*Best Woman Entrepreneur*”.

32. Of the 30 finalists, six were women-led companies, and five of the ten [WIPO Global Award 2025](#) winners were women-led enterprises. In addition, two special mentions were awarded to women leaders: “*Best Woman Entrepreneur of the Year*” and “*Best Youth Entrepreneur of the Year*”. The award winners benefited from structured post-award mentorship and acceleration support of between six and 12 months, covering IP strategy, business growth, internationalization, investor readiness and partnerships.

E. International Women’s Day

33. On March 8, 2025, WIPO celebrated International Women’s Day by highlighting the role of IP in fostering women’s entrepreneurship, innovation, and creativity. Together with 60 other IP Offices, WIPO issued a [joint message](#) on the theme of “*For ALL Women and Girls - Rights. Equality. Empowerment*”, reaffirming a shared commitment to promoting IP knowledge and skills, supporting mentorship and education programs, and generating data-driven insights to inform evidence-based policymaking.

34. To mark the occasion, the WIPO Academy granted full scholarships to 490 eligible women learners across its programs worldwide. This initiative aims to broaden access to IP education and capacity-building opportunities for women across all regions.

² Twenty-four women in Latin America and 22 women in the Asia and Pacific regions.

35. WIPO also released an episode of its “*Mission Imagination series*” highlighting women innovators in the field of green technology. The episode, entitled [Overcoming Hurdles to Electric Vehicle Charging with Smart Technology](#), featured the co-founder of Beijing Shiji-Yunan New Energy. Through a conversation focused on innovation, entrepreneurship and IP, the episode explored the role of women innovators in addressing global sustainability challenges. The episode targeted the public, with a particular focus on women under 35, women-led SMEs, women entrepreneurs, women in the creative sector, and women inventors.

F. Innovation to Address Global Challenges

36. To promote innovation to address global challenges, WIPO further developed its [Women in Green](#) series. This initiative spotlights female innovators and green entrepreneurs by showcasing their inventions, business development journeys and experiences in eco-friendly technologies and innovation.

37. During the reporting period, WIPO continued to support the *Global Health Innovation Fellows Program*, implemented in partnership with the Indian Department of Biotechnology (DBT)’s Biodesign Program and the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) in Bombay and Delhi. The Fellowship supports innovators in developing medical technologies tailored to lower-resource settings. In 2025, WIPO sponsored two fellows, including one woman innovator from Nigeria. This program equips participants with the skills to scale health technologies and adapt innovations to local contexts, contributing to more inclusive and resilient health innovation ecosystems through the strategic use of IP.

38. The [Scale Up Your IP program](#) supported deep-tech innovators, including women entrepreneurs and women scientists, in incorporating IP strategies into early-stage commercialization. The program was implemented in South Africa, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

39. In March 2025, WIPO participated in an event held in the framework of the *UN Ocean Forum*, co-organized by UNCTAD and the Permanent Mission of Chile to the WTO, entitled “*Women Navigating the Blue Economy*.” The event provided an opportunity for WIPO to share its perspective on the role of IP in supporting women’s participation in ocean-based economic activities. Discussions recognized women’s contributions to the blue economy, examined challenges and opportunities related to value addition and equitable participation, and identified practical strategies to further strengthen women’s engagement in the sector.

G. Women in IP Dispute Resolution and the Judiciary

40. WIPO continued to promote gender balance in dispute resolution. It appointed women as mediators or arbitrators in approximately 40 per cent of administered cases. Gender balance was also reflected in governance structures, with women representing 45 per cent of the members of the WIPO Mediation and Arbitration Advisory Committee for the 2025-2027 reporting and monitoring period.

41. WIPO continued its efforts to strengthen gender balance in the domain name dispute resolution panelist roster, including by enhancing the visibility and monitoring of gender representation in relevant reporting. In 2025, this included the publication of a “*Report on the Gender Distribution of WIPO Domain Name Panelists*”. The Arbitration and Mediation Center also continued to apply a gender perspective in the selection of speakers and experts for its outreach and capacity-building activities, with a view to maintaining balanced representation in events delivered during 2025 and planned for 2026.

