PREFACE

The Fifty-Ninth 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 59th Assemblies”, was held in Geneva from September 30 to October 9, 2019.

The present document 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 192 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 WIPO 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 treaties, 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 the Member States of WIPO, 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 59th WIPO Assemblies, 21 bodies met in joint sessions. The list of those bodies appears in document A/59/INF/1 Rev. (General Information).

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2 The document is available in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish: https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/2019/a_59/index.html
3 Disclaimer: This is an informative document prepared by the Secretariat to facilitate the consultation of the decisions by delegations and interested parties. This document has no legal status. The formal reports of the Assemblies, as adopted by Member States, are the only authoritative source of the proceedings and of the decisions adopted. The references to these reports are listed in the Annex to this document.
4 The list of WIPO-administered treaties: https://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/
ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE SESSIONS

Ambassador Duong Chi Dung (Mr.) (Viet Nam), Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, opened the 59th Assemblies on September 30, 2019.

Document: A/59/INF/1 Rev. (General Information).

ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documents: A/59/1 (Consolidated Agenda) and A/59/2 (List of Documents).

Decision: The Assemblies adopted the proposed agenda.

ITEM 3: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Document: A/59/INF/2 (Officer).

Decision: The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, elected their respective officers as contained in document A/59/INF/2, including Ambassador Omar Zniber (Morocco) as the next Chair of the WIPO General Assembly and Ambassador François Rivasseau (France) as Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee.

Additional Information: According to the relevant rules of procedure, the officers of the 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). This is with the exception of the officers of the WIPO Coordination Committee, as well as the officers of the Paris and Berne Union Executive Committees, respectively, whose mandates are limited to one year. Elections of officers for these three bodies therefore take place annually.

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. Accordingly, the incumbent Chair of the WIPO General Assembly presided over the meetings in 2019, and the newly elected Chair will preside over the meetings in 2020 and 2021.

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

Document: Report of the Director General to the Assemblies of WIPO.

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

ITEM 5: GENERAL STATEMENTS

General statements were made by delegations from 123 States (including 10 on behalf of groups of States), four intergovernmental organizations, and seven non-governmental organizations. The statements are available in Annex I of document A/59/14 and on a dedicated Assemblies web page.

ITEM 6: ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

Document: A/59/3 (Admission of Observers).

Decision: The Assemblies granted observer status to the following:

(a) International non-governmental organizations:
   (i) Consortium for Common Food Names (CCFN)
   (ii) International Generic and Biosimilar medicines Association (IGBA); and

5 The report is available at: https://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4461
6 The address is available at: https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/dgo/speeches/a_59_dg_speech.html
(iii) Knowmad Institute

(b) National non-governmental organizations:
   (i) Authors’ Licensing and Collecting Society Ltd (ALCS);
   (ii) Brand Protection Group – Lebanon (BPG);
   (iii) Friends of the Creator Artistic Foundation (FCF);
   (iv) Myanmar Intellectual Property Proprietors’ Association (MIPPA);
   (v) Native American Rights Fund (NARF); and
   (vi) Professional Union of Broadcasting Organizations (RATEM).

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 community.

ITEM 7: APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS

Document: WO/CC/76/3 (Approval of Agreements).

Decision: The WIPO Coordination Committee approved one Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WIPO and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); and a Cooperation Agreement between WIPO and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

Additional Information: WIPO concludes 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. ECCAS and COMESA promote regional cooperation for the economic and social development of their Member States.

ITEM 8: APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL IN 2020


Decision: “The WIPO General Assembly, the WIPO Coordination Committee and the Paris and Berne Union Assemblies, each in so far as it is concerned:
   “(i) took note of the dispatch of the circular set out in Annex II of document A/59/4;
   “(ii) amended the 1998 “Procedures for the Nomination and Appointment of Directors General of WIPO” as set out in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the same document to create new 2019 “Procedures for the Nomination and Appointment of Directors General of WIPO”, as set out in its Annex III;
   “(iii) adopted a one-time derogation from the 1998 “Procedures for the Nomination and Appointment of Directors General of WIPO” as set out in paragraph 12 of the same document to convene the WIPO Coordination Committee on March 5 and 6, 2020;
   “(iv) approved the convening of the WIPO General Assembly, the Paris Union Assembly and the Berne Union Assembly on May 7 and 8, 2020;
   “(v) approved the timeline of procedural steps set out in paragraph 13 of the same document.”

