

ICGEB's Policy Guidelines on its Rights to Intellectual Property.
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Article 14 of the ICGEB Statutes (the international treaty which established the organization in 1983) considers all the issues related to inventions resulting from ICGEB scientific research: publication of results, vesting of all rights in the Centre for work produced or developed by its researchers, patents policy, access to intellectual property rights by Member and Non-Member States and the use by the Centre of its patents and other rights to intellectual property. In particular, while stressing that the ICGEB shall publish all results of its research activities provided such publications do not contravene its general policy regarding rights to intellectual property, the same article indicates that it shall be the policy of the Centre to obtain patents or interests in patents on results of genetic engineering and biotechnology developed through projects of the ICGEB and that the latter shall use any financial or other benefits associated with its IPRs to promote the development, production and wide application of biotechnology, predominantly in the interest of developing countries.

The process of filing patent applications for inventions deriving from the scientific research of the three Components of the Centre, located in Trieste, New Delhi and Cape Town, is presently regulated by the "Policy Guidelines on Patents, Licensing, Copyrights and other Rights to Intellectual Property of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology", adopted by its Board of Governors in November 2000. Within the ICGEB Directorate an internal service has been established to monitor all instances related to possible ICGEB patent applications. This includes direct contact between inventor scientists and the Patent Attorneys entrusted with the filing of the applications at National and/or International Patent Offices, in compliance with the provisions of the Patent Co-operation Treaty (PCT) and the European Patent Convention (EPC). In addition, the above-mentioned service oversees the finalisation of Agreements with industrial partners for the transfer of technology and for the license of ICGEB patented know-how.

The approach of the ICGEB on the use of its intellectual property is also derived from its status and mandate in favor of its Member States. Furthermore, the Centre is actively stimulating the engagement of other international organizations, for the development of tailor made programmes aimed at the establishment of an adequate IP culture in those emerging economies that are now playing a major role in innovation, involving many categories of key stakeholders.