42. WIPO contributed to awareness-raising on gender equality by commemorating the International Day of Women Judges. A [dedicated news item](#) highlighted the professional journeys and insights of women judges and deputy registrars from Canada, El Salvador, the Republic of Korea, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

VI. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

a) Africa

43. The Project on “*IP and Women Artisans in Mauritania: Valorization of Zouerate Pearls*” was implemented between September 2024 and June 2025. It supported 35 women artisans and associations in Zouerate, Mauritania, to protect and enhance the value of Zouerate pearls through collective branding strategies and the effective use of IP tools.

44. Building on earlier engagement with women in agribusiness, WIPO launched the “*Business Transformation Sustainability Project - Post-Mentorship and Coaching Program for Women in Agribusiness: the Case of Mali and Niger*”, implemented from July to December 2025. The project supported 100 selected women-led agribusinesses to enhance competitiveness through the effective use of IP. Peer learning continued coaching and expert guidance from WIPO led participants to file trademarks and trade names, and formalize their SMEs.

45. In Nigeria, the WIPO “*Branding Project for SMEs*” supported 45 women-led enterprises in the information and communication technologies (ICT), cosmetics and food and beverage sectors. Through IP-based mentoring, the project strengthened brand identity and global competitiveness. WIPO also promoted girls’ participation in technology through the *National Girls in ICT Competition* in Nigeria, benefiting 60 secondary-school girls. In addition, WIPO hosted the “*Annual IP and Women Business Summit*” on March 6, providing women entrepreneurs, innovators and creators with strategic insights on using IP to strengthen competitiveness and innovation among women-led businesses.

46. From September 2 to 4, WIPO supported preparatory activities for the “*Traditional Knowledge and Geographical Indications (TRAKAGI) project*” in southwestern Nigeria. The aim of the initiative was to build IP awareness and capacity-building on GIs, and to empower 300 women entrepreneurs in the Adire Batik sector. By combining traditional craftsmanship support with practical guidance on leveraging GIs, the objective of the project was to promote authenticity, quality and the unique identity of their products.

47. In the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) region, a series of practical IP workshops were delivered in Cameroon between October 2025 and January 2026 in Douala, Yaoundé and Ngaoundéré. Approximately 30 women entrepreneurs were trained in each city over a three-day format. At each workshop, 25 women also benefited from one-on-one pre-diagnostic meetings with an IP expert. These activities provided hands-on guidance, diagnostics and tailored advice to strengthen the IP strategies of women-led SMEs.

48. In Côte d’Ivoire, WIPO supported a collective mark project in the shea butter sector. Participants were mainly women producers, processors and retailers. The project addressed the lack of a unified identity and branding strategy by facilitating the development of a collective mark and visual identity for the Federation of Shea Producers of Côte d’Ivoire (FEPROKA-CI). A design competition for visual identity concluded in December, with a winning entry selected from 115 submissions. The initiative contributed to strengthening collective branding tools to enhance commercialization and market visibility for women in the shea butter value chain.

49. In Djibouti, the project on “*IP for Her: An IP journey from Hand to Brand for Women Artisans*”, was implemented from November 2024 to January 2026. It supported 15 local women artisans through training and mentoring. Some participants also received individualized one-on-one mentoring to strengthen product development and commercialization readiness.³

b) Arab Countries

50. In Algeria, WIPO supported rural women artisans through collective trademark initiatives for the Babar and Ghardaïa carpets, benefiting over 90 craftswomen directly, and reaching more than 540 community members through training, branding and commercialization support. The phased implementation included: (i) IP Management Clinics, with four women out of 16 participants; (ii) collective trademark activities for carpets implemented from 2023 to 2025 for the Babar carpets, and from 2024 and 2025 for the Ghardaïa carpets, including women-only training sessions and targeted support to women-led groups in filing collective trademark applications; and (iii) IPTI Training-of-Trainers modules during 2024 and 2025, with approximately 30 women among 63 participants.