Additional information: The term of office of the Director General will expire on September 30, 2020. The Government of every State member of WIPO may propose the name of one of its nationals as candidate by December 30, 2019. The extraordinary Session of the Coordination Committee to nominate a candidate for appointment to the post of Director General will be held on March 5 and 6, 2020. The extraordinary Sessions of the General Assembly, the Paris Union

8 More information regarding observer status at WIPO is available at https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/observers/
Assembly, and the Berne Union Assembly to appoint the Director General will be held on May 7 and 8, 2020. The next Director General will take office on October 1, 2020.

**ITEM 9: COMPOSITION OF THE WIPO COORDINATION COMMITTEE, AND OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES OF THE PARIS AND BERNE UNIONS**

**Documents:** A/59/5 (Composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee, and of the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions) and A/59/12 (Proposal of the Asia and the Pacific Group on the Composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee).

**Decision:** “Following informal consultations among Member States,

“(i) The Paris Union Assembly unanimously elects the following States as ordinary members of the **Paris Union Executive Committee**: Angola, Argentina (2019-2020), Bangladesh, Belarus (member as per rotation)\(^9\), Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan (member as per rotation)\(^10\), Latvia, Morocco, Oman, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Sweden, Tajikistan (member as per rotation)\(^11\), Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2020-2021), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe (41);

“(ii) The Berne Union Assembly unanimously elects the following States as ordinary members of the **Berne Union Executive Committee**: Algeria, Armenia (member as per rotation)\(^12\), Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan (member as per rotation)\(^13\), Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico (2019-2020), Mongolia, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama (2020-2021), Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom (40);

“(iii) The WIPO Conference unanimously designates the following State as **ad hoc** member of the WIPO Coordination Committee: Ethiopia (1);

“(iv) The WIPO Conference and the Assemblies of the Paris and Berne Unions note that Switzerland will continue to be an **ex officio** member of the **Paris Union Executive Committee** and of the **Berne Union Executive Committee**.

“As a consequence, the WIPO Coordination Committee for the period October 2019 to October 2021 is composed of the following States: Algeria, Angola, Argentina (2019-2020), Armenia (member as per rotation)\(^12\), Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan (member as per rotation)\(^13\), Bangladesh, Belarus (member as per rotation)\(^9\), Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia (ad hoc), Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan (member as per rotation)\(^10\), Latvia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico (2019-2020), Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama (2020-2021), Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland (ex officio), Tajikistan (member as per rotation)\(^11\), Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom,

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\(^9\) Member from January 10 to April 9, 2020, from July 10 to October 9, 2020, and from April 10 to July 9, 2021.

\(^10\) Member from January 10 to April 9, 2020, and from October 10, 2020 to January 9, 2021, and from April 10 to July 9, 2021.

\(^11\) Member from April 10 to July 9, 2020, and from October 10, 2020 to January 9, 2021 and from July 10 to October 9, 2021.

\(^12\) Member from October 10, 2019 to January 9, 2020, and from July 10 to October 9, 2020, and from January 10 to April 9 2021.

\(^13\) Member from October 10, 2019 to January 9, 2020, and from April 10 to July 9, 2020, and from January 10 to April 9, 2021, and from July 10 to October 9, 2021.
The Assemblies of the Paris and Berne Unions, and the WIPO Conference, each in so far as it is concerned, decide, per unanimous agreement by all Member States of WIPO, that the Coordination Committee, as exceptionally composed at 83 members, has been properly constituted, including, in particular, in view of its functions with respect to the process of appointment of the next Director General, and shall not be the basis for challenge, by any State Member of any pertinent WIPO body, to the validity of the nomination by the Coordination Committee of a candidate for appointment to the position of Director General in 2020.

The Assemblies of WIPO, each in so far as it is concerned, decide that the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly will undertake consultations with Member States on the allocation of the vacant seats at the WIPO Assemblies in 2021, for the election of the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee, and of the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions, at the same WIPO Assemblies.

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 59th WIPO Assemblies was to consist of 88 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 the five seats that remained vacant in 2019. The new composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee will be decided in October 2021.

