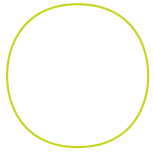



LDC Graduation Toolkit in Patent and Technology Law



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LDC Graduation Toolkit in Patent and Technology Law

For Member States
graduating from
Least Developed
Country status

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Introduction

Given the increasing number of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) approaching graduation, the LDC Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) have expressed the need for additional intellectual property (IP) related support measures to assist in preparing for graduation from the LDC category and for the implementation of smooth transition strategies.

The Doha Program of Action¹ calls for enhanced international support measures to graduating LDCs, and among others for “technical assistance to build and strengthen intellectual property rights systems of least developed countries to enable them to comply with obligations related to intellectual property after graduation”.

In 2022, in response to the calls made by Member States, WIPO launched its ‘Graduation Support Package for LDCs’, through which targeted, country-specific assistance is provided to the LDCs scheduled for graduation.

The deliverables of the Support Package focus on assisting graduating LDCs in developing and upgrading their national IP systems to meet IP-related obligations after graduation and, at the same time, on enabling them to harness IP and innovation for attaining graduation goals relating to structural transformation, enhancing productive capacity, competitiveness and economic diversification.

The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) is one of the cornerstones of the international legal framework for the protection and enforcement of IP. Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are bound by this Agreement and must, therefore, ensure that their national law effectively implements the standards of protection it enshrines.

The TRIPS Agreement expressly recognizes economic, financial and administrative constraints experienced by LDCs and their need for flexibility to create a viable technological base. As such, LDC members of the WTO benefit from a transition period, during which they are exempted from applying the Agreement’s substantive standards of protection.² Once a WTO member graduates from LDC status, the country no longer benefits from the exemptions provided by the transition period. Therefore, the national laws of the country must be made compatible with the TRIPS Agreement.³

LDCs often raise questions on the precise impacts of graduation on their national legal systems and domestic economies, particularly with regard to patent and technology-related rights. Upon

1 Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2031. See: <https://www.un.org/ldc5/doha-programme-of-action>.

2 The general transition period for LDCs, stemming from Article 66 of the TRIPS Agreement, has been extended until 1 July 2034. Members must still observe the national treatment and the most-favored-nation treatment obligations enshrined in Articles 3 and 4 of the TRIPS Agreement. Separately, LDCs are not obliged, with respect to pharmaceutical products, to implement Sections 5 (patents) and 7 (undisclosed information) of Part II of the Agreement until 1 January 2033. See: https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/ai17_e/trips_art66_oth.pdf

3 Please note that the TRIPS Agreement requires WTO members to also comply with Articles 1 through 12, and Article 19, of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, as well as Articles 2 through 7 (other than paragraph 3 of Article 6), Article 12 and paragraph 3 of Article 16 of the Washington Treaty on Intellectual Property in Respect of Integrated Circuits.

graduation, a WTO member assumes the obligation under the TRIPS Agreement to put in place effective protection systems for patents, layout designs of integrated circuits and trade secrets. Given the complexity of the administration of these rights, and the consequences they have on local innovation ecosystems and economies, it is necessary for graduating LDCs to understand the range of policy options at their disposal and to make informed choices when designing their protection and enforcement systems.

WIPO supports the balanced development of IP regimes in its Member States, seeking to ensure that IP rights benefit local communities and innovation ecosystems while expanding opportunities for economic development. In this capacity, WIPO provides a wide range of technical assistance services to graduating LDCs, including legislative and policy advice. The present toolkit is a direct result of WIPO's efforts to assist LDCs in their graduation, with a specific focus on the minimum standards of protection under the TRIPS Agreement and the accompanying policy choices concerning patent and technology-related rights.⁴

Against this background, this toolkit contains a basic guide that seeks to assist national policymakers in charting a viable direction for the protection of patents, layout designs of integrated circuits and trade secrets under the applicable international framework.⁵ Graduating LDCs can use the toolkit in determining their needs and identifying gaps in relation to patent and technology laws, in particular, at the initial phase of consultation with WIPO on developing a country-specific graduation support package.

The International Bureau (IB) of WIPO underlines that any information provided in this toolkit is for information and awareness-raising purposes only. Its contents may be subject to change. Member States are encouraged to contact the IB for tailor-made legislative and policy assistance, taking into account the precise legal and economic characteristics of each country.

This toolkit adopts a workflow structure to guide the reader through the relevant considerations. The elements within the workflow correspond as below:



Question



Information



Yes answer



Attention



No answer



End of section



FAQ

⁴ LDCs are reminded that there are further impacts and considerations associated with graduation, both with respect to other IP types as well as matters unrelated to IP, which are not addressed by this toolkit.

⁵ In this context, the applicable framework is primarily composed of the TRIPS Agreement and the relevant provisions of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property as referenced in the TRIPS Agreement.

Part 1

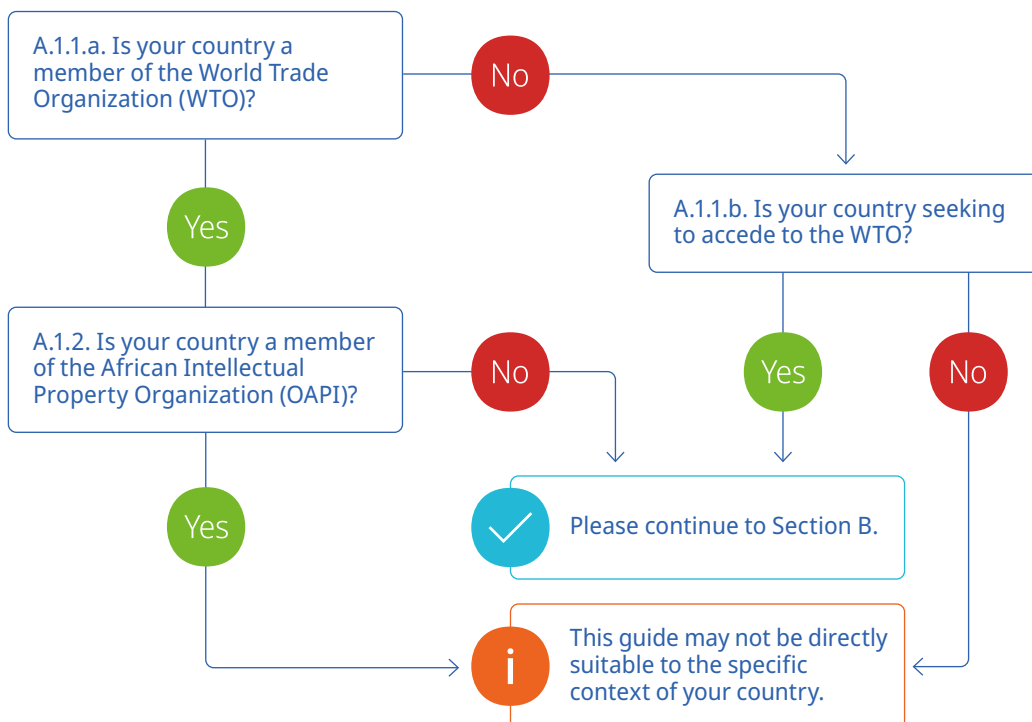
Guide for graduating LDCs

This guide aims to help graduating LDCs better understand which specific action items they may need to pursue in relation to the protection of patents, layout designs of integrated circuits and trade secrets.

Section A. The fundamentals

A.1. Is this guide applicable to your country?

This guide has been prepared in the specific context of LDCs that may be affected by graduation. At the onset, it is imperative to establish whether it is suitable for your country's needs, before proceeding onto other considerations.