51. The project “*IP and Women Entrepreneurs*” was implemented in Iraq between April and June 2025. It aimed at establishing a supporting system to facilitate the management and commercialization of IP rights by women-led enterprises in local communities, while strengthening linkages between production activities and IP. As part of the project, eight women entrepreneurs received mentoring in Arabic on IP, branding and marketing. One participant subsequently registered an industrial design, began developing her own brand, and in October participated in a WIPO cross-regional event held in Cairo, Egypt.

52. In Tunisia, the WIPO “*IP for Her*” initiative was under implementation in 2025, supporting 35 women artisans in the handicrafts sector. The project strengthened the protection and commercialization of their products through capacity-building activities and branding-related support, enhancing their ability to leverage IP tools.⁴

53. The “*Cross-Regional Forum on IP and Women in Entrepreneurship from the Arab and Asian Countries*” was held in October. The Forum brought together 23 women entrepreneurs from the Arab and Asian regions⁵ to exchange experiences, best practices and lessons learned among women entrepreneurs who benefited from WIPO projects and initiatives. In addition to facilitating peer learning, it showcased success stories and marked a key milestone in the launch of the WIPO “*IP for Her*” platform as a global hub for networking, learning and collaboration.⁶

c) Asia and the Pacific

54. WIPO implemented the “*Training and Mentoring Program on Intellectual Property for Women Entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (WEP)*” in the Pacific region, supporting Indigenous women entrepreneurs from Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. The training phase took place from March 24 to 28, followed by a one-year mentoring phase. Sixteen women entrepreneurs received mentoring on IP and business-related topics. Additional booster workshops are planned for 2026.

³ The project is managed by the Projects Team of the Regional and National Development Sector (RNDS).

⁴ The project is managed by the Projects Team of RNDS.

⁵ Participants came from Bahrain, Bangladesh, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, and Viet Nam.

⁶ The project is managed by the Projects Team of the RNDS.

55. In addition, several national initiatives were conducted to strengthen women's entrepreneurship and creative industries. In Fiji, activities conducted between November and December supported 25 women-led entrepreneurs and artisans through branding-related assistance and practical guidance on IP tools. In the Maldives, a creative industries support initiative implemented from May to December benefited 50 SMEs and incorporated IP capacity-building components, aimed at enhancing commercialization pathways for creators and entrepreneurs, with a focus on inclusive participation. In Cambodia, a completed four-month capacity-building project empowered 40 high-school girls in STEM and digital innovation through IP training and mentoring. Additionally, a pitching competition focused on software, artificial intelligence (AI), and mobile applications.

56. In Japan, WIPO engaged in extensive outreach activities promoting women in innovation. These included: (i) participation in a roundtable at "*Expo 2025 Osaka on women and youth*" in October, reaching 20 women in person and more than 150 online; (ii) a public lecture at Tokyo Woman's Christian University for around 150 female students; (iii) a public-private dialogue in Yokohama, linking Japanese technologies and IP to women's health and sanitation needs in African countries⁷, benefiting approximately 100,000 women and girls; (iv) STEM outreach events for girls, reaching more than 230 students; and (v) the "*Show and Tell youth presentation contest*", featuring women role models and reaching 20 women in person and more than 100 participants online.

57. In China, WIPO organized high-level roundtables and study visits engaging over 60 women innovators, scientists and entrepreneurs. A flagship roundtable in Beijing, entitled "*Roundtable on Women Inventors, Scientists and Entrepreneurs in the New Era*", brought together approximately 60 representatives. WIPO also hosted a study visit for 20 university faculty and students, of whom about 15 were women. It focused on IP careers, innovation trends and youth empowerment.

58. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, WIPO supported a project on the collective management and commercialization of the GIs for "*Houaphanh Silk*" and "*Luang Prabang Silk*". Implemented from January 2024 to December 2025, the project strengthened knowledge and effective use of GIs among producers, inspectors, association members and relevant stakeholders, supported improvements in internal control and certification systems, and helped build a pool of trained national GI experts and internal inspectors to enhance sustainability. There were over 40 women beneficiaries in Luang Prabang Province and over 50 in Houaphanh Province.