ITEM 10: COMPOSITION OF THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE (PBC)

Documents: WO/GA/51/1 (Composition of the Program and Budget Committee) and WO/GA/51/17 (Proposal of the Asia and the Pacific Group on the Composition of Program and Budget Committee).

Decision: “Following informal consultations among Member States, the following States are unanimously elected by the General Assembly as members of the Program and Budget Committee for the period October 2019 to October 2021: Algeria, Angola, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland (ex officio), Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay (44).

“The General Assembly further decides to elect no more than nine members to be communicated by the Asia Pacific Group to the International Bureau no later than December 1, 2019. The International Bureau is requested to transmit the complete composition of the Program and Budget Committee to Member States upon receipt of this communication.

“The WIPO General Assembly decides 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 session in 2021.”

Additional information: The Composition of the PBC is established every two years. At the Assemblies, 44 members were elected (see list above) and, in accordance with the 2nd paragraph of the decision, the Asia and the Pacific Group subsequently communicated the following additional nine members, which are also considered to having been elected: Bangladesh (2020-2021), India (2019-2020), Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2020-2021), Malaysia (2020-2021), Nepal, Oman (2019-2020), Pakistan, Philippines (2019-2020), Republic of
On the basis of the last paragraph of the above-referred decision, further consultations will take place on the composition of the PBC ahead of the 2021 Assemblies.

ITEM 11: REPORTS ON AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT

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

Documents:  WO/GA/51/2 (Report by the WIPO IAOC) and A/59/7 (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, to the Internal Oversight plan and the work plan results; the review of the Audited Financial Statements for 2018 and the Report of the External Auditor; Risk Management and Internal Controls; monitoring the Implementation of Oversight Recommendations; the review of, and provision of advice on, the workplan of the Ethics Office; discussions with the Ombudsperson; and assistance to Governance Bodies.

(ii) Report by the External Auditor

Documents:  A/59/6 (Report by the External Auditor) and A/59/7 (List of Decisions Adopted by the PBC).

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

Additional Information:  WIPO received an unqualified 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 WIPO’s Financial Regulations and Rules.

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

Documents:  WO/GA/51/3 (Annual Report by the Director of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD)) and A/59/7 (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, consultative and advisory oversight work, as well as IOD’s cooperation with the Ombudsman, the Ethics Office and with external oversight bodies.

ITEM 12: OPENING OF NEW WIPO EXTERNAL OFFICES


Decision: “The WIPO General Assembly decided to:
“(i) recall the decision of the 2015 WIPO General Assembly on External Offices and the Guiding Principles Regarding WIPO External Offices (document A/55/13);
“(ii) conduct an evaluation during 2021 of the entire network of WIPO External Offices. The Terms of Reference of such an evaluation would be decided by the Program and Budget Committee during its 31st session in 2020;
“(iii) pending the results of the evaluation during 2021, defer the consideration of the current 10 applications of Member States for the 2018-2019 biennium to host new WIPO External Offices;
“(iv) consider opening up to 4 new WIPO External Offices, including in Colombia, from the current 10 applications in the biennium 2022-2023.”
ITEM 13: REPORT ON THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE (PBC)

Documents: A/59/7 (List of Decisions Adopted by the Program and Budget Committee), A/59/8 (Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium), A/59/INF/3 (Information Requested by the Program and Budget Committee as Referred in Document WO/PBC/30/15 under Agenda Item 11(iv)), A/59/10 (Decision Paragraphs Proposed by the United States of America for Inclusion in Decisions on the Report on the Program and Budget Committee), A/59/INF/6 (Background Information submitted by the United States of America for Consideration in Adopting the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium, as Recommended by the Secretariat) and A/59/11 (Proposal of Switzerland concerning the Agenda Item “Report on the Program and Budget Committee”).

Decision:
“With respect to all matters under this agenda item, except for the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium, the Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned:
“(i) took note of the “List of Decisions Adopted by the Program and Budget Committee” (documents WO/PBC/29/7 and WO/PBC/30/15); and
“(ii) approved the recommendations made by the Program and Budget Committee as contained in the same documents.