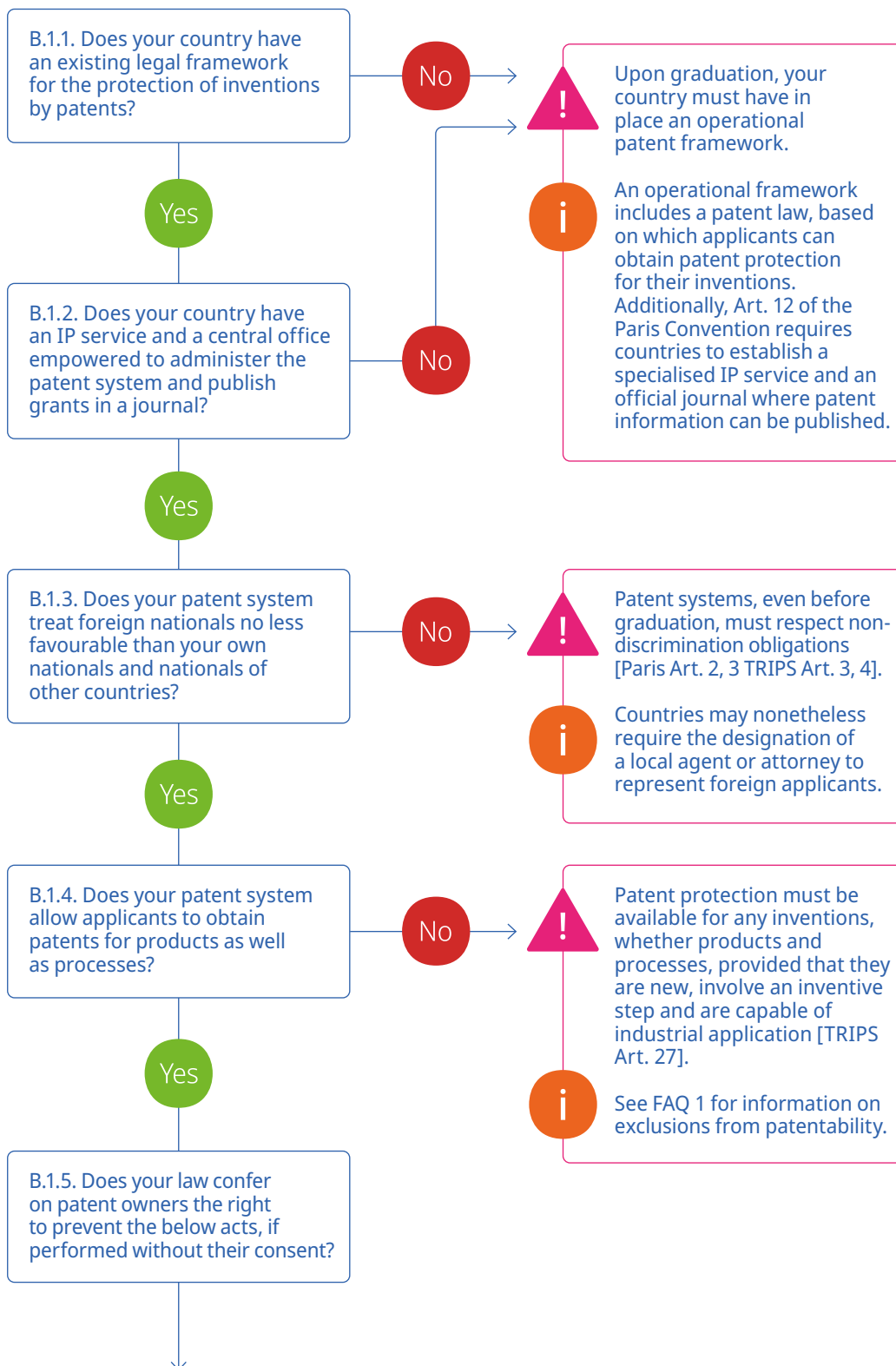
i A.1.1. LDC graduation will only have a direct impact on your country's obligations under the TRIPS Agreement if your country is already a WTO member or seeking to become one. Nonetheless, please also see the checklist in Section D regarding potential bilateral or multilateral obligations.

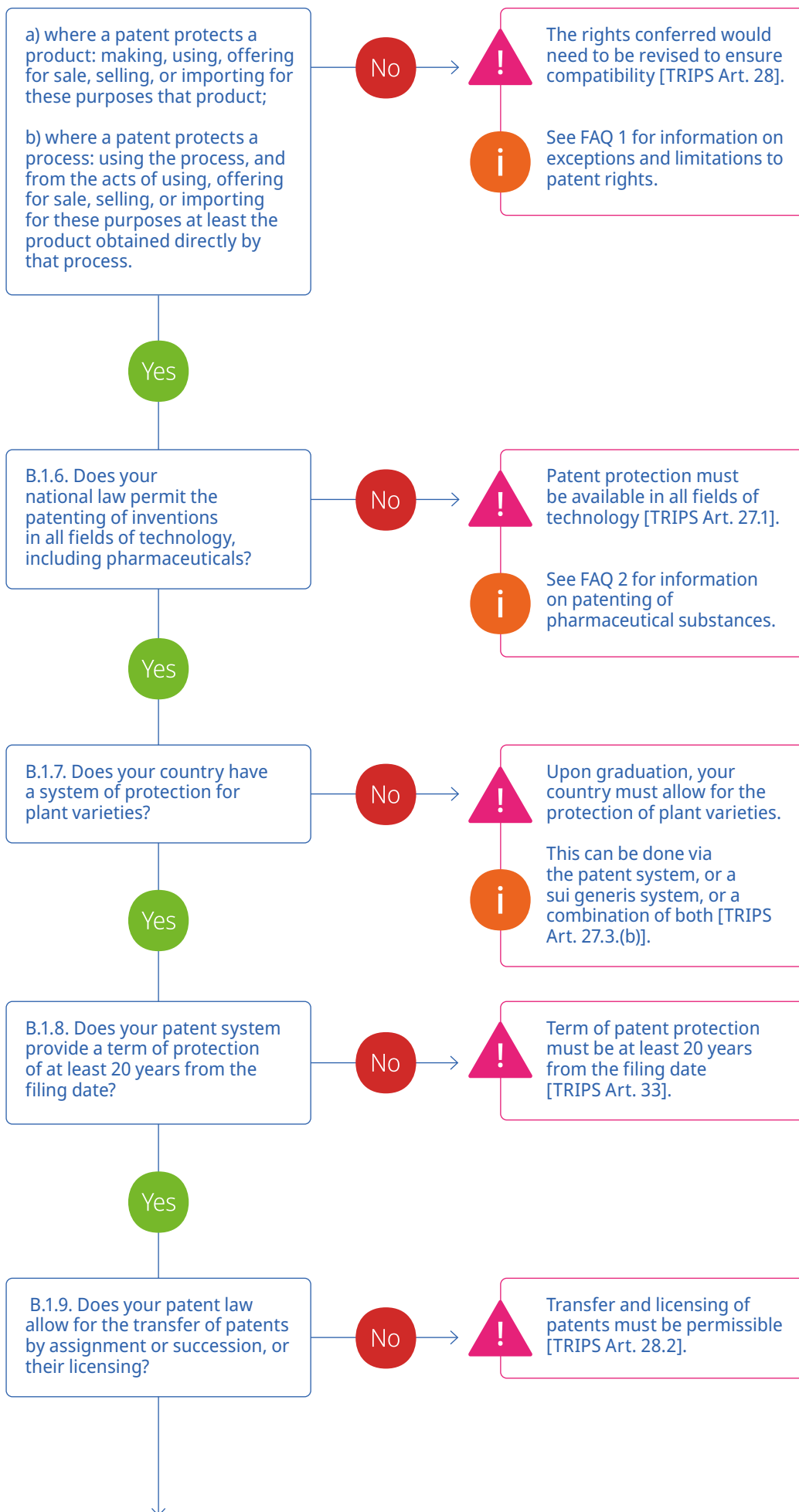
A.1.2. By virtue of the regional IP system administered under the Bangui Agreement, members of OAPI do not maintain separate national IP regimes. Therefore, while informative, this guide is not directly applicable to their specific legal context.

