PREFACE

The Fifty-Seventh Series of Meetings of the Assemblies and other Bodies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and of the Unions administered by WIPO, hereinafter “the 57th Assemblies”, was held in Geneva from October 2 to 11, 2017.¹

The present document² contains the list of the decisions adopted at those meetings, together with additional information, as appropriate. Questions, comments or suggestions on this document can be addressed to assemblies@wipo.int.

About the WIPO Assemblies

WIPO is a UN specialized agency composed of 191 Member States, serving as the global forum for intellectual property (IP) services, policy, information and cooperation. WIPO’s mandate is set out in the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization (“WIPO Convention”).

As established by the Convention, the main policy and decision making bodies of WIPO are the WIPO General Assembly and the WIPO Coordination Committee.

In addition to the WIPO Convention, WIPO administers another 25 IP treaties³, most with their own decision making bodies, such as the Paris Union Assembly, the Berne Union Assembly and the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Union Assembly.

The decision making bodies of the WIPO Convention and of the treaties administered by WIPO traditionally meet in joint sessions in autumn on the basis of a consolidated agenda. These meetings bring together WIPO’s Member States, allowing them to take stock of the progress in the Organization’s work and to discuss future policy directions.

Those are the “Meetings of the Assemblies and other Bodies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and of the Unions administered by WIPO”, simply known as the “WIPO Assemblies”.

At the 57th WIPO Assemblies, 21 bodies met in joint sessions. The list of those bodies appears in document A/57/INF/1 Rev. (General Information).

¹ Home page of the 57th Assemblies: http://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/
² The document is available in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish: http://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/2017/a_57/index.html
³ The list of WIPO-administered treaties: http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/
ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE SESSIONS

Ambassador Jānis Kārkliņš (Mr.) (Latvia), Vice-Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, opened the 57th Assemblies on October 2, 2017, and conducted the sessions as Acting Chair in accordance with Rule 10 of the WIPO General Rules of Procedure and the 2016 decision of the WIPO General Assembly on the new electoral cycle of the officers of the General Assembly.

Documents: A/57/INF/1 Rev. (General Information), A/57/INF/2 (List of Documents) and A/57/INF/4 (List of Participants).

ITEM 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Decision: The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, elected their respective officers as contained in document A/57/INF/3, including Ambassador DUONG Chi Dung (Viet Nam) as the next Chair of the WIPO General Assembly and Ambassador Daniyar MUKASHEV (Kyrgyzstan) as Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee.

Additional Information: According to the relevant rules of procedure, the officers of the WIPO Assemblies (i.e. the Chair and the Vice-Chairs of each of the 21 bodies that meet in the framework of the WIPO Assemblies) are elected once every two years during ordinary sessions (and therefore serve a two-year mandate). Officers were elected at the October 2017 Assemblies and the next elections will take place at the October 2019 Assemblies. This is with the exception of the officers of the WIPO Coordination Committee, as well as the officers of the Paris Union and Berne Union Executive Committees, whose mandates are limited to one year as these bodies meet each year in ordinary sessions. An election for these three bodies therefore takes place every year. The term of all officers starts upon their election, except for the officers of the WIPO General Assembly, whose term starts immediately after the closing of the meeting at which they were elected. Therefore the incumbent Acting Chair of the WIPO General Assembly presided over the meetings in 2017, and the newly elected Chair will preside over the meetings in 2018 and 2019.

ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Decision: The Assemblies adopted the proposed agenda.

ITEM 4: REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO THE ASSEMBLIES OF WIPO

Mr. Francis Gurry, Director General, introduced his annual report to the Assemblies.


5 The address is available at: http://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/dgo/speeches/a_57_dg_speech.html
ITEM 5: GENERAL STATEMENTS

General statements were made by 114 States (9 on behalf of groups of States), 3 intergovernmental organizations, and 10 non-governmental organizations. The statements are available in Annex I of document A/57/12 and on a dedicated webpage6.

ITEM 6: ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

Document: A/57/2 (Admission of Observers).

Decision: The Assemblies granted observer status to the following:
(a) Intergovernmental Organization in category B (IP IGOs): Visegrad Patent Institute (VPI);
(b) International NGO: Foundation for a Centre for Socio-Economic Development (CSEND);
(c) National NGOs:
   (i) Association congolaise pour le développement agricole (ACDA);
   (ii) China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT);
   (iii) New Zealand Institute of Patent Attorneys (Incorporated) (NZIPA); and
   (iv) School of Information Studies (SIS), University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee.

