PREFACE

The Sixtieth (written procedure format) and Sixty-First (hybrid format) 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 60th and 61st Assemblies”, were held in Geneva, respectively, from May 7 and 8, 2020 and from September 21 to 25, 2020.

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 ASSEMBLIES OF WIPO

WIPO is a UN specialized agency composed of 193 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 “Assemblies of WIPO”.

At the 60th Assemblies, 3 bodies met in joint sessions and 22 bodies met at the 61st Assemblies. The list of those bodies appears, respectively, in documents A/60/INF/1 and A/61/INF/1 Rev. (General Information).

2 The document is available in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish: https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/2020/a_61/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 15: OPENING OF THE SESSIONS

Ambassador Omar Zniber (Mr.) (Morocco), Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, opened the 60th and 61st Assemblies, respectively on May 7, 2020, and on September 21, 2020.

Documents: A/60/INF/1 and A/61/INF/1 Rev. (General Information).

ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documents: respectively, A/60/1 and A/61/1 (Consolidated Agenda) and A/61/2 (List of Documents).

Decision: The 60th and 61st Assemblies adopted the proposed agendas, respectively.

ITEM 3 OF THE 60TH ASSEMBLIES: APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Documents: A/60/2 (Appointment of the Director General), WO/GA/52/1 Rev. (Conditions of Appointment of the Director General), and WO/GA/52/2 (Summary by the Chair of the “Working Group on the Conditions of the Appointment of the Director General-Elect”).

Decisions: “The WIPO General Assembly and the Assemblies of the Paris and Berne Unions, each as far as it is concerned, considered the nomination of the WIPO Coordination Committee referred to in paragraph 3 of document A/60/2 and unanimously decided to appoint Mr. Daren Tang as Director General of WIPO for the period from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2026.” “The WIPO General Assembly unanimously approved the Conditions of the Appointment of the Director General, as set forth in Annex I to document WO/GA/52/2.”

ITEM 3 OF THE 61ST ASSEMBLIES: ELECTION OF OFFICERS


Decision: The following officers were elected:

- WIPO Coordination Committee
  Chair: Zsuzsanna Horváth (Ms.) (Hungary)
  Vice-Chair: Alfredo Suescum (Mr.) (Panama)
  Vice-Chair: Mercy Kainobwisho (Ms.) (Uganda)

- Paris Union Executive Committee
  Chair: Martín Correa (Mr.) (Chile)

- Berne Union Executive Committee
  Chair: Amina Smaila (Ms.) (Nigeria)

- Beijing Treaty Assembly
  Chair: Yan Xiaohong (Mr.) (China)
  Vice-Chair: Diana Hasbun (Ms.) (El Salvador)

Additional Information: The current list of all the officers of the Assemblies and other bodies appear in document A/61/INF/2. According to the relevant rules of procedure, the officers of the Assemblies (i.e. the Chair and the Vice-Chairs of each of the 22 bodies that meet in the framework of the Assemblies of WIPO) are elected once every two years during ordinary sessions (and therefore serve a two-year mandate). Officers were elected at the October 2019 Assemblies and the next elections will take place at the 2021 Ordinary Assemblies. 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 as these bodies meet each year in ordinary sessions. An election for these three bodies

5 All items refer to the 61st Assemblies unless indicated otherwise.
therefore takes place every year. At the 61st Assemblies, the Officers of the Beijing Treaty Assembly were elected following the recent entry into force of the Treaty, for an exceptional term of one year (thereafter the terms will be for two years).

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 current Chair of the WIPO General Assembly presides over the meetings in 2020 and 2021.

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


Mr. Francis Gurry, Director General, introduced his annual report to the Assemblies⁷.

**ITEM 5: GENERAL STATEMENTS**

General statements were made by delegations from 112 States (including 9 on behalf of groups of States), 3 intergovernmental organizations, and 12 non-governmental organizations. The statements are available in Annex I of document A/61/10 and on a dedicated Assemblies web page⁸.

**ITEM 6: ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS**

Document: A/61/3 (Admission of Observers).