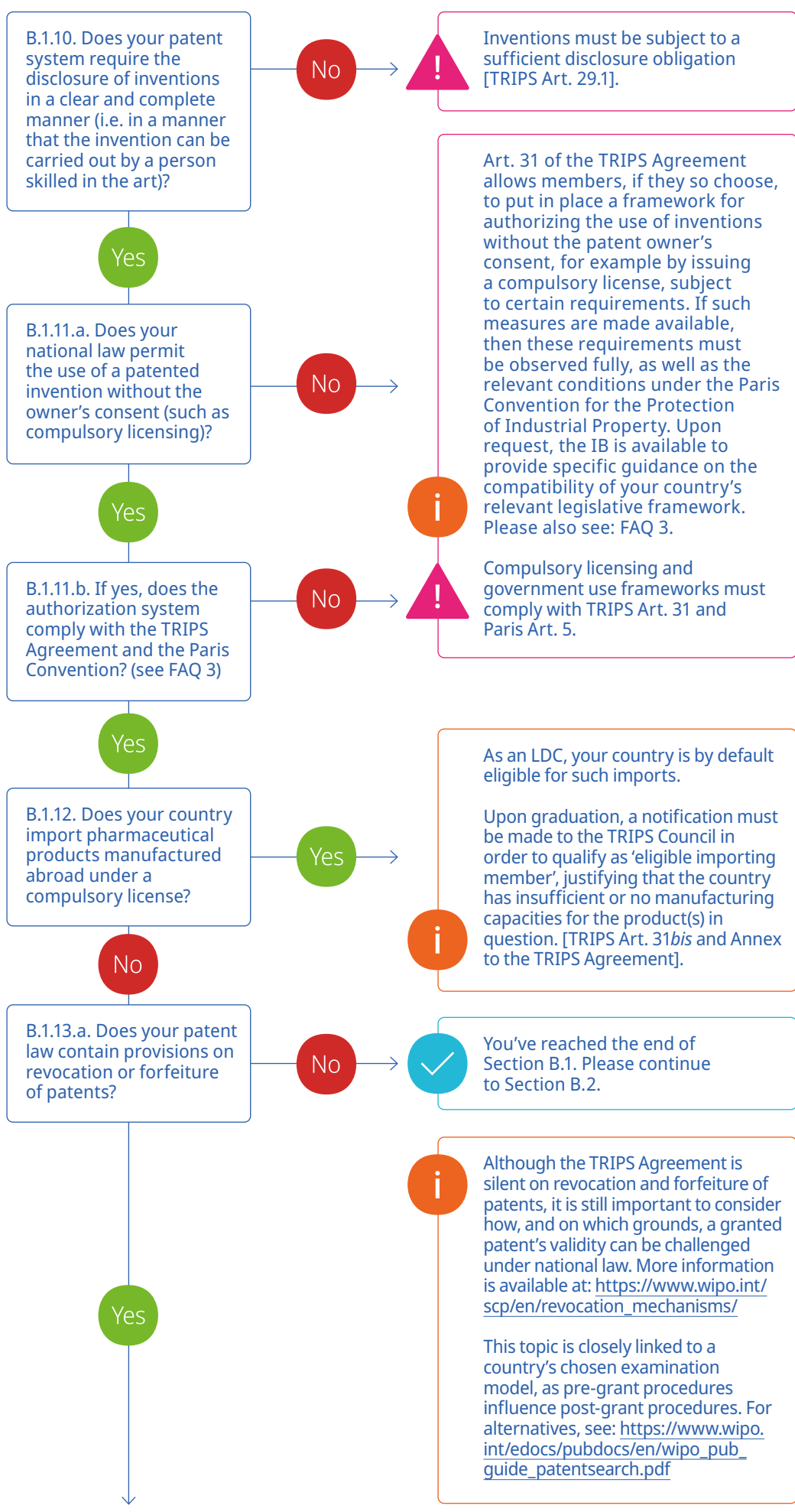
Section B. Overview of your country's legal framework

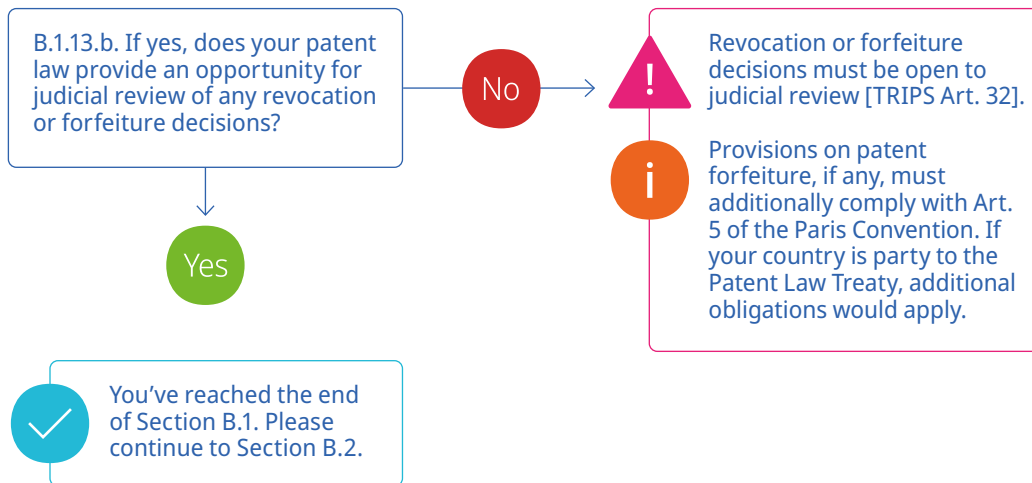
This Section provides an overview of the international obligations and choices stemming from the TRIPS Agreement in relation to patents, layout designs of integrated circuits and trade secrets. This Section can be a useful tool in identifying your relevant policy needs at a preliminary level upon graduation. When following the questions in the guide, please ensure that your answers reflect your existing legal framework.

B.1. Patents









FAQ 1: When developing a national patent system that is compatible with the TRIPS Agreement and the Paris Convention, which flexibilities can my country rely on?

The TRIPS Agreement establishes minimum standards of protection and enforcement that are common to all WTO members. That said, members benefit from a large degree of discretion when designing the particular characteristics of their patent systems. This room for maneuver is sometimes expressly provided for in the Paris Convention and the TRIPS Agreement, and at other times made available by the silence of international treaties on certain issues. Collectively, the freedom available for each member is often referred to as 'flexibilities'.

Among the many policy options available to policy makers, the TRIPS Agreement allows WTO members to exclude from patenting certain types of inventions. These include inventions whose commercial exploitation may be deemed contrary to public order or morality, including to protect human, animal or plant life or health or to avoid serious prejudice to the environment. It also permits excluding diagnostic, therapeutic and surgical methods for the treatment of humans or animals; as well as plants and animals other than microorganisms, and essentially biological processes for the production of plants or animals other than non-biological and microbiological processes.

Additionally, the legislation of many countries provides some or all of the following exceptions and limitations to patent rights, which must comply with the 3-step test enshrined in Art. 30 of the TRIPS Agreement:

- private and/or non-commercial use;
- experimental use and/or scientific research;
- extemporaneous preparation of medicines;
- prior use;
- use of articles on foreign vessels, aircrafts and land vehicles;
- acts for obtaining regulatory approval from authorities;
- exhaustion of patent rights;
- compulsory licensing and/or government use; and
- certain use of patented inventions by farmers and breeders.

More information on exceptions and limitations to patent rights, including working papers on the topic, is available at a dedicated webpage of WIPO: https://www.wipo.int/patents/en/topics/exceptions_limitations.html

More information on the flexibilities available within the IP system is accessible via: <https://www.wipo.int/ip-development/en/agenda/flexibilities/>



FAQ 2: My country has a domestic pharmaceutical industry but currently, pharmaceutical substances are not patentable. How will graduation impact my country's pharmaceutical industry?

Upon graduation, you will need to permit the patenting of pharmaceutical substances, since inventions must be patentable in all fields of technology. However, patent rights are territorial and do not apply retroactively. Therefore, the change in your country's law does not make foreign pharmaceutical patents simply enforceable in your country overnight. Any patent application for a new pharmaceutical invention would need to be filed at your national patent office and granted in accordance with your national examination standards.

Overall, graduation will not prevent your manufacturers from continuing to supply your domestic market with the existing pharmaceutical substances already under production in the country, if no national patents protect these inventions. Additionally, there are different policy tools within patent law to foster greater market competition, such as rules on exhaustion of patent rights.

More information on exhaustion of patent rights is accessible via: https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=581380



FAQ 3: When designing a compulsory licensing or government use framework, which factors does a country need to consider?

Compulsory licensing and other government-permitted uses without right holder authorization (for the purposes of this section, 'compulsory licensing' in short) represent a flexibility available under international patent law, aimed at safeguarding public interest and/or preventing abuses of the patent system. Compulsory licences may be issued by competent public authorities, subject to certain conditions stipulated in the Paris Convention (Art. 5) and the TRIPS Agreement (Art. 31). Some of these conditions are:

- authorization for compulsory licensing should be considered on its individual merits;
- compulsory licensing may only be permitted if, prior to it, the proposed licensee has made efforts to obtain authorization from the right holder on reasonable commercial terms and conditions and that such efforts have not been successful within a reasonable period of time;
- the scope and duration of the compulsory license should be limited to the purpose for which it was authorized;
- the authorized use should be non-exclusive;
- the authorized use should be non-assignable, except with that part of the enterprise or goodwill which enjoys such use;
- the compulsory license should be predominantly for supplying the domestic market of the authorizing WTO member;
- the compulsory license should be liable to be terminated if and when the circumstances that led to it cease to exist and are unlikely to recur;
- the right holder should be paid adequate remuneration in the circumstances of each case, taking into account the economic value of the authorization; and
- the legal validity of any decision relating to the authorization of a compulsory license as well as the remuneration provided in that respect should be subject to judicial review or other independent review by a distinct higher authority.

It should be underlined that the above conditions are not exhaustive, and several of them may be waived in certain instances, such as in the case of a national emergency or other circumstances of extreme urgency, in cases of public non-commercial use, in order to remedy anti-competitive behaviour, or in cases falling within the scope of Article 31*bis* of the TRIPS Agreement.

As long as the minimum requirements under the Paris Convention and the TRIPS Agreement are met, WTO members enjoy a degree of discretion when it comes to designing their compulsory licensing frameworks. To ensure that their respective policy needs are appropriately met, they have a number of parameters they can consider.