Additional Information: WIPO welcomes the participation of observers at the Assemblies and other formal meetings of Member States, effectively contributing to open, transparent and responsive interaction with the observer community7. Following this decision, WIPO has granted permanent observer status to 259 international NGOs and 87 national NGOs to attend the meetings of the Assemblies. These observers are also invited to attend, in the same capacity, meetings of committees, working groups, and other bodies subsidiary to the Assemblies.

ITEM 7: APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS

Documents: WO/CC/74/1, WO/CC/74/1 Add. and WO/CC/74/1 Add.2 (Approval of Agreements).

Decision: The WIPO Coordination Committee approved
- four Memoranda of Understanding between WIPO and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), between WIPO and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), between WIPO and the League of Arab States (LAS), and between WIPO and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA);
- one Cooperation Agreement between WIPO and the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS)
- the partnership of WIPO at the “eTrade for All” initiative; and
- two Agreements between WIPO and Algeria and Nigeria, respectively, on the opening of new WIPO External Offices in these countries.

Additional Information: WIPO concludes Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and similar cooperation and partnership agreements with other organizations in order to strengthen collaboration, usually via the implementation of joint activities and programs within the framework of the mandates assigned to each organization and for the benefit of their respective member states. ECOWAS, ECO, and LAS promote regional cooperation amongst their member states. IRENA is an IGO promoting the use of renewable energy amongst their member states. The IPA CIS supports the harmonization of CIS national laws. The Joint Declaration of Heads of certain international organizations on “eTrade for All” sets up a multi-stakeholder initiative to improve the ability of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to use and benefit from e-commerce. Finally, the WIPO Coordination Committee approved the "host

6 http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/statements.jsp?meeting_id=42291
country” agreements with Algeria and Nigeria required to open one new WIPO External Office in each country, as agreed the previous year.

ITEM 8: COMPOSITION OF THE WIPO COORDINATION COMMITTEE, AND OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES OF THE PARIS AND BERNE UNIONS

Document: A/57/3 (Composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee, and of the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions).

Decision:
1. “The Paris Union Assembly unanimously elected the following States as ordinary members of the Paris Union Executive Committee:
Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, South Africa, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (41);
2. “The Berne Union Assembly unanimously elected the following States as ordinary members of the Berne Union Executive Committee:
Argentina, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, Gabon, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Viet Nam (39);
3. “The WIPO Conference unanimously designated the following States as ad hoc members of the WIPO Coordination Committee: Ethiopia, Eritrea (2);
4. “The WIPO Conference and the Assemblies of the Paris and Berne Unions noted that Switzerland would continue to be an ex officio member of the Paris Union Executive Committee and of the Berne Union Executive Committee.
5. “As a consequence, the WIPO Coordination Committee for the period October 2017 to October 2019 is composed of the following States:
Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea (ad hoc), Ethiopia (ad hoc), Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Georgia, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, South Africa, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland (ex officio), Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of), Viet Nam (83).
6. “The bodies concerned further decided that the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly will undertake consultations with Member States, with a view to making a recommendation to the bodies concerned at their sessions during the WIPO Assemblies in 2018, on the allocation of the vacant seats at the WIPO Assemblies in 2019.”

Additional information: The membership of the WIPO Coordination Committee is established every two years in accordance with Article 8 of the WIPO Convention. While the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee to be elected at the 57th WIPO Assemblies was to consist of 87 members – an increase over the previous membership of 83 – Member States agreed that the Coordination Committee would remain, exceptionally, at 83 members. On the basis of the last paragraph of the above-referred decision, further consultations will take place on the allocation of
ITEM 9: COMPOSITION OF THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE (PBC)


Decision: “Following informal consultations among Group Coordinators, the following States were unanimously elected by the General Assembly as members of the Program and Budget Committee for the period October 2017 to October 2019: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia (2019), Costa Rica (2018), Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland (ex officio), Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America (53).”

“"The WIPO General Assembly decided to consider the composition of the Program and Budget Committee; in this context, the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly will undertake consultations on an inclusive, transparent, and effective PBC, taking into account, among other considerations, geographical representation, with a view to making a decision at the WIPO General Assembly at its fiftieth session in 2018.""

ITEM 10: REPORTS ON AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT

(i) Report by the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC)

Documents: WO/GA/49/2 (Report by the WIPO IAOC) and A/57/5 (List of Decisions Adopted by the PBC).

Decision: The WIPO General Assembly took note of the Report by the WIPO IAOC.

Additional Information: The IAOC reported on the quarterly sessions it held during the past year. Specific matters addressed relate, amongst other things, to the Internal Oversight plan and the work plan results; the recruitment of a new Director, IOD and performance appraisal of the former Acting Director, IOD; the review of the Audited Financial Statements for 2016 and the Report of the External Auditor; the selection of the External Auditor for the period 2018 – 2023; monitoring the Implementation of Oversight Recommendations; the review of, and provision of advice on, the work plan of the Ethics Office; discussions with the Ombudsperson; and assistance to Governance Bodies.
(ii) Report by the External Auditor

Documents: A/57/4 (Report by the External Auditor) and A/57/5 (List of Decisions Adopted by the PBC).

