



Forum on Fostering Innovation and Creativity for Growth and Development in Least Developed Countries

Geneva, December 13 and 14, 2021

**WIPO DELIVERABLES FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
FOR 2022-2031**

prepared by the International Bureau of WIPO

Introduction

As a UN specialized agency, which leads the development of a balanced, inclusive and effective global intellectual property (IP) ecosystem to promote innovation and creativity, WIPO has been contributing continuously to the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for 2011-2020. In this regard, the Organization has been implementing the WIPO Deliverables for the LDCs for 2011-2020, a set of support activities for LDCs, adopted on the occasion of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the LDCs.

As the Istanbul Programme of Action has concluded, the UN system organizations have been called upon to contribute actively to the preparatory process for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the LDCs, which will be held in Doha in 2022 to build an ambitious new programme for action for LDCs for the next decade to assist in overcoming structural challenges, eradicating poverty, achieving development goals and enabling their graduation from the LDC category.

The unprecedented and challenging circumstances caused by the unfolding global health crisis related to the COVID-19 pandemic has had severe and enduring impacts on the economic and social development of all countries. In particular, the LDCs require enhanced support from the international community in building back better from the pandemic.

In this context, further to the request made by the LDCs Group, WIPO organized a Pre-Conference Forum in Geneva on December 13 and 14, 2021, at the level of Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives and Heads of Intellectual Property (IP) Offices of the LDC Member States with the objective of reviewing the implementation of WIPO Deliverables for the LDCs for the period 2011-2020 and, most importantly, to discuss and adopt a new set of WIPO Deliverables to be implemented during the next decade.

The overall objective is to provide focused, needs-based and impact-driven assistance and support for the LDCs in using IP, innovation and creativity as a tool for growth and development, thus continuing in assisting their efforts aimed at attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and at ensuring progress towards graduation from the LDC category.

The present document contains the “WIPO Deliverables for the Least Developed Countries for 2022-2031”, which was formally adopted by the LDC Member States at the Pre-Conference Forum, after having considered and discussed the draft proposal, developed by the WIPO Secretariat for their consideration.

The major areas of deliverables presented in the draft proposal document were identified on the basis of a number of substantive inputs. These include (i) the review of WIPO Deliverables for 2011-2020; (ii) The Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) for WIPO for 2022-2026; (iii) relevant conclusions and recommendations of the outcome documents of the Regional Review Meetings on the Istanbul Programme of Action; (iv) the deliberations of the Member States on relevant themes at the meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; (v) the results of the survey conducted by WIPO on the needs and key priority areas of LDCs on using IP for economic growth and sustainable development; and (vi) the findings of the recent Global Innovation Index Reports regarding the innovation performance of the LDCs.

The overall focus of the WIPO deliverables is placed on assisting the LDCs in building an enabling eco-system for promoting innovation and creativity and empowering a broad spectrum of stakeholders to create and use IPs for their endeavours.

The adopted new set of WIPO deliverables will be presented at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the LDCs, in Doha, Qatar.

The WIPO Deliverables for LDCs for 2022-2031 are comprised of two focus areas, as follows:

I. Building an enabling national intellectual property (IP) environment, innovation and creative ecosystems in LDCs to drive economic growth and development

Despite a certain amount of progress, most LDCs have not been able to create enabling national IP, innovation and creative ecosystems. As IP is an essential promoting factor for innovation and creativity, the policy, legislative frameworks on IP and their implementation mechanisms need to be strengthened so that the IP rights of innovators and creators are protected, and can be commercialized and used for the society's, communities' and their own benefit. In addition, it is important to look at the sources of innovation and creativity, and better equip with necessary IP skills the relevant institutions and stakeholders, which are central for the effective functioning of the ecosystem. In this regard, WIPO will continue to provide support to develop appropriate ecosystems and empower key institutions and stakeholders in LDCs, in particular universities and research institutions, so that they can respond well to the demands and support aspirations of innovators and creators.

Deliverables:

1.1 Continued support for developing, implementing and updating national IP and innovation policies and strategies, as well as relevant IP laws, in alignment with national development goals, as well as their preparation for graduation from the LDC category and smooth transition strategies;

1.2 Enhanced support for developing institutional IP policies in universities and research institutions to encourage creating IP and bringing research results to the next stage of development and to enable closer linkages between university and industry.

II. Enhancing IP knowledge and skills for a broad spectrum of national stakeholders in the innovation and creative ecosystems in the LDCs to enable the practical use of IP for enhancing competitiveness, wealth creation, economic growth and sustainable development.

In LDCs, the effective use of IP is hindered by the insufficient level of awareness, knowledge and skills around IP among the key stakeholders in the innovation and creative ecosystems. LDCs require continued support for the development of the necessary skills and expertise for its cadre of local IP professionals. In addition, it is crucial that innovators, start-ups, entrepreneurs, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), small-scale producers, and other stakeholders in the broader innovation ecosystem gain practical skills and capabilities for using IP for their activities.

WIPO can assist LDCs in providing such skills through various customized capacity-building, training and mentorship programs in a wide range of related areas. These support activities, for instance, can assist women entrepreneurs in using IP for the branding of their products; local farmers in using Geographical Indications (GIs) for adding value to their origin-based products; young innovators and researchers for commercializing their innovations; enable creators to reap the benefits of their creative works; and provide the technological capacity-building to address specific development needs. They will also contribute to the post-Covid 19 economic recovery efforts of the LDCs by facilitating innovation, productive capacity

and economic diversification. The Covid-19 related services and support package offered by WIPO will also assist the strengthening of the capacity of the LDCs to address the challenges posed by the pandemic.

Deliverables:

2.1 Supporting the use of IP for product branding and design for strengthening business competitiveness, in particular in agro-food, textile, artisanal, hospitality and tourism industries;

2.2 Building skills on management and commercialization of IP assets for SMEs and start-ups;

2.3 Support in leveraging copyright and related rights in the creative industries, including through strengthening collective management organizations (CMOs);

2.4 Facilitating the effective use of patent information for research and development, as well as for technological capacity building, through sustained skills building;

2.5 Continued support for the IP Office digitization and automation to enhance the efficiency and accessibility of their services;

2.6 Assistance on the use of IP for holders of traditional knowledge (TK), traditional cultural expressions (TCEs) and Genetic Resources (GRs) for the protection, preservation and use of their tradition-based innovation and creativity for wealth creation and sustainable development.

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Deliverables:

- 1.1 Continued support for developing, implementing and updating national IP and innovation policies and strategies, as well as relevant IP laws, in alignment with national development goals, as well as their preparation for graduation from the LDC category and smooth transition strategies;
- 1.2 Enhanced support for developing institutional IP policies in universities to encourage creating IP and bringing research results to the next stage of development and to enable closer linkages between university and industry.

II. Enhancing IP knowledge and skills for a broad spectrum of national stakeholders in the innovation and creative ecosystems in the LDCs to enable the practical use of IP for value creation, economic growth and competitiveness, and sustainable development

Deliverables:

- 2.1 Supporting the use of IP for product branding and design for strengthening business competitiveness, in particular in agro-food, textile, artisanal, hospitality and tourism industries;
- 2.2 Building skills on management and commercialization of IP assets for SMEs and start-ups;
- 2.3 Support in leveraging copyright and related rights in the creative industries, including through strengthening collective management organizations (CMOs);
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