The first parameter concerns the **grounds** for compulsory licensing. WTO members have the freedom to determine, in their laws, the legal grounds for the issuing of a compulsory license. Some examples include national emergency or other circumstances of extreme urgency; cases of public non-commercial use; the need to remedy anti-competitive behavior; failure of a patent owner to sufficiently exploit the invention in the country; or cases related to dependent patents.

The second parameter concerns **mechanism and procedure**. WTO members can determine who is entitled to request a compulsory license, how such a request may be filed, and which government authority is empowered to decide on such requests. For example, while in some countries the courts are vested with the power to receive requests and make decisions, in others it may be the IP Office or a ministry, or another mechanism such as a dedicated committee.

The third parameter concerns **remuneration**. The TRIPS Agreement requires adequate remuneration to be paid to the patent owner, taking into account the economic value of the authorization in the circumstances of each case. The need to correct anti-competitive practices may be taken into account in determining the amount of remuneration in such cases. That said, it is within the discretion of each country to determine how the concept of 'economic value' is calculated, and there are different methodologies for such calculations.

The fourth parameter concerns the **terms** of the compulsory license. As required by the Paris Convention and the TRIPS Agreement, compulsory licenses must be subject to certain terms, such as non-exclusivity and non-transferability. The duration of the compulsory license is at the discretion of the competent authority, depending on the conditions which gave rise to the compulsory license and the relevant circumstances.

The Standing Committee on the Law of Patents has a draft reference document on the topic of compulsory licensing, accompanied by a compilation of provisions from the laws of different WIPO Member States. This can be accessed via: https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=437425

WIPO, the WTO and the World Health Organization have a joint publication titled '*Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation*', which includes information on compulsory licences, particularly in Chapter IV, section C.3(a)(ii) (pages 235-241). This study can be accessed via: https://www.wipo.int/policy/en/global_health/trilateral_cooperation.html

Additionally, the IB remains at the disposal of the Member States to provide legislative and policy assistance related to the designing of national compulsory licensing frameworks.



FAQ 4: Does my country need to have a protection system for utility models upon graduation?

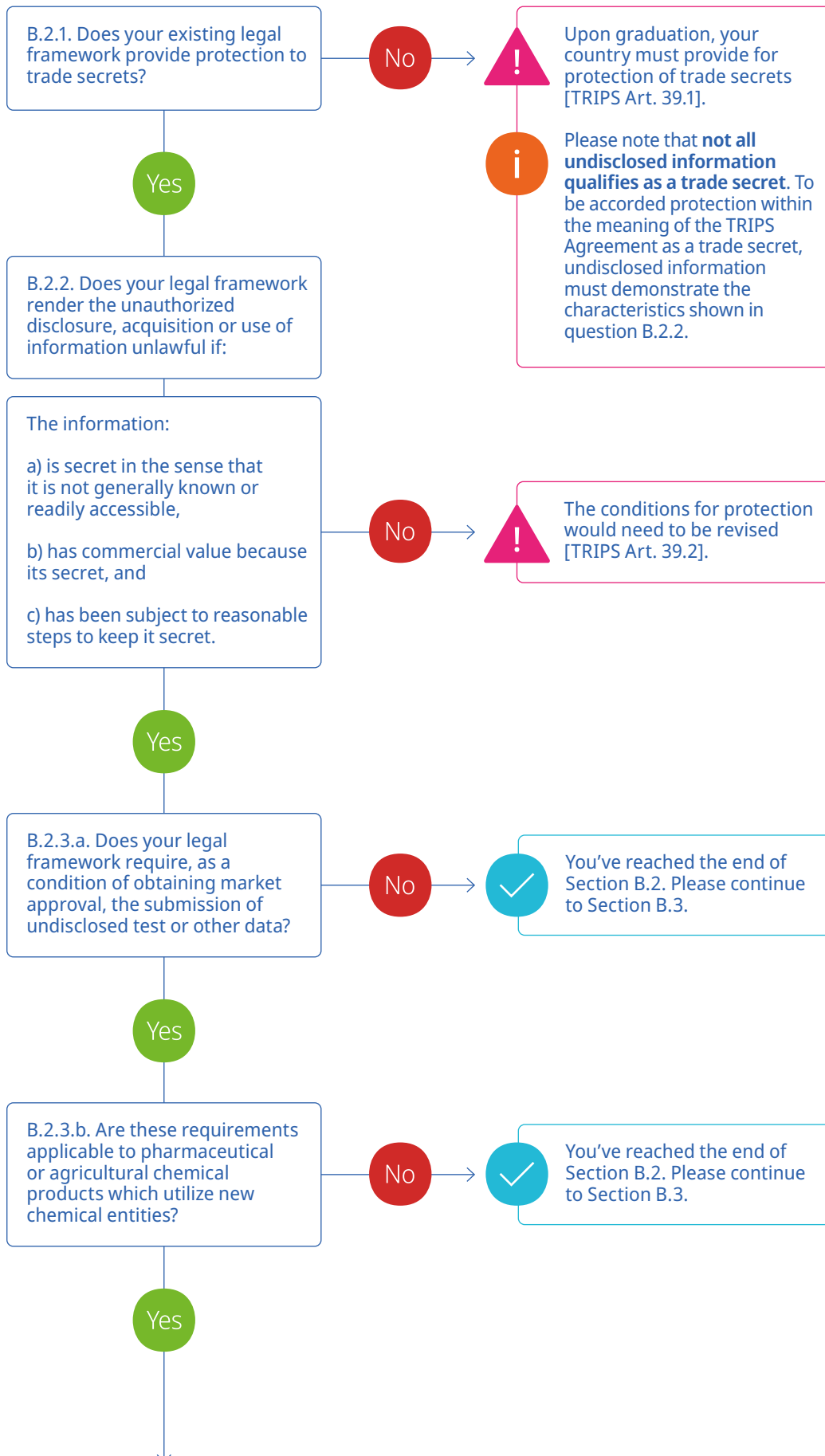
Introducing or maintaining a utility model protection system (also known as petty patents, simple patents or utility model certificates in some jurisdictions) is not a requirement under the Paris Convention or the TRIPS Agreement.

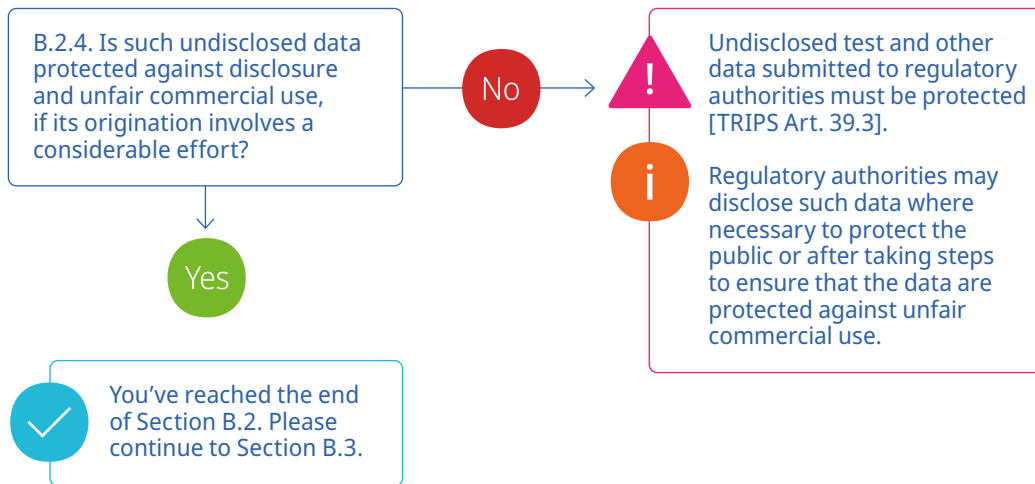
However, utility model protection is a versatile IP title for smaller inventive solutions that may be administered alongside the patent system. Such a system can be utilized to pursue policy goals similar to those of the patent system, targeting local and more incremental innovation. Utility model protection can be tailored with an even greater flexibility compared to patents in terms of subject-matter eligibility, criteria for protection, examination modalities, term of protection, and even enforcement, and hence, it may be well suited to the needs of some graduating LDCs.

More information on utility models is available at: https://www.wipo.int/patents/en/topics/utility_models.html

Since utility model protection is not an obligation linked to graduation, please contact the IB should you wish to receive further guidance on the policy options available relating to this IP title.

B.2. Undisclosed Information





FAQ 5: Can my country's legislation include reasonable exceptions to unlawful disclosure, acquisition or use of trade secrets?

Upon graduation, your country will need to have in place a protection system for trade secrets, providing judicial recourse in case of misappropriation. However, it is within a country's sovereign discretion to determine which reasonable exceptions may be allowable to such protection. This is a decision that is often made in view of the country's legal system and existing jurisprudence, as well as the need to protect the public.

