

Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System

Second Session
Geneva, May 27 and 28, 2019

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE LISBON UNION

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1. With regard to the discussions relating to the financial sustainability of the Lisbon Union, the attention of the Working Group is drawn to the fifty-seventh series of meetings (October 2 to 11, 2017) of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions and their decision relating to the proposed Program and Budget for the 2018/19 biennium:

“The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned:

- (i) Agreed to approve the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2018/19 Biennium (document A/57/6);
- (ii) Recalled that, in accordance with the Treaties of the Fee-Financed Unions, each Union should have revenue sufficient to cover its own expenses;
- (iii) Noted that Fee-Financed Unions with a projected biennial deficit in the 2018/19 Biennium should examine measures in accordance with its own treaty to address that deficit;
- (iv) Noted that if any Union in any given biennium does not have sufficient revenue and reserves to cover its projected expenses, the amount required to fund the operations of such Union is provided from the net assets of the Organization and is disclosed in the financial statements of the Organization and is to be repaid when the reserves of such Union allow it to do so;

(v) Decided that in accordance with (iv) above, for the 2018/19 Biennium, if any Fee-Financed Union does not have sufficient revenue to cover its expenses, the required amount mentioned in (iv) shall be provided from the reserves of the Contribution-financed Unions, if those reserves are fully sufficient, otherwise from the reserves of the other Fee-financed Unions.” (document A/57/12, paragraph 88).”

4. At the same session, the Assembly of the Lisbon Union “extended the mandate of the Lisbon Working Group with a view to allowing further discussions on the development of the Lisbon System, including solutions for its financial sustainability” (see document LI/A/34/4, paragraph 38(ii)).

5. At its thirty-fifth (13th extraordinary) session (September 24 to October 2, 2018), the Assembly of the Lisbon Union took note of the “Report on the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System” (document LI/A/35/1), and more particularly, in relation to the financial sustainability of the Lisbon Union, of the decision of the Working Group “to further discuss different options in future Working Group meetings or informal meeting(s) that the Chair of the Working Group might request the Secretariat to organize” (see document LI/A/35/1, paragraph 3, referring to document LI/WG/DEV-SYS/1/4, paragraph 15(ii)).

6. The Working Group is invited to consider the contents of the present document.

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