Decision: “The Assemblies granted observer status to the following:

“(a) Intergovernmental organization:
(i) International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory (INL)

“(b) International non-governmental organizations:
(i) Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC);
(ii) Brand Owners Protection Group (Gulf BPG);
(iii) Independent Alliance for Artists Rights (IAFAR);
(iv) Intellectual Property Latin American School (ELAPI);
(v) Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT); and
(vi) Women@theTable (Women at the Table)

“(b) National non-governmental organizations:
(i) French Association of Industrial and Artisanal Geographical Indications (AFIGIA);
(ii) Design and Artists Copyright Society (DACS);
(iii) Omani Association for Intellectual Property (OAIP); and
(iv) Research Center for Innovation-Supported Entrepreneurial Ecosystems (RISE).”

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 community⁹. Following this decision, WIPO has granted permanent observer status to a total of 268 international NGOs and 102 national NGOs to attend the meetings of the Assemblies. These observers are also invited to attend, in the same capacity, relevant meetings of committees, working groups, and other bodies subsidiary to the Assemblies.

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⁶ The report is available at: https://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4517
⁷ The address is available at: https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/dg_gurry/speeches/a_61_dg_speech.html
⁸ https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/statements.jsp?meeting_id=56286
⁹ More information regarding observer status at WIPO is available at https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/observers/
ITEM 7: APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS

Document: WO/CC/78/3 (Approval of Agreements).

Decision: "The WIPO Coordination Committee approved the Cooperation Agreement between WIPO and CARICOM; and the Cooperation Agreement between WIPO and OECS, as set forth in Annexes I and II, respectively, of document WO/CC/78/3."

Additional Information: WIPO concludes Memoranda of Understanding 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. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) promote regional cooperation for the economic and social development of their Member States.

ITEM 8: CONVENING OF 2021 EXTRAORDINARY SESSIONS


Decision: "The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, requested the Director General of WIPO to convene extraordinary sessions of the Assemblies of WIPO during the first half of 2021, based on an agenda including the items listed in the Annex to document A/61/8."

Additional information: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and as requested by Member States, the 61st Assemblies had a truncated agenda. An extraordinary session is planned for the first half of 2021 to discuss the items that could not be covered in 2020.

ITEM 9: DRAFT AGENDAS FOR 2021 ORDINARY SESSIONS

Document: A/61/4 (Draft Agendas for the 2021 Ordinary Sessions of the WIPO General Assembly, the WIPO Conference, the Paris Union Assembly and the Berne Union Assembly).

Decision: "The WIPO Coordination Committee adopted Annexes I and II; the Paris Union Executive Committee adopted Annex III; the Berne Union Executive Committee adopted Annex IV."

Additional information: According to the WIPO Convention, the WIPO Coordination Committee formally prepares the draft agenda of the ordinary sessions of the WIPO General Assembly and of the WIPO Conference. Similarly, the Paris Union and the Berne Union Executive Committees prepare the draft agendas for their respective Assemblies. Ordinary sessions of these bodies take place every two years (the next in 2021), and through a standard agenda item in the year prior, Member States complete the prescribed formalities. The annexes referred in the decision of the 61st Assemblies include draft agendas for the 2021 sessions of the above-mentioned bodies, which will be complemented with more items before the convening of these sessions.

ITEM 10: REPORTS ON AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT

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

Documents: WO/GA/53/1 (Report by the WIPO IAOC) and A/61/6 (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 Division (IOD) plan and the work plan results; the review of the Audited Financial Statements for 2020; the Report of the External Auditor; 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/61/5 (Report by the External Auditor) and A/61/6 (List of Decisions Adopted by the PBC).

Decision: “The General Assembly and other Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO took note of the “Report by the External Auditor” (document A/61/5).”

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/53/2 (Annual Report by the Director of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD)) and A/61/6 (List of Decisions Adopted by the Program and Budget Committee).

Decision: “The WIPO General Assembly took note of the “Annual Report by the Director of the Internal Oversight Division” (document WO/GA/53/2).”

Additional Information: The Report contains information on, amongst other, significant issues and high priority oversight 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 11: REPORT ON THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE (PBC)

Decision: The Assemblies took note of the PBC decisions and approved the PBC recommendations in document A/61/6.