For example, unauthorized disclosure of a trade secret may be deemed lawful if it is to inform law enforcement authorities of illegal acts, to protect public health and safety, or to safeguard fundamental rights such as the freedom of expression. Moreover, there are other acts which may be deemed to fall outside the scope of trade secret protection, such as independent discovery or reverse engineering.



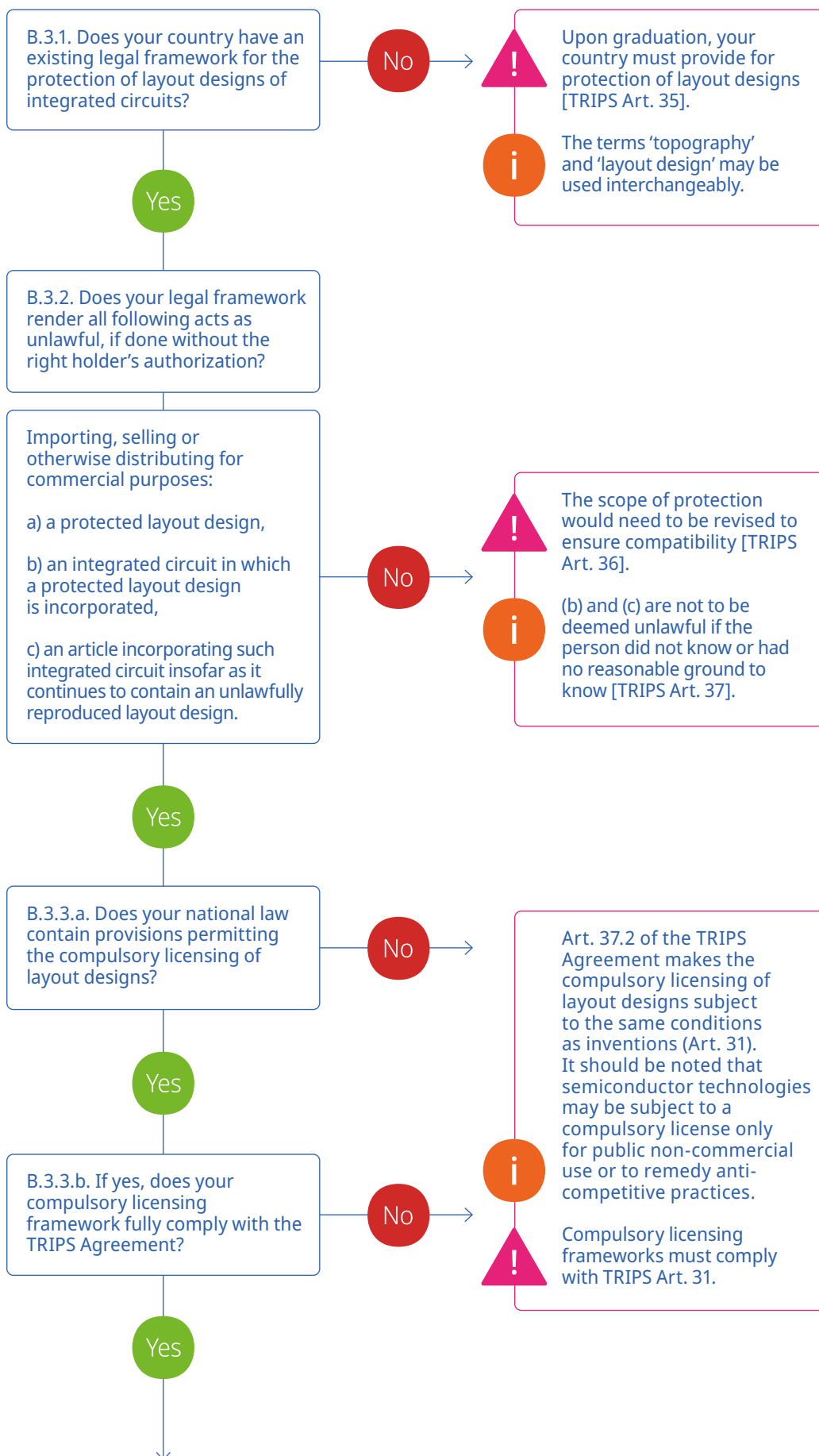
FAQ 6: How can my country best incorporate national provisions on the protection of undisclosed test data submitted to regulatory authorities as a condition for obtaining market approval?

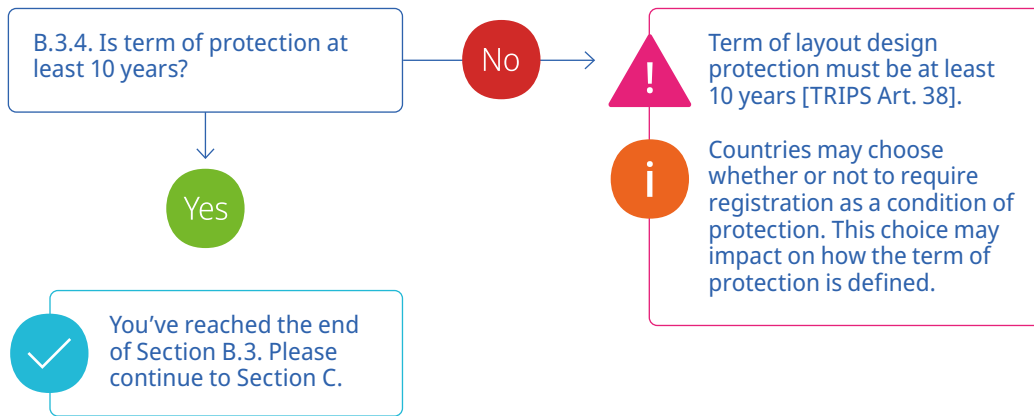
Upon graduation, your country will need to have in place a protection system for undisclosed data submitted to regulatory authorities as a condition for obtaining market approval, if such data pertains to a new chemical entity and its origination involves a considerable effort. However, there is no one-size-fits-all implementation model. This international obligation may be incorporated in your country's national system in different ways, depending on your country's legal system, and numerous choices related to the regulatory frameworks regarding pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products. For example, some countries choose to implement a so-called 'data exclusivity period' while others opt for alternative means of implementation.

In this regard, it should be highlighted that the non-disclosure obligation under Article 39.3 of the TRIPS Agreement is addressed at public authorities. As such, the corresponding legal provisions and measures are best suited for inclusion in relevant regulatory laws, and developed in consultation with the relevant authorities tasked with implementing the given framework.

WIPO, the WTO and the World Health Organization have a joint publication titled 'Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation', which includes information on protection of test data, particularly in Chapter II, section B.1(c) (pages 80-83). This study can be accessed via: https://www.wipo.int/policy/en/global_health/trilateral_cooperation.html

B.3. Layout designs of integrated circuits





FAQ 7: What are the consequences of deciding to require registration as a condition of protection, as opposed to not requiring it?

Upon graduation, your country will need to have in place a protection system for layout designs of integrated circuits. However, it is within a country's sovereign discretion whether or not to require registration as a condition of protection. If you require registration, this means that prospective right holders will need to file an application with the competent national office. This office will then examine the application for conformity with your respective national law, and take a decision as to grant or refusal. If you opt for a registration system, you would need to decide whether to grant applications only on the basis of a formality check or to carry out a substantive examination. Overall, a registration system causes a larger administrative burden.

If you opt for a system that does not require registration, then a layout design will be deemed to have protection within your country's territory from the moment of first commercial exploitation wherever in the world. This means that right holders do not need to file an application and the competent national office does not need to carry out an examination. Your national law could nonetheless permit interested parties to raise challenges to validity.



FAQ 8: What is the Washington Treaty and how does it relate to my country's international obligations regarding layout designs?

