

Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications

Forty-Ninth Session
Geneva, March 30 to April 2, 2026

SUMMARY BY THE CHAIR

adopted by the Committee

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. Ms. Lilyclaire Bellamy (Jamaica) acted as Chair. Ms. Kateřina Dlabolová (Czech Republic) and Ms. Tlalane Augustina Sebeko (Lesotho) acted as Vice-Chairs.
2. The Chair opened the forty-ninth session of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT).
3. Ms. Wang Binying, Deputy Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), welcomed the participants on behalf of Mr. Daren Tang, Director General of WIPO.
4. Mr. Marcus Höpperger (WIPO) acted as Secretary to the SCT.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The SCT adopted the draft Agenda (document SCT/49/1 Prov.5).

AGENDA ITEM 3: ELECTION OF A CHAIR AND TWO VICE-CHAIRS FOR SCT/50

6. The SCT elected, for the fiftieth session of the SCT, Ms. Grace Ama Issahaque (Ghana) as Chair, and Mr. Simion Levitchi (Republic of Moldova) and Mr. Sergio Chuez Salazar (Peru) as Vice-Chairs.

AGENDA ITEM 4: INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS

Updated Proposal by the Delegations of Canada, Israel, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the European Union and its member states for a Joint Recommendation Concerning Industrial Design Protection for Designs for Graphical User Interfaces (document SCT/44/6 Rev.4)

7. The SCT considered document SCT/44/6 Rev.4.

8. The Chair concluded that the SCT would continue, at its next session, the discussion on document SCT/44/6 Rev.4.

Proposal by the African Group for a Study on the Impact of Design Protection for Graphical User Interface (GUI) Designs on Innovation (document SCT/46/5)

9. The SCT considered document SCT/46/5.

10. The Chair concluded that the SCT would continue, at its next session, the discussion on document SCT/46/5.

Proposal by the Delegation of the United States of America for a Study on Industrial Design Protection for New and Emerging Technologies: Approaches to Protection of New Technological Designs, Including Projected Designs, Holographic Designs, and Virtual/Augmented Reality Designs (PHVAR Designs) (document SCT/49/5)

11. The SCT considered document SCT/49/5.

12. The Chair concluded that the Secretariat was requested to:

- prepare and circulate a draft survey on the current Approaches to Protection of New Technological Designs, Including Projected Designs, Holographic Designs, and Virtual/Augmented Reality Designs (PHVAR Designs);
- invite SCT members to provide comments on the draft survey before the next session of the SCT and incorporate those comments in a revised draft for consideration by the fiftieth session of the SCT.

Update by Member States on the Digital Access Service (DAS) for Priority Documents

13. The SCT noted the progress in the implementation of the DAS for industrial designs by members.

14. The Chair concluded that:

- the SCT would revert for an update to this item at its next session;
- the SCT agreed to hold an information session on the WIPO DAS in conjunction with the fiftieth session of the SCT.

AGENDA ITEM 5: TRADEMARKS

Revised Proposal by the Delegations of Georgia, Iceland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Peru, Senegal, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates Concerning Examination Guidelines for Trademarks Which Consist of or Contain Country Names or Geographical Names of National Significance (document SCT/43/6 Rev.2)

15. The SCT considered document SCT/43/6 Rev.2.

16. The Chair concluded that the SCT would continue the discussion on a revised document SCT/43/6 Rev.2 at its next session.

Second Revised Proposal by the Delegation of Jamaica for a Joint Recommendation Concerning Provisions on the Protection of Country Names (document SCT/43/9 Rev.)

17. The SCT considered document SCT/43/9 Rev.

18. The Chair concluded that the SCT would continue, at its next session, the discussion on a revised version of document SCT/43/9 Rev.

Updated Proposal by the Delegations of Brazil, Ecuador, Georgia, Iceland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Peru, Senegal, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates Concerning the Protection of Country Names and Geographical Names of National Significance in the Domain Name System (DNS) (document SCT/41/6 Rev.2)

19. The SCT considered document SCT/41/6 Rev.2.

20. The Chair concluded that the SCT decided to maintain document SCT/41/6 Rev.2 on the agenda of the SCT and to re-open the discussion thereof upon new developments.

Update on Trademark-Related Aspects of the Domain Name System (DNS) (document SCT/49/2)

21. The SCT considered document SCT/49/2.

22. The SCT requested the Secretariat to keep members informed of future developments in the DNS.

Proposal by the Delegations of Ecuador and Peru on Nation Brands (document SCT/48/3)

23. The SCT considered document SCT/48/3.

24. The Chair concluded that the SCT would continue, at its next session, discussion on a revised version of document SCT/48/3 in accordance with the comments provided by the SCT members during the present session of the SCT.

Proposal by the Delegation of the United Kingdom Regarding the Protection of Well-Known Marks (document SCT/49/3)

25. The SCT considered document SCT/49/3.

26. The Chair concluded that the Secretariat was requested to:

- prepare and circulate a draft survey on the protection of well-known marks;

- invite SCT members to provide comments on the draft survey before the next session of the SCT and incorporate those comments in a revised draft for consideration by the fiftieth session of the SCT.

Proposal by the Delegation of the United States of America for a Questionnaire on the Legal, Administrative, and Procedural Aspects of Examination and Registration of Certification Marks (document SCT/49/6)

27. The SCT considered document SCT/49/6.

28. The Chair concluded that the Secretariat was requested:

- to invite SCT members to provide additional questions to be included in the Questionnaire on the Legal, Administrative, and Procedural Aspects of Examination and Registration of Certification Marks, as contained in document SCT/49/6;
- to circulate the draft Questionnaire on the Legal, Administrative, and Procedural Aspects of Examination and Registration of Certification Marks to SCT members, for comments;
- to finalize and circulate the Questionnaire on the Legal, Administrative, and Procedural Aspects of Examination and Registration of Certification Marks, to SCT members, and;
- to compile all returns into a document for consideration by the fiftieth session of the SCT.

AGENDA ITEM 6: GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS

29. The Chair concluded that the SCT agreed:

- to hold an information session on geographical indications in conjunction with the fiftieth session of the SCT on the following topics:
 - Transparency and public notice in geographical indication registration practices;
 - Trans-border geographical indications;
 - Comparing quality control and related mechanisms in the legal protection systems of geographical indications and trademarks for agricultural, craft and industrial products.
- to invite members to present, to the fiftieth session of the SCT, proposals for topics for an information session on geographical indications, to be held in conjunction with the fifty-first session of the SCT.

AGENDA ITEM 7: SUMMARY BY THE CHAIR

30. The SCT approved the Summary by the Chair, as contained in the present document.

AGENDA ITEM 8: CLOSING OF THE SESSION

31. The Chair closed the session on April 2, 2026.

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