ITEM 12: 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 2019 the WIPO Center administered a record 3,693 cases on the basis of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP); as of June 2020, the Center had administered total filings of over 48,000 such cases covering some 88,000 domain names.
ITEM 13: MADRID SYSTEM

Document: MM/A/54/1 (COVID-19 Measures: Making E-mail a Required Indication).

Decision: “The Madrid Union Assembly adopted the amendments to Rules 3, 9, 25 and 36 of the Regulations under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, as set out in the Annex to document MM/A/54/1.”

Additional Information: The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted global postal and delivery services, and increased the importance of electronic communications between the International Bureau and users of the Madrid System. The Assembly agreed to require that the applicant, in an international application, the new holder, in a request for the recording of a change in ownership, and a newly appointed representative each indicate their e-mail address from February 1, 2021 to ensure that they benefit from receiving electronic communications from the International Bureau.

ITEM 14: HAGUE SYSTEM

Document: H/A/40/1 (COVID-19 Measures: Making E-mail Address a Required Indication).

Decision: “The Assembly of the Hague Union adopted the amendments to Rules 3, 7 and 21 of the Common Regulations, as set out in the Annex to document H/A/40/1, with a date of entry into force of February 1, 2021.”

Additional Information: The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted global postal and delivery services, and increased the importance of electronic communications between the International Bureau of WIPO and applicants, holders and their representatives. The Assembly agreed to require them to indicate an e-mail address in an international application or other relevant communications from February 2021 onwards, with a view to ensuring that users of the Hague System benefit from receiving electronic communication from the International Bureau.

ITEM 15: PARIS UNION ASSEMBLY


Additional Information: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, users have faced difficulties in meeting time limits or the priority period. The Assembly encouraged the application of special relief measures for mitigating the risk of loss of priority right in emergencies. The agreed “Guidance” is not compulsory and its implementation by Member States remains voluntary. It is nevertheless a concrete and collective response to the challenges posed by current and future emergencies of global nature.

ITEM 16: MARRAKESH TREATY TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO PUBLISHED WORKS FOR PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND, VISUALLY IMPAIRED OR OTHERWISE PRINT DISABLED (MVT)

Documents: MVT/A/5/1 (Status of the Marrakesh Treaty) and MVT/A/5/INF/1 (Report on the Accessible Books Consortium).

Decision: The Marrakesh Treaty Assembly took note of document MVT/A/5/1.

Additional Information: By July 10, 2020, 68 Member States and one intergovernmental organization had ratified or acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty.
ITEM 17: BEIJING TREATY ON AUDIOVISUAL PERFORMANCES (BTAP)

Documents:  BTAP/A/1/1 (Rules of Procedure) and BTAP/A/1/2 (Status of the Beijing Treaty).

Decisions:  “The Beijing Treaty Assembly (i) considered and adopted, as its own Rules of Procedure, the WIPO General Rules of Procedure with Rules 7, 9 and 25 amended as provided in paragraphs 8, 11 and 13 of document BTAP/A/1/1, as well as with the two additional special Rules of Procedure as provided in paragraph 14 of the same document, and (ii) took note of the “Status of the Beijing Treaty” (document BTAP/A/1/2).”

Additional Information:  By July 10, 2020, 33 Member States had ratified or acceded to the Beijing Treaty. Concerning the Rules of Procedure, the Assembly adopted as its own rules the WIPO General Rules of Procedure, amended with the introduction of special rules of procedure to take into account provisions unique to the Beijing Treaty, notably the possibility that intergovernmental organizations may become parties to the Treaty.

ITEM 18: REPORTS ON STAFF MATTERS

(i)  Report on Human Resources


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 19: DESIGNATION OF THE CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE WIPO APPEAL BOARD (WAB)

Document:  WO/CC/78/2 (Designation of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the WIPO Appeal Board (WAB)).

Decision:  “The WIPO Coordination Committee designated, for a term of five years as from October 12, 2020: (i) Ms. Joan Powers as Chair of the WIPO Appeal Board, and (ii) Mr. Pierre Panchaud as Deputy Chair of the WIPO Appeal Board.”