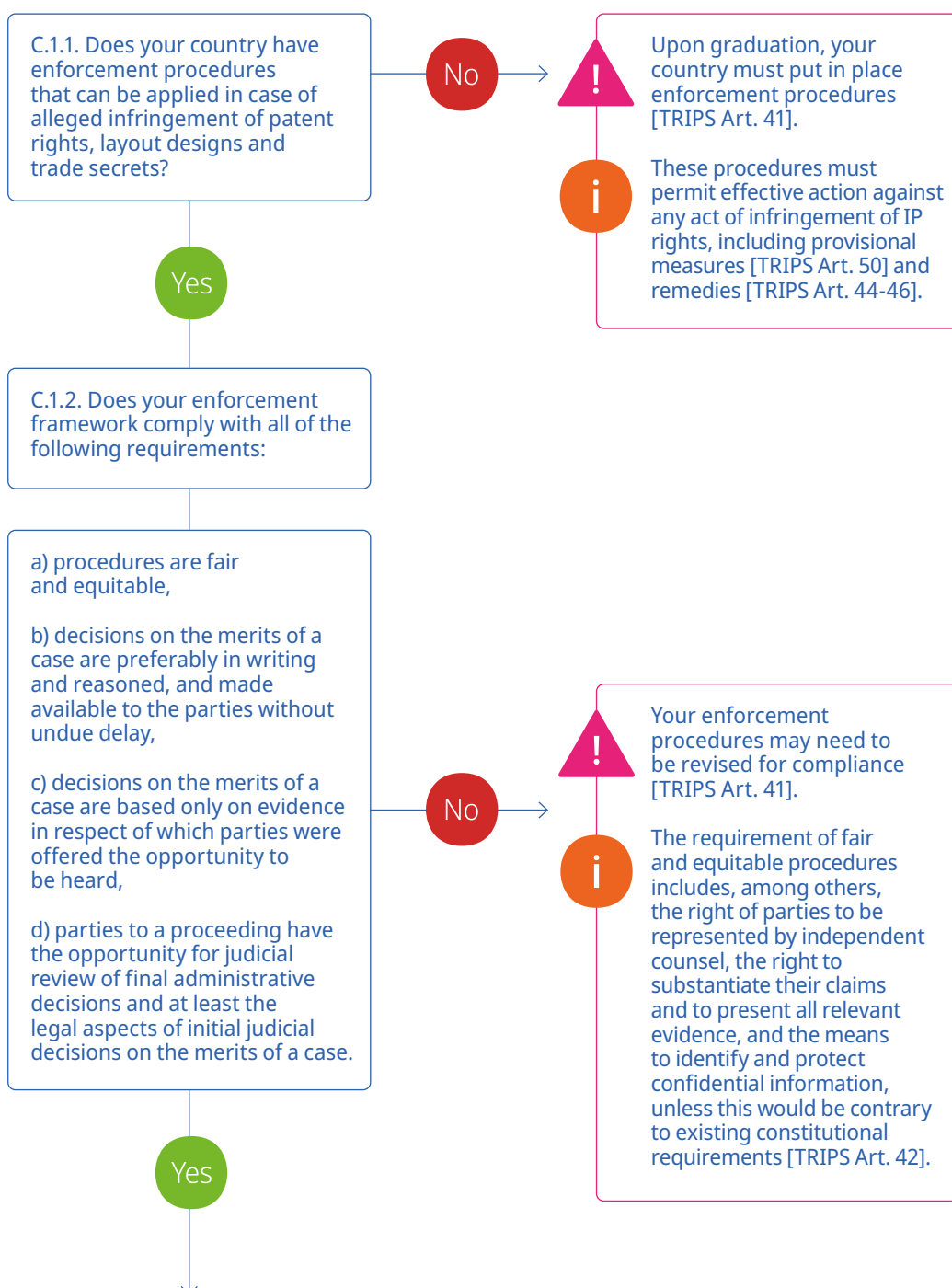
The Treaty on Intellectual Property in Respect of Integrated Circuits, also known as the Washington Treaty, was adopted in 1989. However it never entered into force. Nonetheless, Article 35 of the TRIPS Agreement requires WTO members to comply with Articles 2 through 7 (other than paragraph 3 of Article 6), Article 12 and paragraph 3 of Article 16 of the Washington Treaty. Therefore, your country's national protection system for layout designs must be compatible with these relevant provisions.

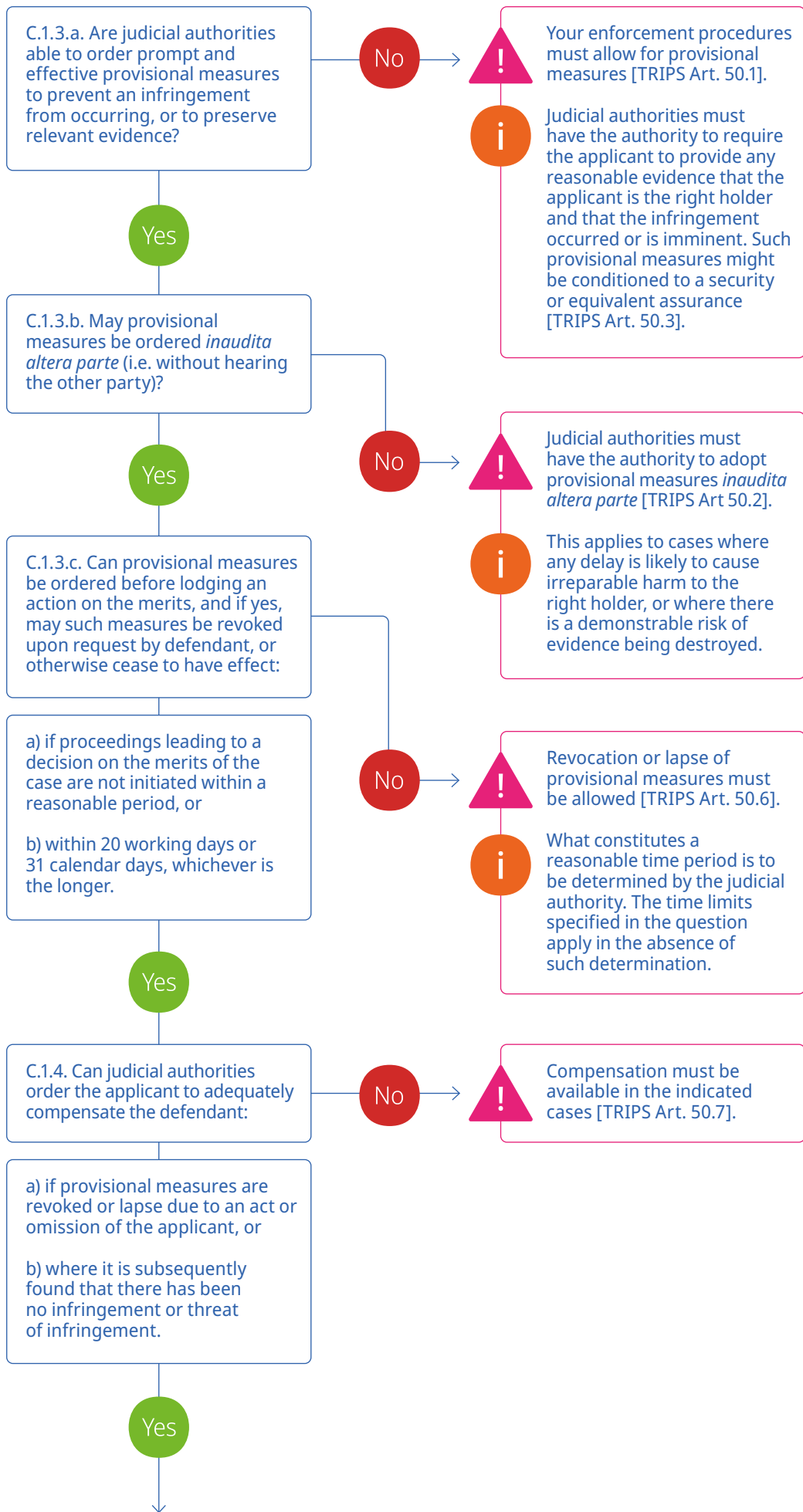
Practically, this means that definitions for the terms 'integrated circuit', 'layout design', 'right holder' and 'protected layout design' must align with the Washington Treaty. Additionally, the Treaty introduces the 'originality' requirement for a layout design to be protectable, and clarifies that layout design protection can be accorded through a sui generis law or otherwise any other IP right. The IB is available to provide further clarifications specific to your context.