“With respect to the Proposed Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium: The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned:
“(i) Approved the Proposed Program and Budget for the biennium 2020/21 (document A/59/8), subject to the allocation of income and expenditure by Union as reflected in the attached revised version of Annex III, which reverts to the allocation of income and expenditure by Union in the Program and Budget for the 2018/19 biennium;
“(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 each fee-financed Union with a projected biennial deficit in the 2020/21 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 Annual Financial Report and Financial Statements, Revenue, Expenses and Reserves by Segment of the Organization, which includes the Surplus/Deficit of the Unions, 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 2020/21 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, and be disclosed in the Financial Statements as notes;
“(vi) Noted that the allocation methodology for the income and expenditure by Union is a cross cutting topic and decided to continue discussion on this topic bearing in mind the overall long-term financial sustainability of the Organization based on documents A/59/10, A/59/11 and A/59/INF/6 and other proposals by Member States at the 31st session of the PBC for the PBC to make a recommendation, by consensus, to the WIPO Assemblies in 2020 on the methodology for the allocation of income and expenditure by Unions;
“(vii) Noted that all diplomatic conferences contemplated in the 2020/21 biennium, that may be held under the auspices of WIPO during the 2020/21 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;
“(viii) Noted with concern the possible effect the ILO AT Judgment No. 4138 may have in undermining the UN common system;
“(ix) Recognized that WIPO, being part of the UN Common System, will continue to fulfill its obligations in accordance with the Agreement Between the United Nations and the World Intellectual Property Organization and further to its acceptance of the ICSC Statute;
“(x) Noted that the personnel resources in the Program and Budget 2020/21 does not represent any additional personnel resources associated with the implementation of ILO AT Judgment No. 4138 as compared to the Approved Program and Budget 2018/19.”

Additional Information: This item covered all matters under the PBC’s supervision except for the Reports on Audit and Oversight (covered under item 11). Discussions focused on the matter that could not be agreed at the PBC, namely the Program and Budget for the 2020/21 Biennium, and a specific decision was adopted in that respect. On all other matters, the Assemblies approved the recommendations made by the PBC. These concerned the Financing Plan to Restore the Coverage of Long-Term Employee Benefits at WIPO, Progress Report on the Implementation of the Joint Inspection Unit’s (JIU) Recommendations, WIPO Performance Report 2018, the Annual Financial Statements 2018, Capital Master Plan for 2020-29, Proposed Revisions to WIPO’s Investment Policy and the Status of the Constitutional Reform Process. The PBC is tentatively scheduled to meet from September 7 to 11, 2020.

ITEM 14: RECORDS OF WIPO MEETINGS


Decision: “The Assemblies of WIPO, each in so far as it is concerned, adopted the proposal described in paragraph 11 of document A/59/9.”

Additional Information: Paragraph 11 of document A/59/9 reads as follows:
“To this end, the Secretariat proposes to leverage both commercially available audiovisual technologies, plus WIPO’s own AI tools (WIPO S2T and WIPO Translate). The proposal consists of three elements, as follows:
“(a) Enriched VoD recordings with digital indexing to enable easy navigation and search by agenda item or speaker, as well as integrated access to relevant meeting documents.
“(b) Replacement of verbatim reports by a complete, fully automated speech-to-text transcript in English, synchronized with the video recording, and with automated translations into the other five UN languages.
“(c) Phased implementation. During an initial trial phase (Phase One) from October 2019 to September 2020, the replacement of verbatim reports by automated transcripts and translations will be tested at the four sessions of the CDIP and SCP. In the light of the experience gained, Member States would be asked to decide in October 2020 whether the new system should be extended in Phase Two to other WIPO meetings.”

ITEM 15: REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS (SCCR)


Decision: “The WIPO General Assembly:
“(i) took note of the “Report on the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights” (document WO/GA/51/5 Rev.);
“(ii) in accordance with the recommendation of the SCCR, invited the SCCR to continue its work towards convening a Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations, aiming for the 2020/2021 biennium, subject to Member States reaching consensus in the SCCR on the fundamental issues, including specific scope, object of protection and rights to be granted; and
“(iii) directed the SCCR to continue its work regarding the other issues reported on in document WO/GA/51/5 Rev.”

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, (v) resale right; and (vi) protection of theatre directors’ rights. The SCCR met from October 21 to 25, 2019, and is tentatively scheduled to meet from June 29 to July 3, 2020 and from November 30 to December 4, 2020.

ITEM 16: REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF PATENTS (SCP)


Decision: The WIPO General Assembly took note of the 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 2 to 5, 2019, and is tentatively scheduled to meet from June 2 to 5, 2020 and from December 7 to 10, 2020.