Decision: The Assemblies took note of the Report by the External Auditor.

Additional Information: WIPO received an unaudited audit opinion on its financial statements from the External Auditor. Furthermore, the External Auditor provided a long form Report on the audit of WIPO, in accordance with Regulation 8.10 of the WIPO Financial Regulations and Rules.

(iii) Report by the Director of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD)

Documents: WO/GA/49/3 (Annual Report by the Director of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD)) and A/57/5 (List of Decisions Adopted by the PBC).

Decision: The WIPO General Assembly took note of the Annual Report by the Director, IOD.

Additional Information: The Report contains information on, amongst other, significant issues and high priority oversight and recommendations, investigative activities, status of implementation of oversight recommendations, external quality assessment of the investigation function, consultative and advisory oversight work, as well as IOD’s cooperation with the Ombudsman, the Ethics Office and with external oversight bodies.

ITEM 11: APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR


Decision: “The WIPO General Assembly appointed the Comptroller and Auditor General of the United Kingdom as the WIPO External Auditor for a period of six years to begin on January 1, 2018.”

Additional Information: The appointment was made following the recommendation by the “Selection Panel for the Appointment of the External Auditor” composed of seven representatives of WIPO Member States.

ITEM 12: REPORT ON THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE


Decision:
1. Concerning the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2018/19 biennium, the following decisions were taken:
   “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.

The General Assembly further noted that the allocation methodology for the income and budget by Union is a cross cutting topic and decided that the PBC will continue the discussions on the methodology on the allocation of income and expenditure by Unions in its future sessions based on relevant documents and other proposals by Member States.

“The General Assembly took note of the fact that all diplomatic conferences contemplated in the 2018-19 biennium, that may be held under the auspices of WIPO during the 2018/19 biennium and funded by the resources of the Organization, will be open to the full participation of all WIPO Member States in accordance with the Recommendations of the Development Agenda.”

2. Concerning the Capital Master Plan for 2018-27, the following decision was taken:
“The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned:
“(i) Approved from the CF Unions, PCT Union and Madrid Union reserves the funding of the projects presented in the Capital Master Plan 2018-2027 for the biennium 2018/19 in document A/57/9, amounting to a total of 25.5 million Swiss francs.
“(ii) Noting that the 2014/15 biennial surplus of the Madrid Union is not fully utilized for the CMP projects 2018/19, decided to earmark the remaining balance amounting to 1.1 million Swiss francs for future CMP 2018-27 cross-cutting projects that benefit all Unions. It was understood that this decision was taken on a one-time ad-hoc basis.
“(iii) Noted that these decisions were without prejudice to the discussions referred to in paragraph 2.”

3. Concerning the Opening of New WIPO External Offices, the following decision was taken:
“The WIPO General Assembly decided that the 2018 General Assembly will consider opening up to four WIPO External Offices in the 2018/2019 biennium, including in Colombia.”

4. Concerning all other matters covered under this agenda item, the Assemblies
“(i) took note of the “List of Decisions Adopted by the Program and Budget Committee (document A/57/5); and
“(ii) approved the recommendations made by the PBC as contained in document A/57/5.”

Additional Information: This item covered all matters under PBC supervision except for the Reports on Audit and Oversight (item 10). Discussions focused on matters that could not be agreed at the PBC, namely the Program and Budget for the 2018/19 biennium, the Capital Master Plan for 2018-27 and the Opening of New WIPO External Offices. Specific decisions were adopted on these three matters. On all other matters, the Assemblies approved the recommendations made by the PBC. These concerned the Program Performance Report for 2016, the Annual Financial Report and Financial Statements 2016, amendments to the Policy on Investments, amendments to the WIPO Financial Regulations and Rules (FRR) including amendments to the procurement framework, and After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) liability. The PBC is tentatively scheduled to meet from September 10 to 14, 2018.
ITEM 13: REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS (SCCR)


Decision: The WIPO General Assembly took note of above-referred document and “directed the SCCR to continue its work regarding the issues reported on in document WO/GA/49/5.”

Additional Information: According to the Report, the SCCR addressed the following matters over the past year: (i) protection of broadcasting organizations, (ii) limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives, (iii) limitations and exceptions for educational and research institutions and persons with other disabilities, (iv) analysis of copyright related to the digital environment, and resale right. The SCCR met from November 13 to 17, 2017, and is tentatively scheduled to meet from May 28 to June 1, 2018 and from November 26 to 30, 2018.