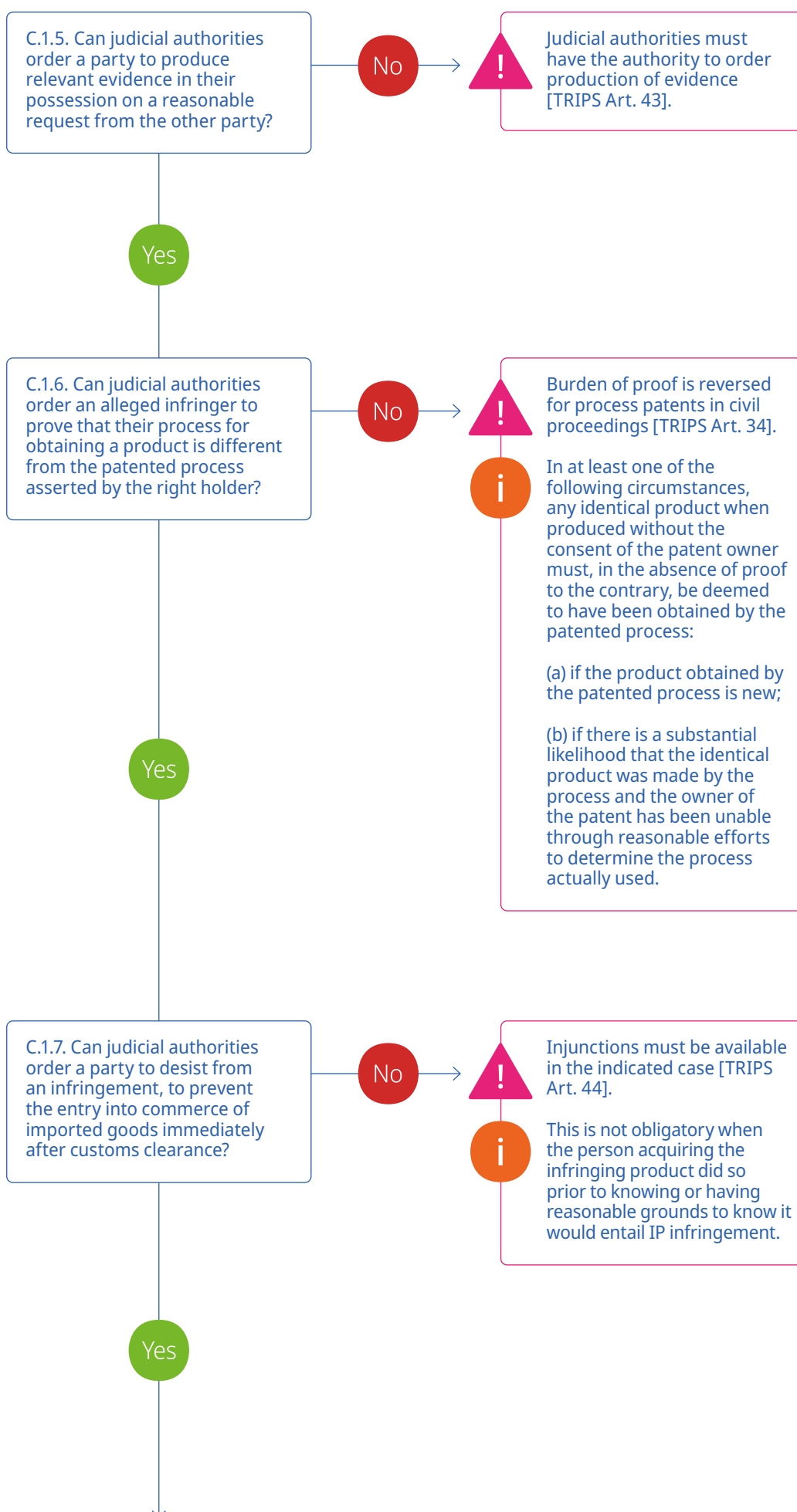
Section C. Enforcement

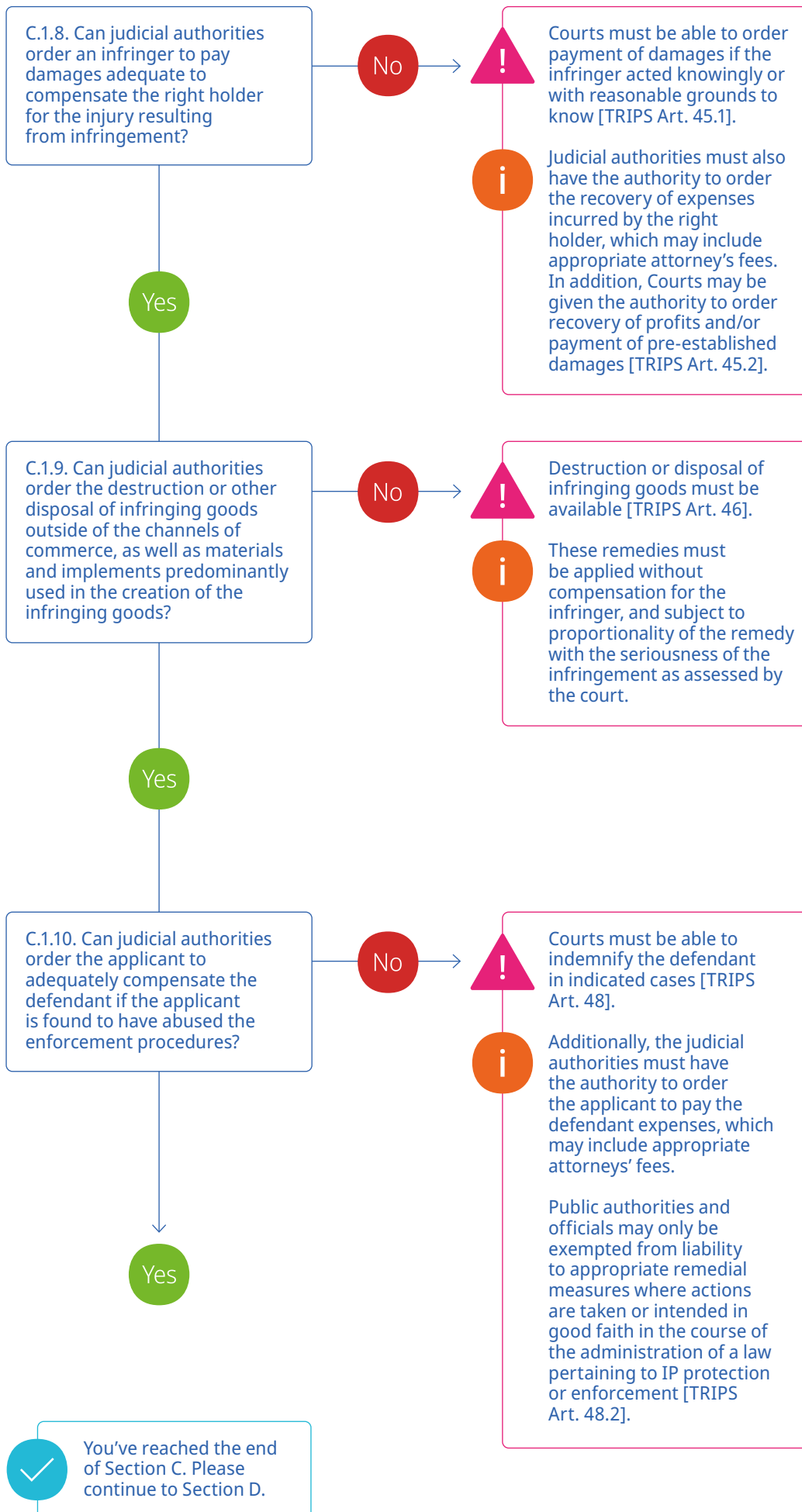
This Section provides an overview of the international obligations and choices stemming from Part III of the TRIPS Agreement in relation to enforcement after graduation. Please note that provisions of the TRIPS Agreement on border measures (Articles 51 to 58) and criminalization of IP infringements (Article 61) are not obligatory insofar as the enforcement of patent rights, layout designs and undisclosed information are concerned. Therefore, this Section does not contain questions related to the implementation of those provisions.

While this Section seeks to provide information on possible considerations your country may need to take into account on the issue of enforcement of patents, undisclosed information and layout designs of integrated circuits, it is advisable that enforcement of IP rights is addressed in a holistic manner across all areas of IP.