Additional Information:  In accordance with the WIPO Staff Regulations and Rules, the WIPO Appeal Board (WAB) is an administrative body with staff participation to advise the Director General on appeals by staff/former staff members. The WAB is composed by (i) a Chair and a Deputy Chair external to WIPO designated by the WIPO Coordination Committee; (ii) by two members designated by the Director General from among the staff members of the International Bureau; and (iii) by two members elected by the staff members of the International Bureau from among the staff members.
ITEM 20: EXCEPTIONAL RE-APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY DIRECTORS GENERAL AND ASSISTANT DIRECTORS GENERAL


Decisions: “The WIPO Coordination Committee approved the exceptional re-appointments as Deputy Directors General of Mr. Mario Matus, Mr. John Sandage, Ms. Wang Binying and Ms. Sylvie Forbin for the period indicated in paragraph 10 of document WO/CC/78/4.

“The WIPO Coordination Committee gave its advice on the exceptional re-appointments as Assistant Directors General of Mr. Minelik Getahun, Mr. Yoshiyuki Takagi, and Mr. Naresh Prasad for the period indicated in paragraph 10 of document WO/CC/78/4.”

Additional Information: The COVID-19 pandemic, created an unanticipated and unprecedented challenge to the process of the selection of the new Deputy and Assistant Directors General (DDGs and ADGs), whose term will only begin on January 1, 2021. The WIPO Coordination Committee approved an exceptional short-term re-appointment of the outgoing DDGs and ADGs, to allow them to assist the Director General-Elect to manage the transition until the new DDGs and ADGs take up their appointments.

ITEM 21: ADOPTION OF THE REPORTS

Document: 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/61/9); and
“(ii) requested the Secretariat to finalize the Extensive Reports, post them on the WIPO website and communicate them to Member States by October 24, 2020. Comments should be submitted to the Secretariat by November 24, 2020, after which the final reports will be deemed adopted by December 15, 2020.”

Additional Information: The Summary Report, incorporated the decisions adopted by the Assemblies on September 24, 2020. The Extensive Reports, adopted on December 15, 2020, supersede the Summary Report with the addition of all statements made during the Assemblies.

ITEM 22: CLOSING OF THE SESSIONS

The Sixty-First Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO was closed by the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly.

[Annex follows]
REPORT OF THE 60TH ASSEMBLIES
A/60/3 General Report of the 60th Assemblies (89 pg.)

REPORTS OF THE 61ST ASSEMBLIES
A/61/10 General Report of the 61st Assemblies (103 pg.)
WO/GA/53/9 Report of the 53rd WIPO General Assembly (12 pg.)
WO/CC/78/5 Report of the 78th WIPO Coordination Committee (17 pg.)
P/A/56/2 Report of the 56th Paris Union Assembly (5 pg.)
MM/A/54/2 Report of the 54th Madrid Union Assembly (5 pg.)
H/A/40/2 Report of the 40th Hague Union Assembly (3 pg.)
MVT/A/5/2 Report of the 5th Marrakesh Treaty Assembly (8 pg.)
BTAP/A/1/3 Report of the 1st Beijing Treaty Assembly (6 pg.)

Joint Reports of the 61st Assemblies\(^1\) (2 pg)
WO/CF/41/1 Report of the 41st WIPO Conference
P/EC/60/1 Report of the 60th Paris Union Executive Committee
B/A/50/1 Report of the 50th Berne Union Assembly
B/EC/66/1 Report of the 66th Berne Union Executive Committee
N/A/40/1 Report of the 40th Nice Union Assembly
LI/A/37/1 Report of the 37th Lisbon Union Assembly
LO/A/40/1 Report of the 40th Locarno Union Assembly
IPC/A/41/1 Report of the 41st Special Union for the International Patent Classification
PCT/A/52/1 Report of the 52nd Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Union Assembly
BP/A/37/1 Report of the 37th Budapest Union Assembly
VA/A/33/1 Report of the 33rd Vienna Union Assembly
WPCT/A/20/1 Report of the 20th WIPO Copyright Treaty Assembly
WPPT/A/20/1 Report of the 20th WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty
PLT/A/19/1 Report of the 19th Patent Law Treaty Assembly
STLT/A/13/1 Report of the 13th Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks Assembly

Total: 24 Reports containing 250 pages

\(^1\) 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.