ITEM 14: REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF PATENTS (SCP)


Decision: The WIPO General Assembly took note of above-referred document.

Additional Information: According to the Report, the SCP addressed the following matters over the past year: (i) exceptions and limitations to patent rights, (ii) quality of patents, including opposition systems, (iii) patents and health, (iv) the confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors, and (v) transfer of technology. The SCP met from December 11 to 14, 2017, and is tentatively scheduled to meet from July 9 to 12, 2018 and from December 3 to 6, 2018.

ITEM 15: REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF TRADEMARKS, INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (SCT)


Decision: The WIPO General Assembly took note of above-referred document.

Additional Information: According to the Report, the SCT addressed the following matters over the past year: (i) on trademarks, the protection of country names, access to date regarding International Nonproprietary Names for Pharmaceutical Substances (INNs), as well as developments in the Domain Name System (DNS); (ii) on industrial designs, the draft Design Law Treaty (see under the next agenda item), Graphical User Interface, Icon and Typeface/Type Font Designs, as well as the Digital Access Service for Priority Documents; and (iii) a possible work program on geographical indications. The SCT met from October 30 to November 3, 2017, and is tentatively scheduled to meet from April 23 to 26, 2018 and from November 12 to 15, 2018.

ITEM 16: MATTERS CONCERNING THE CONVENING OF A DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE FOR THE ADOPTION OF A DESIGN LAW TREATY (DLT)

Document: WO/GA/49/8 (Matters Concerning the Convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a DLT).
Decision: “The WIPO General Assembly decided that, at its next session in 2018, it will continue considering the convening of a diplomatic conference on the Design Law Treaty, to take place at the end of the first half of 2019.”

Additional Information: The same wording was adopted as in the 2016 Assemblies, with the update to 2018 and 2019.

**ITEM 17: REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (CDIP) AND REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA RECOMMENDATIONS**


Decision: “The WIPO General Assembly:

(a) took note of the “Report on the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) and Review of the Implementation of the Development Agenda Recommendations” (document WO/GA/49/9);

(b) with respect to document WO/GA/49/10 entitled “Decision on the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) Related Matters”,

(i) recalled its 2007 decision on Establishing the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property, contained in document A/43/13 Rev., and its decision on the Coordination Mechanisms and Monitoring, Assessing and Reporting Modalities, contained in document WO/GA/39/7, and reaffirmed its commitment to their full implementation;

(ii) reaffirmed the principles contained in document WO/GA/39/7, Annex II;

(iii) reaffirmed the right of every Member State to express their views in all WIPO Committees;

(iv) took note of the conclusion of the debates that took place on the issues contained in the document CDIP/18/10; and

(v) decided to add new agenda item to the CDIP agenda, named IP and development to discuss IP and development-related issues as agreed by the Committee, as well as those decided by the General Assembly;

(c) took note of the information contained in the “Contribution of the Relevant WIPO Bodies to the Implementation of the Respective Development Agenda Recommendations” (document WO/GA/49/16), and forwarded to the CDIP the reports referred in that document.”

Additional Information: Document WO/GA/49/9 contains the Summary by the Chair of the last two CDIP sessions and the Director General’s Report on Implementation of the Development Agenda, presented at the May 2017 CDIP session. Document WO/GA/49/10 refers to the discussions concerning the implementation of the CDIP mandate and of the Coordination Mechanisms. Document WO/GA/49/16 refers to the report by relevant WIPO Bodies and their implementation of the respective Development Agenda Recommendations. The CDIP met from November 27 to December 1, 2017, and is tentatively scheduled to meet from May 14 to 18, 2018 and from November 19 to 23, 2018.
ITEM 18: REPORT ON THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE (IGC)


Decision: “Bearing in mind the Development Agenda recommendations, affirming the importance of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (Committee), noting the different nature of these issues and acknowledging the progress made, the WIPO General Assembly agrees that the mandate of the Committee be renewed, without prejudice to the work pursued in other fora, as follows:

“(a) The Committee will, during the next budgetary biennium 2018/2019, continue to expedite its work, with the objective of reaching an agreement on an international legal instrument(s), without prejudging the nature of outcome(s), relating to intellectual property which will ensure the balanced and effective protection of genetic resources (GRs), traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs).

“(b) The Committee’s work in the 2018/2019 biennium will build on the existing work carried out by the Committee, including text-based negotiations, with a primary focus on narrowing existing gaps and reaching a common understanding on core issues, including definitions, beneficiaries, subject matter, objectives, scope of protection, and what TK/TCEs subject matter is entitled to protection at an international level, including consideration of exceptions and limitations and the relationship with the public domain.