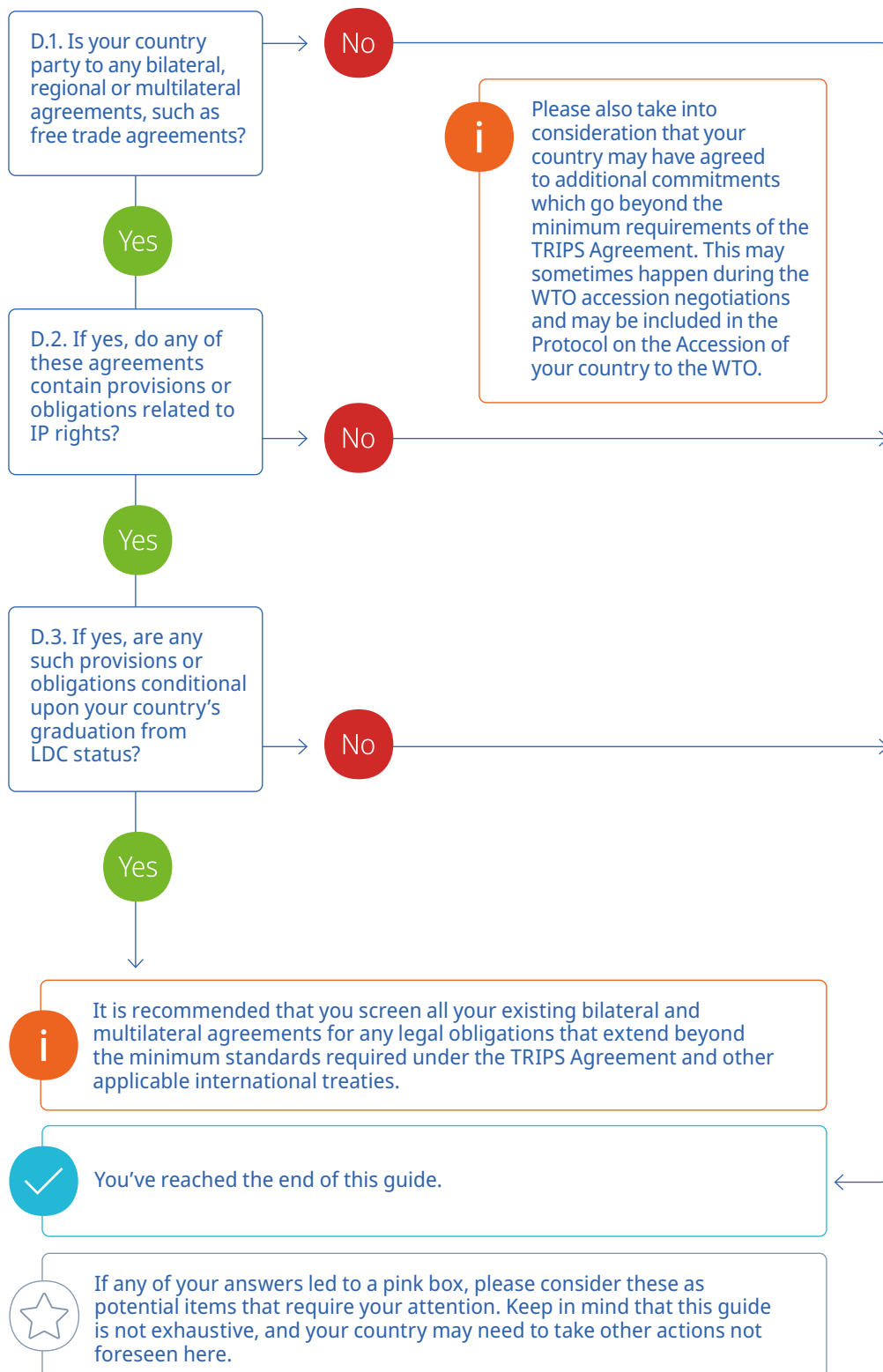






Section D. Obligations stemming from bilateral or regional agreements

While Sections A, B and C focused on the basic considerations stemming from international obligations that may be associated with graduation, there may be additional obligations undertaken by LDCs through a range of bilateral or multilateral agreements, such as free trade agreements. Since such agreements are very diverse, and consequently, this toolkit cannot address the matter in a detailed way. However, for the purposes of raising awareness of national policymakers, the below checklist provides additional considerations that should be taken into account.



Part 2

WIPO's support for graduating LDCs

WIPO provides a range of assistance, support, tools, information and other resources for Member States. These assist them in the development of balanced and effective intellectual property (IP) ecosystems suited to their national needs. Specifically in the case of LDCs, these IP ecosystems assist LDCs leverage the power of science, technology and innovation to achieve sustainable development.

WIPO LDC Graduation Support Package

WIPO offers to those LDCs scheduled for graduation the development of country-specific graduation support packages to support their smooth and irreversible graduation processes. These Packages are driven by national needs, plans and strategies and they bring together, in one dedicated effort, the range of support which WIPO has to offer LDCs.

The Packages are focused in two main areas:

1. assisting graduating LDCs in developing and upgrading their national IP systems to meet IP-related obligations after graduation; and
2. enabling them to harness IP and innovation for attaining graduation goals relating to structural transformation, enhancing productive capacity, competitiveness, and economic diversification.

For further information on the Graduation Support Packages for LDCs, please contact:

Division for External Offices and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Coordination (DELLS)
Regional and National Development Sector

Email: dells@wipo.int

Below is a general and non-exhaustive overview of some of the main types of support WIPO can provide to Member States, including LDCs:

Building and strengthening IP ecosystems

Legislative and Policy Assistance: The WIPO Secretariat offers confidential, neutral, and tailored legislative and policy assistance to WIPO Member States. This includes reviewing laws, assisting the drafting of legislative provisions, and providing in-depth policy consultations.

Patent Law Helpdesk: Member States may directly contact the Patent Law Helpdesk to request brief consultations on single queries related to patent and technology law and policy.

National IP Strategies: The WIPO Secretariat supports WIPO Member States in developing tailored national IP strategies to guide the cohesive growth of their IP ecosystems.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Services: The WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center offers cost-effective ADR options, including mediation and arbitration, for resolving domestic and cross-border commercial disputes in a specialized, flexible, and confidential manner.

Increased IP knowledge and skills

WIPO offers a large number of training and capacity-building opportunities for government officials, patent examiners and IP practitioners at all levels of knowledge. A selection of these opportunities, that may be most suitable for the needs of graduating LDCs, is provided below.

Cooperation on Examination and Training: WIPO provides dedicated support to national patent offices for the development of local patent search and examination capacities, including ad hoc training events for patent examiners.

Patent Drafting Training Program: This training program enhances patent drafting skills across technical fields, providing exposure to international patent practice and essential knowledge for successful applications.

eLearning: The WIPO Academy offers a wide range of IP-specific eLearning courses in more than ten languages. The translation and tailoring of these courses to national ecosystems is also supported.

University Partnerships Program: The WIPO Academy works with universities around the world to enhance IP higher education and teaching and increase participation from developing countries, least developed countries and countries in transition to its Joint Master's Programs.

Executive Training Program: The WIPO Academy provides skills-based IP training opportunities for government officials from developing countries, least developed countries and countries in transition, awarding a Certificate upon completion. The program also provides IP skills-building trainings for professionals from the public and private sector to use IP for business growth.

Judicial Training: WIPO offers specialized continuing education to enhance the capacity of judges. This is achieved through both a general eLearning course, as well as activities of the WIPO Judicial Institute.

Enforcement Training: WIPO provides capacity-building activities focusing on the enforcement of intellectual property rights for judges (in cooperation with the WIPO Judicial Institute), prosecutors and law enforcement officials (customs, police, market inspectors) at the request of a Member State.

Strengthen national IP institutions

WIPO supports digital transformation in developing countries by providing IP offices with business software solutions, online services, and integration into global IP systems. Projects are initiated based on a request by the IP office concerned, followed by a needs assessment and, if agreed, a project plan which outlines roles, resources, and expected outcomes.

Access to quality IP information

Technology and Innovation Support Centers: WIPO's TISC program provides innovators in developing countries with access to technology information, patent search assistance, and IP management services.

IP Diagnostics: WIPO offers a public tool to identify relevant IP issues, providing reports that aid in IP management and commercial strategy development.

More effective use of balanced IP systems to support growth and development

Inventor Assistance Program: This program helps inventors and small businesses turn innovations into commercial assets by matching them with volunteer patent attorneys for free assistance. Governments interested in becoming participating countries should send to WIPO an official letter of intent and provide details on the capacity of the local IP and innovation ecosystems to accommodate the Program in the country.

Tailored Projects: WIPO develops and implements activities and dedicated projects in different Member States to build awareness of the IP system and to support through IP-driven growth and development.

Accessing WIPO services

WIPO has Regional Divisions in its Regional and National Development Sector which provide the gateway for LDCs to access this wide range of support which the Organization offers. The Regional Divisions connect all that WIPO does with all the knowledge and expertise which the Organization has to offer LDCs. As such, LDC Member States are encouraged to reach out to the Regional Division responsible for their region should they have any questions concerning how WIPO can support them.

Division for Africa
Contact form: africa.mail@wipo.int

Division for Arab Countries
Contact form: arab.mail@wipo.int

Division for Asia and the Pacific
Contact form: aspac.mail@wipo.int

Division for Latin America and the Caribbean
Contact form: lac.mail@wipo.int

The Regional Divisions work closely with the Division for LDC Coordination (DELLS) as well as all of the areas in WIPO which have specialist knowledge and expertise, ensuring WIPO provides clear, consistent and relevant support to LDCs.



There are other noteworthy resources available to graduating LDCs.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has a publication titled 'Trade Impacts of LDC Graduation' which provides valuable information for graduating LDCs, including on matters going beyond IP, such as issues related to market access. The study is available at: https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/trade_impacts_of_ldc_graduation.pdf

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has a publication titled 'Revisiting development innovations in least developed countries' (<https://unctad.org/publication/revisiting-development-innovations-least-developed-countries>), which looks at the role of IP in the context of LDCs.

UNCTAD and the Commonwealth Secretariat have also produced a study titled 'Harnessing Intellectual Property Rights for Innovation, Development and Economic Transformation in LDCs', available at: https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/comsec2024d1_en.pdf

Both of these international organizations also maintain IP-related websites with LDC-specific content: WTO (https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/graduation_ldc_status_e.htm); UNCTAD (<https://unctad.org/Topic/Science-Technology-and-Innovation/Intellectual-Property>).