59. Between December 2024 and June 2025, a series of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) workshops, entitled "*Gearing Towards a Data-Driven IP Strategy*", were delivered in Brunei Darussalam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and the Philippines, benefiting 173 women through training on the strategic use of IP data for business decision-making. Capacity-building efforts also included regional PCT seminars that strengthened the technical expertise of women patent examiners from ASEAN IP offices. In addition, a Madrid System webinar for advanced users supported legal professionals in the ASEAN region, with 40 women among the 91 participants. A regional PCT training seminar for ASEAN patent examiners provided capacity-building in examination; 12 of the 16 participating examiners were women.

d) Latin America and the Caribbean

60. In Latin America and the Caribbean, WIPO advanced gender-responsive innovation through the "*WIPO GREEN Acceleration Project on Climate-Smart Agriculture*". Activities focused on identifying and supporting women-led farming enterprises participating as

⁷ Including Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Madagascar.

technology seekers. Women-led enterprises represented two out of ten participants in Argentina, three out of 17 in Brazil, two out of eight in Chile, and five out of 19 in Peru. In addition, funding applications submitted to the WIPO Funds-in-Trust Japan introduced an enhanced approach to identify and promote women-led cooperatives as role models for inclusive innovation.

61. The first phase of the “*WEP MexCard*” was implemented to support Indigenous women entrepreneurs from Costa Rica, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and El Salvador. The project aimed at empowering women from Indigenous communities through the strategic use of IP. Training and mentoring activities strengthened participants’ capacities to protect IP assets and commercialize their products, while considering the specific social, economic and structural challenges faced by these communities.

62. The fourth regional edition of the “*Women in STEM IP Management Project*” was held from September to December, benefiting 50 women scientists in Colombia, Ecuador and Guatemala. The project offered customized training, speed mentoring and individualized IP strategy development. It strengthened IP management skills among women in STEM fields, supported alignment of IP strategies with business objectives, and fostered partnerships between IP institutions and organizations supporting women innovators.

63. At the regional level, WIPO held an online “*Regional Meeting on IP and Gender Equality for Latin America and the Caribbean*” in December. The meeting brought together representatives of IP offices and government missions to assess gender gaps in innovation and discuss policy responses. Fourteen Latin American and Caribbean countries participated.⁸

64. The project “*IP for Women Entrepreneurs in the Caribbean*” was implemented from August to December, providing comprehensive IP capacity-building support to 42 women-led businesses in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and Saint Kitts and Nevis. The project included mentoring, IP diagnostics, market access guidance and finance readiness.

65. WIPO completed the “*Antigua and Barbuda Collective Marks Project*” in May, followed by a concluding symposium and graduation event held in October. Launched in 2023 under WIPO’s COVID-19 Response Package, the project supported the registration of three collective marks for honey products, thereby strengthening differentiated branding and market positioning. The initiative also contributed to women’s economic empowerment, including through large-scale training of women in beekeeping and enhanced leadership within the cooperative structures.

66. Between April and July, WIPO implemented activities to support women entrepreneurs in Honduras, Panama and Uruguay. The activities provided practical guidance on IP to strengthen business development, branding and commercialization strategies. In Guatemala, WIPO supported 32 *Poqomchi’* women weavers between March and December through in-person training and mentoring delivered in the *Poqomchi’* language. These were complemented by follow-up technical visits to support trademark development and commercialization.⁹

67. The “*IP for Young Designers*” initiative in Brazil and Peru supported design students, especially women in applying IP-based solutions to real-world challenges. This was complemented by the “*Regional Forum on IP for Young Designers*”, which brought together

⁸ Including Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay.

⁹ The project is managed by the Projects Team of the RNDs.

participants from Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Peru to exchange experiences and strengthen regional collaboration.

e) Transition and Developed Countries

68. In the CACEEC region, WIPO concluded the “*IP Management Clinics for Women-led Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)*”. The project, implemented in line with the standard IP Management Clinics methodology, supported selected SMEs led by women or with women in management roles. The initiative benefited 19 women from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, strengthening their capacity to manage and commercialize IP assets.