“(c) The Committee will follow, as set out in the table below, a work program based on sound working methods for the 2018/2019 biennium, including an evidence-based approach as set out in paragraph (d). This work program will make provision for 6 sessions of the Committee in 2018/2019, including thematic, cross-cutting and stocktaking sessions. The Committee may establish ad hoc expert group(s) to address a specific legal, policy or technical issue. The results of the work of such group(s) will be submitted to the Committee for consideration.

“(d) The Committee will use all WIPO working documents, including WIPO/GRTKF/IC/34/4, WIPO/GRTKF/IC/34/5 and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/34/8, as well as any other contributions of member states, such as conducting/updating studies covering, inter alia, examples of national experiences, including domestic legislation, impact assessments, databases, and examples of protectable subject matter and subject matter that is not intended to be protected; and outputs of any expert group(s) established by the Committee and related activities conducted under Program 4. The Secretariat is requested to update the 2008 gap analyses on the existing protection regimes related to TK and TCEs. The Secretariat is also requested to produce a report(s) compiling and updating studies, proposals and other materials relating to tools and activities on databases and on existing disclosure regimes relating to GR and associated TK, with a view to identify any gaps. However, studies or additional activities are not to delay progress or establish any preconditions for the negotiations.

“(e) In 2018, the Committee is requested to provide to the General Assembly a factual report along with the most recent texts available of its work up to that time with recommendations, and in 2019, submit to the General Assembly the results of its work in accordance with the objective reflected in paragraph (a). The General Assembly in 2019 will take stock of progress made, and based on the maturity of the texts, including levels of agreement on objectives, scope and nature of the instrument(s), decide on whether to convene a diplomatic conference and/or continue negotiations.

“(f) The General Assembly requests the International Bureau to continue to assist the Committee by providing Member States with necessary expertise and funding, in the most efficient manner, of the participation of experts from developing countries and LDCs, taking into account the usual formula for the IGC.”

8 The expert group(s) will have a balanced regional representation and use an efficient working methodology. The expert group(s) will work during the weeks of the sessions of the IGC.
### Work Program – 6 Sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicative Dates</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February/March 2018</td>
<td>(IGC 35) Undertake negotiations on GRs with a focus on addressing unresolved issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument Duration 5 days.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May/June 2018</td>
<td>(IGC 36) Undertake negotiations on GRs with a focus on addressing unresolved issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument Expert group(s) Duration 5/6 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2018</td>
<td>(IGC 37) Undertake negotiations on TK/TCEs with a focus on addressing unresolved and cross-cutting issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument(s) Possible recommendations as mentioned in paragraph (e) Duration 5 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2018</td>
<td>WIPO General Assembly Factual report and consider recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November/December 2018</td>
<td>(IGC 38) Undertake negotiations on TK/TCEs with a focus on addressing unresolved and cross-cutting issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument(s) Expert group(s) Duration 5/6 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March/April 2019</td>
<td>(IGC 39) Undertake negotiations on TK/TCEs with a focus on addressing unresolved and cross-cutting issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument(s) Duration 5 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June/July 2019</td>
<td>(IGC 40) Undertake negotiations on TK/TCEs with a focus on addressing unresolved and cross-cutting issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument(s) Expert group(s) Stocktaking on GRs/TK/TCEs and making a recommendation Duration 5/6 days.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2019</td>
<td>WIPO General Assembly will take stock of the progress made, consider the text(s) and make the necessary decision(s).</td>
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**Additional Information:** The IGC is tentatively scheduled to meet from March 19 to 23, 2018, June 25 to 29, 2018, August 27 to 31, 2018, and December 10 to 14, 2018.
ITEM 19: REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON WIPO STANDARDS (CWS)


Decision: The WIPO General Assembly took note of above-referred document.

Additional Information: According to the Report, the CWS addressed the following matters over the past year: (i) WIPO Standards – revision and development, including the adoption of two new WIPO Standards: ST.27 for the exchange of patent legal status data with greater clarity and in a standardized manner; and ST.37 concerning the authority file of published patent documents to ensure the completeness of the patent collection of a given country; (ii) recommendations for the transition provisions from WIPO Standard ST.25 to ST.26 to be done by all IP offices in January 2022; and (iii) other matters relating to intellectual property information and documentation, including the survey on the use of WIPO Standards. The CWS is tentatively scheduled to meet from October 15 to 19, 2018.

ITEM 20: REPORT ON THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENFORCEMENT (ACE)


Decision: The WIPO General Assembly took note of above-referred document.