ITEM 17: REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF TRADEMARKS, INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (SCT)


Decision: The WIPO General Assembly took note of the 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, the exchange of International Nonproprietary Names for Pharmaceutical Substances (INNs) data between the World Health Organization and WIPO, and developments in the Domain Name System (DNS); (ii) on industrial designs, Graphical User Interface, Icon and Typeface/Typefont Designs, as well as the Digital Access Service for Priority Documents (DAS); (iii) on geographical indications, information questionnaires and a database of the returns, and a half-day geographical indications information session. The SCT met from November 4 to 7, 2019, and is tentatively scheduled to meet from March 23 to 26, 2020 and from October 19 to 22, 2020.

ITEM 18: MATTERS CONCERNING THE CONVENING OF A DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE FOR THE ADOPTION OF A DESIGN LAW TREATY (DLT)

Document: WO/GA/51/8 (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 September 2020, 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 2021.”

Additional Information: The same wording was adopted as in the 2018 Assemblies, with the relevant updates to 2020 and 2021.

ITEM 19: 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/51/9);
“(b) took note of the “Decision of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) on “Women and Intellectual Property” (document WO/GA/51/10); and
“(c) with respect to document WO/GA/51/11 entitled “Contribution of the Relevant WIPO Bodies to the Implementation of the Respective Development Agenda Recommendations”,
   (i) 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/51/11); and
   (ii) forwarded to the CDIP the reports referred in that document.”

Additional Information: Document WO/GA/51/9 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 2019 CDIP session. Document WO/GA/51/10 refers to the CDIP decision on “Women and Intellectual Property” which, amongst others, “acknowledge the importance of fostering opportunities for gender equality; empowering women and girls’ innovators and creators; incorporating a gender perspective into IP policies and promoting an inclusive IP system accessible to all, to bridge gender gaps in IP and increase the participation of women and girls in innovative solutions to tackle some of the major problems humanity faces”. Document WO/GA/51/11 refers to the report by relevant WIPO Bodies and their implementation of the respective Development Agenda Recommendations. The CDIP met from November 18 to 22, 2019, and is tentatively scheduled to meet from May 18 to 22, 2020 and from November 9 to 13, 2020.

ITEM 20: REPORT ON THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE (IGC)


Decision: “The WIPO General Assembly
“(i) took note of the information contained in document WO/GA/51/12;
“(ii) agreed to renew the mandate of the IGC for the biennium 2020/2021 as below:
   “Bearing in mind the Development Agenda recommendations, reaffirming 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 2020/2021, continue to expedite its work, with the objective of finalizing 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 2020/2021 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 issues14.
   “(c) The Committee will follow, as set out in the table below, a work program based on open and inclusive working methods for the 2020/2021 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 2020/2021, including thematic, cross-cutting and stocktaking sessions. The Committee may establish ad hoc expert group(s) to address a specific legal, policy or

14 Core issues include, as applicable, inter alia, definitions, beneficiaries, subject matter, objectives, scope of protection, and what TK/TCEs are entitled to protection at an international level, including consideration of exceptions and limitations and the relationship with the public domain.
technical issue\textsuperscript{15}. 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/40/6, WIPO/GRTKF/IC/40/18 and WIPO/GRTKF/IC/40/19, and the Chair’s Text on the Draft International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources, 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 continue to update studies and other materials relating to tools and activities on databases and on existing disclosure regimes relating to GRs and associated TK, with a view to identify any gaps, and continue to collect, compile and make available online information on national and regional \textit{sui generis} regimes for the intellectual property protection of TK and TCEs. Studies or additional activities are not to delay progress or establish any preconditions for the negotiations.

“(e) In 2020, 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 2021, submit to the General Assembly the results of its work in accordance with the objective reflected in paragraph (a). The General Assembly in 2021 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 Secretariat 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.