69. In Ukraine, WIPO advanced women’s participation in innovation through two complementary initiatives. The “*Women Innovation and Startup Empowerment (WISE) Program*” provided online training sessions in June and July, on invention and IP commercialization for women experiencing career interruptions, students, and young professionals. In parallel, a Build Back Fund (BBF) project was implemented from November 2024 to July 2025. It supported folk craft entrepreneurs by providing targeted skills-based IP training, developing product-promotion strategies, and strengthening national training capacity to sustain impact and foster networking and new market opportunities.

70. In the Russian Federation, WIPO continued implementing the project “*Empowering Women Entrepreneurs, Researchers and Innovators to Use IP*”. It enhanced IP knowledge among women entrepreneurs, inventors and researchers, and empowered them to leverage IP for business growth and innovation. In October, three in-person seminars on IP for women entrepreneurs and SMEs were held, benefiting approximately 350 women-led SMEs.

71. Capacity-building initiatives were also extended. In Montenegro, WIPO delivered a “*Practical Workshop on IP for Local Communities*”, supporting traditional textile and craft entrepreneurs, women’s support organizations and other stakeholders in leveraging IP to strengthen business traditions and innovation. In France, WIPO implemented the project “*IP for Women in Culinary Arts*” from January to December, to help women entrepreneurs in the culinary sector to better protect innovations, expand market reach and valorize culinary heritage through tailored IP training.

72. The “*International Patent Drafting Training Program*” continued in 2025, combining online learning, live workshops and 10 weeks of structured mentorship. In 2025, 22 women¹⁰, out of 42 participants, benefited from the program. The initiative will continue in 2026.

VII. LOOKING AHEAD

73. In 2026, WIPO will continue to scale and deepen its work on women and IP through the continuation of multi-year projects, the launch of new training and mentoring initiatives, and the integration of new approaches across technical assistance, capacity-building, research, and outreach activities. Some innovative initiatives responding to Member States’ priorities and emerging needs are already underway or being planned, including:

- (i) Under WIPO’s IPGAP and in alignment with the Organization’s Policy on Gender Equality, WIPO will convene the fourth edition of the “*Women and IP Symposium for IP and Innovation Offices (IPOs)*” from May 11 to 13, 2026, at WIPO Headquarters and online. The event will provide a platform to advance global dialogue, strengthen institutional capacities, and support Member States to enhance women’s participation in innovation and the IP system.

¹⁰ From Algeria, China, Ghana, India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and the United States of America.

- (ii) WIPO will host the third “*IPGAP Global Research Experts Meeting on Improving Gender and Diversity in IP and Innovation*”. As a core initiative under IPGAP Pillar 2, the meeting will foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing among economists and researchers, policymakers and other stakeholders, and it will expand the evidence base needed to inform policies addressing women’s underrepresentation in innovation and IP.
- (iii) WIPO will continue its quarterly “*Advancing Women and IP: A Spotlight Series*”, which highlights practices featured in the IPGAP Database. The next session, is scheduled for March 19, 2026, on “*Empowering Women Through IP Education: Enhancing Knowledge and Access to the IP Ecosystem*”. It will explore how educational resources can strengthen women’s understanding of the IP ecosystem and its role in supporting innovation and creativity. Subsequent sessions will focus on initiatives supporting women in STEM and on the creation of national committees and regional networks to enhance women’s engagement and leadership in IP.
- (iv) WIPO will pilot two IP capacity-building initiatives for girls and young women in STEAM in 2026: a “*National IP Youth Camp for Girls in STEAM*” in Abuja, Nigeria, in April, in partnership with Nigerian IP institutions, which will bring together around 50 participants; and a “*Regional IP Camp for Women in STEAM*” in Romania, the Republic of Moldova and Bulgaria in collaboration with their national IP offices, involving 50 young women. Both initiatives will focus on inventive problem-solving, creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship, and the effective use of IP.
- (v) WIPO plans to introduce an “*IP and Gender Policy Toolkit*”, designed for policymakers from IP Offices and other government bodies responsible for innovation policies and programs. This toolkit will provide case studies, practical tools and emerging practices for governments to consider identifying, measuring and addressing gender gaps in innovation and IP.
- (vi) WIPO will continue its awareness-raising activities on women and the judiciary, which will include the commemoration of the International Day of Women Judges in March 2026. It is also planning a joint webinar with the International Association of Women Judges.
- (vii) WIPO will continue to strengthen partnerships for capacity-building, including through the “*WIPO–IPOS International Executive Program*” in April 2026, and planned cooperation activities with the IPTIs network and IPOS in October 2026. Inclusive participation approaches will be included, when appropriate, in these initiatives.
- (viii) WIPO will continue implementing its “*Training, Mentoring and Matchmaking Programs on Intellectual Property for Women Entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (WEP)*”. Planned activities for 2026 include mentoring phases under the “*WEP Pacific and WEP MexCard*” programs, as well as additional booster workshops to reinforce learning outcomes and to strengthen networking among participants. Under the “*WEP MexCard*” program, the mentoring phase will take place from February 1, 2026, to January 31, 2027, for 20 Indigenous women entrepreneurs from Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama. It will be conducted in Spanish.
- (ix) WIPO plans to implement a women-focused initiative in the fisheries sector in the Philippines between March and December 2026. This initiative aims to strengthen practical IP knowledge and commercialization opportunities for women entrepreneurs and producers in the sector.