Additional Information: According to the Report, the ACE addressed the following matters over the past year: (i) national experiences on awareness building activities and strategic campaigns as a means for building respect for IP among the general public; (ii) national experiences relating to institutional arrangements concerning IP enforcement policies and regimes; (iii) national experiences in respect of WIPO’s legislative assistance; and (iv) success stories on capacity building and support from WIPO. The ACE is tentatively scheduled to meet from September 3 to 5, 2018.

ITEM 21: PCT SYSTEM

(i) Report on the PCT Working Group


Decision: “The Assembly of the PCT Union:
“(i) took note of the “Report on the PCT Working Group” (document PCT/A/49/1); and
“(ii) approved the convening of a session of the PCT Working Group as set out in paragraph 4 of that document.”

Additional Information: According to the Report, the Patent Cooperation Treaty Working Group (PCT WG) addressed the following matters over the past year, amongst other: PCT online services, a user survey, possible fee reductions for certain applicants from certain countries, and coordination of technical assistance and training of examiners. Document PCT/A/49/1, paragraph 4 referred in the decision, relates to the holding of one PCT WG session over the next year and the provision of financial assistance to enable the attendance of certain delegations, as in the past. The PCT WG is tentatively scheduled to meet from June 18 to 22, 2018.

(ii) Proposed Amendments to the PCT Regulations

Document: PCT/A/49/4 (Proposed Amendments to the PCT Regulations).

Decision: “The Assembly of the PCT Union:
“(i) adopted the proposed amendments to the Regulations under the PCT set out in Annex I to document PCT/A/49/4, and the proposed decision set out in paragraph 6 of document PCT/A/49/4 relating to entry into force and transitional arrangements; and
“(ii) adopted the Understanding set out in paragraph 3 of document PCT/A/49/4 with effect from October 11, 2017.”

Additional information: The PCT Assembly adopted amendments to the PCT Regulations in order to correct references in Rules 4.1(b)(ii) and 41.2(b) to properly reflect changes in numbering consequential to the amendments to Rules 12bis and 23bis, and to amend the Schedule of Fees to clarify that the 90 per cent fee reduction in item 5 is for persons filing an international application in their own right (not on behalf of a person or entity which is not eligible for the reduction). Likewise, the Assembly adopted an Understanding that the fee reduction is for the true owners of the application which have no obligation to assign, grant, convey or license the rights in the invention to another party which is not eligible for the fee reduction.

(iii) Appointment of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority under the PCT

Document: PCT/A/49/3 (Appointment of the IPOPHL as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority under the PCT).

Decision: “The Assembly of the PCT Union, in accordance with Articles 16(3) and 32(3) of the PCT:
“(i) heard the Representative of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines and took into account the advice of the PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation set out in paragraph 4 of document PCT/A/49/3;
“(ii) approved the text of the draft Agreement between the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines and the International Bureau set out in the Annex to document PCT/A/49/3; and
“(iii) appointed the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines as an International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority with effect from the entry into force of the Agreement until December 31, 2027.”

Additional information: The IPOPHL administers the national policies on intellectual property and has experience spanning almost 70 years in search and substantive examination. The appointment of International Searching Authorities (ISAs) and International Preliminary Examining Authorities (IPEAs) under the PCT is governed by Articles 16(3) and 32(3) of the PCT. It follows from Rules 36.1(iv) and 63.1(iv) of the Regulations under the PCT that any appointment will be as both an ISA and an IPEA.

(iv) Extension of Appointment of the International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities


Decision: “The Assembly of the PCT Union, in accordance with Articles 16(3) and 32(3) of the PCT:
“(i) heard the Representatives of the International Authorities and took into account the advice of the PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation set out in paragraph 4 of document PCT/A/49/2:
“(ii) approved the text of the draft agreements between the International Authorities and the International Bureau set out in Annexes I to XXII of document PCT/A/49/2 (as modified by document PCT/A/49/2 Corr.); and
“(iii) extended the appointment of the present International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities until December 31, 2027.”
Additional Information: In order to ensure continuity, all agreements between the International Authorities and the WIPO Secretariat will enter in force on January 1, 2018, following the expiration of the existing agreements on the previous day, with the exception of the agreements with Australia and Canada, which will enter into force as soon as the relevant domestic procedures have been completed.

ITEM 22: MADRID SYSTEM


Decision: “The Assembly of the Madrid Union:
“(i) took note of the “Progress Report on the Madrid System Goods and Services Database” (document MM/A/51/1), including its paragraph 33 related to the remaining project funds; and
“(ii) requested the International Bureau to submit to the Assembly in 2018 a new Report on the Madrid System Goods and Services Database, including the use of remaining project funds.”