\textbf{Work Program – 6 Sessions}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicative Dates</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February/March 2020</td>
<td>(IGC 41) Undertake negotiations on GRs with a focus on addressing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>unresolved issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Duration 5 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May/June 2020</td>
<td>(IGC 42) Undertake negotiations on GRs with a focus on addressing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>unresolved issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Duration 5 days, plus, if so decided, a one day meeting of an \textit{ad hoc} expert group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2020</td>
<td>(IGC 43) Undertake negotiations on TK and/or TCEs with a focus on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>addressing unresolved and cross-cutting issues and considering options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>for a draft legal instrument(s) Possible recommendations as mentioned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in paragraph (e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Duration 5 days.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{15} 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicative Dates</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 2020</td>
<td>WIPO General Assembly Factual report and consider recommendations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November/December 2020</td>
<td>(IGC 44) Undertake negotiations on TK and/or TCEs with a focus on addressing unresolved and cross-cutting issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument(s) Duration 5 days, plus, if so decided, a one day meeting of an ad hoc expert group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March/April 2021</td>
<td>(IGC 45) Undertake negotiations on TK and/or TCEs with a focus on addressing unresolved and cross-cutting issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument(s) Duration 5 days, plus, if so decided, a one day meeting of an ad hoc expert group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June/July 2021</td>
<td>(IGC 46) Undertake negotiations on TK and/or TCEs with a focus on addressing unresolved and cross-cutting issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument(s) Stocktaking on GRs/TK/TCEs and making a recommendation Duration 5 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2021</td>
<td>WIPO General Assembly will take stock of the progress made, consider the text(s) and make the necessary decision(s).&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

and

“(iii) recognized the importance of the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Committee, noted that the WIPO Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities was depleted, encouraged Member States to consider contributing to the Fund, and invited Member States to consider other alternate funding arrangements.”

Additional information: According to the Report, the IGC addressed TK/TCEs over the past year at IGCs 38, 39 and 40. Two ad hoc expert groups also met before IGCs 38 and 40 on the same subjects. The IGC is tentatively scheduled to meet in 2020 from March 16 to 20, 2020, from June 15 to 19, 2020, from August 31 to September 4, 2020, and from November 23 to 27, 2020.

ITEM 21: REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON WIPO STANDARDS (CWS)


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

Additional Information: According to the Report, the CWS addressed the following matters over the past two years, among others: (i) the adoption of a new Standard ST.87 for the exchange of industrial design legal status data, and the revisions of six Standards, including ST.27 for the exchange of patent legal status data; (ii) the development of new WIPO standards to fulfil emerging demands such as digital transformation and the possible use of emerging technologies including blockchain; and (iii) the effective support for implementation of Standards, including collaborative development of a new common software application, called WIPO Sequence. The CWS is tentatively scheduled to meet from July 13 to 17, 2020.
ITEM 22: REPORT ON THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENFORCEMENT (ACE)


Decision: The WIPO General Assembly took note of the 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 October 5 to 7, 2020.

ITEM 23: PCT SYSTEM

(i) Report on the PCT Working Group


Decision: The Assembly of the PCT Union took note of the above-referred document and 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 others: the future development of online services and electronic communication means between applicants and Offices, possible fee reductions for universities, the declaration by receiving Offices of competent International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities, and coordination of technical assistance and training of examiners. The PCT WG also discussed the subjects related to the amendments to the PCT Regulations proposed to this session of the Assembly (see item 23(ii), below), and the eligibility criteria for certain fee reductions (see item 23(iii), below). Document PCT/A/51/1, paragraph 4 (referred to 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 May 26 to 29, 2020.

(ii) Proposed Amendments to the PCT Regulations

Document: PCT/A/51/2 (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 Annexes I to V to document PCT/A/51/2, and the entry into force and transitional arrangements set out in paragraph 6 of the same document; and
“(ii) adopted the Understanding set out in paragraph 7 of document PCT/A/51/2.”

Additional Information: The Assembly of the PCT Union adopted amendments to the PCT Regulations as follows: (i) to provide a legal basis for an Office to excuse delays in meeting a time limit caused by unavailability of a means for electronic communication at that Office; (ii) to provide a legal basis in the international phase for correction or addition of indications provided for in Rule 4.11; (iii) to permit the incorporation by reference of correct elements or parts when the application contains erroneously filed elements or parts; (iv) to provide a legal basis for the transfer of fees between offices via the International Bureau; and (v) to require the International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) to transmit certain documents to the International Bureau, which will make them available to the public after the IPEA has established its international preliminary examination report.
(iii) Review of Criteria for PCT Fee Reductions for Applicants from Certain Countries

**Document:** PCT/A/51/3 (Review of Criteria for PCT Fee Reductions for Applicants from Certain Countries).

**Decision:** “The Assembly of the PCT Union:

“(i) decided, having reviewed the criteria set out in item 5 of the PCT Schedule of Fees, that those criteria be maintained; and

“(ii) decided that those criteria be reviewed again by the Assembly in five years’ time, as required by that Schedule.”