- (x) WIPO plans to implement a dedicated initiative to support women entrepreneurs in Sudan through capacity-building activities. Its purpose is to strengthen the effective use of IP for business development and commercialization.
- (xi) An initiative on women and the digital environment in Lebanon is planned for 2026. It aims to enhance awareness and practical skills related to IP considerations in digital entrepreneurship and online markets.
- (xii) In the area of innovation and sustainability, WIPO GREEN Acceleration Projects will further integrate gender-sensitive approaches in 2026. Planned activities include resuming the “*Women in Green series*”, introducing new approaches in project implementation and evaluation, and expanding sex-disaggregated data collection to cover both technology seekers and technology providers.
- (xiii) WIPO will participate in a global webinar on “*Women and IP Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)*”, organized by the University of Wolverhampton in June 2026, to highlight dispute resolution opportunities for women IP professionals.
- (xiv) The *WIPO Global Awards* will continue in 2026 with a new cycle of activities recognizing innovative startups and SMEs. The program will maintain its emphasis on promoting women entrepreneurs and women-led SMEs through targeted outreach, enhanced visibility, and post-award mentorship and acceleration support.
- (xv) WIPO plans to organize a cross-regional exchange event between stakeholders from Asia and Latin America on women, entrepreneurship and IP, to share good practices, and to strengthen interregional collaboration.
- (xvi) The “*WIPO IP Center of Excellence for Medical Innovation and Manufacturing*” commenced activities from January 2026, with a commitment to gender-responsiveness and inclusivity. The Center will promote gender balance in expert panels, speakers, and capacity-building activities.
- (xvii) Through the *Inventor Assistance Program*, women inventors and women-led SMEs in nine countries¹¹ started to receive *pro bono* patent drafting and prosecution support from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026. Approximately seven new female beneficiaries are enrolled.
- (xviii) In Egypt, WIPO plans to implement activities in 2026 to support women from local communities through IP capacity-building and tailored guidance. The initiative will focus on strengthening the use of IP tools for income generation and entrepreneurship.
- (xix) A project entitled “*IP and Women Artisans/Entrepreneurs in Mauritania: Valorization of Henna of Cheghar*” is planned for 2026. The project aims at empowering women artisans and entrepreneurs to protect, promote and enhance the value of Henna of Cheghar through the use IP tools, particularly collective branding.
- (xx) Promotion activities in Brazil are planned in 2026. They will leverage the “*IP for Her*” platform through forums, projects and bilateral engagements to encourage its use and expand participation.

¹¹ Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Kenya, Morocco, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore and South Africa.

- (xxi) Additional regional PCT and IP awareness webinars for women from the CACEEC region are planned for 2026, aimed at strengthening understanding of international filing pathways and related IP tools.
- (xxii) Activities ensuring women's participation in the ASEAN region are planned in 2026. These include further workshops promoting the ASEAN IP Register in Indonesia and Viet Nam, additional PCT regional seminars, and advanced executive and IPTI training programs delivered in cooperation with IPOS and the WIPO Academy.

74. The Committee is invited to take note of the information contained in this document.

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