Additional information: According to the Report, the Madrid System Goods and Services Database (MGS) includes data of 33 national and regional IP offices in 18 languages. The MGS contains more than 100,000 terms and the 2017 version is fully aligned with the last edition of the Nice Classification (NCL11-2017). The MGS Database will continue to be populated with indications of goods and services extracted from various sources. The Report also notes the remaining funds available that will continue to be used for facilitating MGS translation activities.

ITEM 23: LISBON SYSTEM

(i) Proposed Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement; Proposed Schedule of Fees Prescribed by the Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement

Documents: LI/A/34/1 (Proposed Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement) and LI/A/34/2 (Proposed Schedule of Fees Prescribed by the Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement).

Decision:
“As regards the “Proposed Schedule of Fees Prescribed by the Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement” (document LI/A/34/2), the Assembly of the Lisbon Union:
“(i) considered the proposed Schedule of Fees referred to in paragraph 2 of document LI/A/34/2; and
“(ii) fixed the amount of fees under Rule 8(1) of the draft Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, as proposed in paragraph 2 of document LI/A/34/2.”

“As regards the “Proposed Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement” (document LI/A/34/1), the Assembly of the Lisbon Union:
“(i) adopted the Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications, as reproduced in Annex I of document LI/A/34/1, including the amount of fees under Rule 8(1) as proposed in paragraph 2 of document LI/A/34/2;
“(ii) decided that the entry into force of the Common Regulations shall coincide with the entry into force of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications; and
“(iii) considered the proposal for a new Rule 8(10) of the Common Regulations (“Safeguard of the 1967 Act”), and agreed to introduce a new paragraph 10 in Rule 8 of the Common Regulations, as reproduced in Annex II of document LI/A/34/1, without the text appearing in the square brackets.”

Additional Information: In line with its decision of 2015, the Assembly approved the Common Regulations which will streamline the legal framework of the Lisbon System by introducing a single set of Rules governing international registrations effected under the Lisbon Agreement (1967 Act) as well as under the Geneva Act (upon the entry into force of the latter, requiring five ratifications). The Assembly also decided that the fees to be collected by WIPO for international registrations effected under the Geneva Act will be the same as those currently applicable under the Lisbon Agreement. The fees cover international registrations with WIPO, as well as other related administrative acts such as modifications to registrations, attestation, etc.

(ii) Financial Matters Concerning the Lisbon Union

Document: LI/A/34/3 (Proposal on Financial Matters Concerning the Lisbon Union)

Decision: “The Assembly of the Lisbon Union: “(i) took note of “Financial Matters Concerning the Lisbon Union” (document LI/A/34/3); and “(ii) extended the mandate of the Working Group with a view to allowing further discussions on the development of the Lisbon System, including solutions for its financial sustainability.”

Additional Information: The Working Group referred in the decision is tentatively scheduled to meet on June 11 and 12, 2018.

ITEM 24: WIPO ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTER, INCLUDING DOMAIN NAMES


Decision: The WIPO General Assembly took note of above-referred document.

Additional Information: The document contains an activity report of the Center as an international resource for efficient alternatives to court litigation of IP disputes, including new facilities for parties to mediation and arbitration cases, and assistance requested by certain IP Offices in offering alternative dispute resolution (ADR) options. In the area of domain name dispute resolution, the number of cases which the Center administered in 2016 on the basis of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) increased by 10 per cent over the previous year; as of June 2017, the Center had administered total filings of over 38,000 such cases covering more than 70,000 domain names.

ITEM 25: PATENT LAW TREATY (PLT)

Document: WO/GA/49/15 (Cooperation under the Agreed Statements by the Diplomatic Conference regarding the Patent Law Treaty (PLT)).

Decision: The WIPO General Assembly took note of above-referred document.

Additional Information: The report outlines the WIPO activities which facilitated the filing of communications in electronic form in developing and least developed countries (LDCs) and countries in transition over the past year, in particular: (i) development and deployment of the ePCT system, including the ePCT RO services, (ii) transitions away from legacy services, and (iii) technical assistance activities. In accordance with PLT Agreed Statements, the WIPO General Assembly monitors and evaluates, at each ordinary session (i.e. normally every two years), cooperation in favor of developing countries, LDCs and countries in transition, which facilitates the filing of communications in electronic form in those countries.
ITEM 26: SINGAPORE TREATY ON THE LAW OF TRADEMARKS (STLT)

Document: STLT/A/10/1 (Assistance for the Implementation of the STLT).

Decision: The STLT Assembly took note of above-referred document.

Additional Information: The Report contains information on: (i) assistance in establishing the legal framework for the implementation of the Treaty, and (ii) activities relating to information, education, awareness raising and assistance in revising administrative practices and procedures. In accordance with the Resolution Supplementary to the STLT, the Assembly monitors and evaluates, at each ordinary session (i.e. normally every two years), assistance relevant to the STLT implementation.