**Additional information:** The Assembly is required to review the criteria under item 5 at least every five years. Following the review, the criteria were maintained unchanged.

**ITEM 24: MADRID SYSTEM**

(i) **Proposed Amendments to the Regulations under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks**

**Document:** MM/A/53/1 (Proposed Amendments to the Regulations under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks).

**Decision:** “The Assembly of the Madrid Union adopted the amendments to Rules 21, 25, 27bis, 30 and 40 of the Regulations Under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, as set out in the Annexes to document MM/A/53/1.”

(ii) **Proposal for Distribution of the Madrid Union Surplus for the 2020/21 Biennium**

**Document:** MM/A/53/2 (Proposal for Distribution of the Madrid Union Surplus for the 2020/21 Biennium).

**Decision:** “The Assembly of the Madrid Union:

“(i) took note of the “Proposal for the Distribution of the Madrid Union Surplus for the 2020/21 Biennium” (document MM/A/53/2); and

“(ii) decided to discuss the proposal at a forthcoming session of the Assembly.”

**ITEM 25: LISBON SYSTEM**


**Decision:** The Assembly of the Lisbon Union took note of the above-referred document.

**Additional Information:** According to the Report, the Lisbon Working Group addressed the financial sustainability of the Lisbon Union. The Working Group is tentatively scheduled to meet on March 10 and 11, 2020.

**ITEM 26: WIPO ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTER, INCLUDING DOMAIN NAMES**

**Document:** WO/GA/51/15 (WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, Including Domain Names).

**Decision:** The WIPO General Assembly took note of the 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 collaboration with certain IP Offices in promoting alternative dispute resolution (ADR) options. In the area of domain name dispute resolution, the document notes that in 2018 the WIPO Center administered a record 3,447 cases on the basis of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP); as of June 2019, the Center had administered total filings of over 44,000 such cases covering some 81,000 domain names.
ITEM 27: PATENT LAW TREATY (PLT)

Document: WO/GA/51/16 (Technical Assistance and Cooperation Regarding the Patent Law Treaty (PLT)).

Decision: The WIPO General Assembly took note of the 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 two years, in particular, with respect to: (i) technical infrastructure of national and regional IP offices and (ii) electronic communications under the PCT. In accordance with PLT provisions, the WIPO General Assembly monitors and evaluates, at each ordinary session (i.e. normally every two years), relevant technical assistance and cooperation activities in favor of developing countries, LDCs and countries in transition, which facilitates the filing of communications in electronic form in those countries.

ITEM 28: SINGAPORE TREATY ON THE LAW OF TRADEMARKS (STLT)

Document: STLT/A/12/1 (Technical Assistance and Cooperation Regarding the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (STLT)).

Decision: The Singapore Treaty Assembly took note of the 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 STLT provisions, the Assembly monitors and evaluates, at each ordinary session (i.e. normally every two years), technical assistance and cooperation relevant to the STLT implementation.

ITEM 29: MARRAKESH TREATY TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO PUBLISHED WORKS FOR PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND, VISUALLY IMPAIRED OR OTHERWISE PRINT DISABLED (MVT)


Additional Information: By October 4, 2019, 80 Member States had ratified or acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty. The fifth annual Report on the Accessible Books Consortium, a public-private alliance led by WIPO, highlighted the activities undertaken to support the practical implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty.

ITEM 30: REPORTS ON STAFF MATTERS

(i) Report on Human Resources

Documents: WO/CC/76/INF/1 (Annual Report on Human Resources) and WO/CC/76/2 (WIPO Staff Pension Committee).

Decision: “The WIPO Coordination Committee: “(i) took note of, and welcomed, the decision of the Director General to remove, from the Office Instruction on the WIPO Rewards and Recognition Program, the provisions concerning the organizational performance reward, namely, paragraphs 26 and 27 of Office Instruction No. 31/2015 Rev. 4.”
“(ii) elected Mr. Philippe Favatier as alternate member of the WIPO Staff Pension Committee from January 2020 up to the end of the ordinary session of the WIPO Coordination Committee in 2023.”

Additional Information: The HR Report covers matters concerning WIPO’s human resources that have to be reported to the WIPO Coordination Committee as well as other staff matters of interest. It includes information on progress made in achieving goals relating to some of these staff matters and a brief description of relevant policies, initiatives and activities which are aligned with the Organization’s HR Strategy 2017-2021. The information in the report is complemented by a separate HR brochure containing HR data and infographics.

(ii) Report by the Ethics Office


Additional Information: The Report outlines the activities of the Ethics Office which are related to:
(i) awareness raising and training activities; (ii) confidential advice to staff members;
(iii) standard-setting and policy development; (iv) implementation of policies assigned to the Ethics Office; and (v) harmonization with best practices of the United Nations common system.

ITEM 31: AMENDMENTS TO STAFF REGULATIONS AND RULES

Document: WO/CC/76/1 (Amendments to Staff Regulations and Rules).

Decision: “The WIPO Coordination Committee:
“(i) approved the amendments to the Staff Regulations as provided in Annex I of document WO/CC/76/1; and
“(ii) took note of the amendments to the Staff Rules as provided in Annex II of document WO/CC/76/1.”

Additional Information: Two of the amendments approved relate to the raising of the mandatory age of separation to 65 years. The other amendments aimed essentially at clarifying provisions and/or removing unnecessary or obsolete provisions.

ITEM 32: 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/59/13 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 31, 2019. Comments should be submitted to the Secretariat by November 29, 2019, after which the final reports will be deemed adopted by December 13, 2019.”

Additional Information: The Summary Report, and its addenda, incorporated the decisions adopted by the Assemblies on October 9, 2019. The Extensive Reports, adopted on December 13, 2019, supersede the Summary Report with the addition of all statements made during the Assemblies.
ITEM 33: CLOSING OF THE SESSIONS

The Fifty-Ninth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO was closed by the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly. The 61st session will take place at WIPO headquarters from September 21 to September 29, 2020. Prior to that, an Extraordinary Session of the Coordination Committee will be convened on March 5 and 6, 2020, to nominate candidate for appointment to post of Director General, and Extraordinary Sessions of the General Assembly, Paris Union Assembly, and Berne Union Assembly will be convened on May 7 and 8, 2020, to appoint the Director General.

[Annex follows]
LIST OF REPORTS OF THE 59TH ASSEMBLIES

A/59/14 General Report of the 59th Assemblies (139 pg.)
WO/GA/51/18 Report of the 51st WIPO General Assembly (81 pg.)
WO/CC/76/4 Report of the 76th WIPO Coordination Committee (19 pg.)
MM/A/53/3 Report of the 53rd Madrid Union Assembly (6 pg.)
LI/A/36/2 Report of the 36th Lisbon Union Assembly (8 pg.)
PCT/A/51/4 Report of the 51st Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Union Assembly (5 pg.)
STLT/A/12/2 Report of the 12th Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks Assembly (2 pg)
MVT/A/4/2 Report of the 4th Marrakesh Treaty Assembly (6 pg.)

JOINT REPORTS1 (2 PG)

WO/CF/40/1 Report of the 40th WIPO Conference
P/A/54/1 Report of the 54th Paris Union Assembly
P/EC/59/1 Report of the 59th Paris Union Executive Committee
B/A/48/1 Report of the 48th Berne Union Assembly
B/EC/65/1 Report of the 65th Berne Union Executive Committee
H/A/39/1 Report of the 39th Hague Union Assembly
N/A/39/1 Report of the 39th Nice Union Assembly
LO/A/39/1 Report of the 39th Locarno Union Assembly
IPC/A/40/1 Report of the 40th Special Union for the International Patent Classification
BP/A/36/1 Report of the 36th Budapest Union Assembly
VA/A/32/1 Report of the 32nd Vienna Union Assembly
WCT/A/19/1 Report of the 19th WIPO Copyright Treaty Assembly
WPPT/A/19/1 Report of the 19th WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty
PLT/A/18/1 Report of the 18th Patent Law Treaty Assembly

Total: 22 Reports containing 268 pages

[End of Annex and of document]

1 A separate document which records that the following WIPO bodies were statutorily convened in the framework of the Assemblies but did not have individual matters to discuss.