ITEM 27: MARRAKESH TREATY TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO PUBLISHED WORKS FOR PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND, VISUALLY IMPAIRED OR OTHERWISE PRINT DISABLED (MVT)

Documents: MVT/A/2/1 Rev. (Status of the Marrakesh Treaty) and MVT/A/2/INF/1 Rev. (Report on the Accessible Books Consortium).

Decision: The Marrakesh Treaty Assembly took note of document MVT/A/2/1 Rev..

Additional Information: By September 19, 2017, the Treaty was in force in the following 31 States: Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Israel, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay (31). The third annual Report on the Accessible Books Consortium, a private-public alliance led by WIPO, highlighted the activities undertaken to support the practical implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty.

ITEM 28: REPORTS ON STAFF MATTERS

(i) Report on Human Resources


Decision:
“The WIPO Coordination Committee:
“(i) took note of the information contained in paragraphs 84 to 88 of document WO/CC/74/2, and elected Mr. Vladimir Yossifov as member of the WIPO Staff Pension Committee (WSPC) for the period until the ordinary session in 2021 of the WIPO Coordination Committee.
“(ii) took note of the information contained in paragraphs 91 and 92 of document WO/CC/74/2.”

“The WIPO Coordination Committee:
• having considered the proposal of the Secretariat as explained in document WO/CC/74/6;
• reaffirming WIPO’s commitment to align its policies and practices with the UN Common System;
• mindful of WIPO’s specific business needs and related treaty obligations in the delivery of global IP registration services; and
noting with particular attention the increasing demand for WIPO’s global IP services, in particular the current geographical shift in the origin of PCT applications and the need to reconfigure the language and IT skills of its staff to address those; “decides to exceptionally approve the implementation of the age limit for retirement at 65 for staff recruited before January 1, 2014, to take effect from January 1, 2020. Doing so would maintain WIPO’s competitiveness and ensure its compliance with treaty obligations.”

(ii) Report by the Ethics Office

Document: WO/CC/74/3 (Report by the Ethics Office).

Decision: The WIPO Coordination Committee took note of above-referred document.

Additional Information: The report outlines the activities of the Ethics Office related to: (i) promotional activities, (ii) confidential advice to senior management, managers and all staff members, (iii) standard-setting and policy development, and (iv) implementation of policies assigned to the Ethics Office, (v) measuring ethics and integrity at WIPO, and (vi) harmonization with best practices of the United Nations common system.

ITEM 29: AMENDMENTS TO STAFF REGULATIONS AND RULES

(i) Amendments to Staff Regulations and Rules

Documents: WO/CC/74/4, WO/CC/74/4 Add. (Amendments to Staff Regulations and Rules), WO/CC/74/7 and WO/CC/74/7 Corr. (Amendments to Staff Regulations Proposed by the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC)).

Decision: “The WIPO Coordination Committee: “(i) approved the amendments to the Staff Regulations as provided in Annex I of document WO/CC/74/4, to be effective as from January 1, 2018; “(ii) took note of the amendments to the Staff Rules and related annexes as provided in Annexes II and III of document WO/CC/74/4; “(iii) took note of the “WIPO Policy on mobility to offices away from Headquarters” attached as Annex IV of document WO/CC/74/4; “(iv) decided to maintain Staff Regulation 3.25 in the WIPO Staff Regulations; and “(v) decided to approve the amendment to Staff Regulation 9.10 as provided in the Annex to document WO/CC/74/4 Add., to be effective as from January 1, 2018.”

“The WIPO Coordination Committee approved the Amendments to the Staff Regulations Proposed by the IAOC (documents WO/CC/74/7 and WO/CC/74/7 Corr.).”

ITEM 30: ADOPTION OF THE REPORTS

Documents: See Annex to the present document.

Decision: “The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, “(i) adopted the present Summary Report (document A/57/11 and addenda); and “(ii) requested the Secretariat to finalize the Extensive Reports, post them on the WIPO website and communicate them to Member States by October 30, 2017. Comments should be submitted to the Secretariat by November 30, 2017, after which the final reports will be deemed adopted by December 14, 2017.”
Additional Information: The Summary Report, and its addenda, included the list of decisions adopted. The Extensive Reports, adopted on December 14, 2017, supersede the Summary Report with the inclusion of all statements made.

ITEM 31: CLOSING OF THE SESSIONS

The Fifty-Seventh Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO was closed by the Acting Chair of the WIPO General Assembly. The 58th session will take place at WIPO headquarters from September 24 to October 2, 2018.

[Annex follows]
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