Practical Guide for Delegates

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

2015
Introduction and Contact Details


The present document includes practical information for delegates attending the WIPO Assemblies 2015.

Any questions or comments may be addressed to the following WIPO staff:

Registration of delegates:
Ms. Laurence Nicolo,
Mr. Abdelhak Chaieb
meetings@wipo.int
Tel: +41 22 338 9949 or +41 22 338 9591
and Ms. Nicoletta Davi
assemblies.registration@wipo.int
Tel: +41 22 338 9862

Funding of PCT/Madrid delegates:
Ms. Marie-Antoine Rideau
assemblies.financing@wipo.int
Tel: +41 22 338 8242

Documentation:
Ms. Patience Häfliger
or Ms. Nicoletta Davi
assemblies@wipo.int
Tel: +41 22 338 9593 or +41 22 338 9862

Premises and room bookings:
Ms. Janice Driscoll Donayre or
Ms. Ann-Eve Adam
meetings@wipo.int
Tel: +41 22 338 9581 or +41 22 338 8215

Internet and IT matters:
Mr. Walter Muñoz
helpdesk@wipo.int
Tel: +41 22 338 8574 or +41 79 615 6061

Other questions:
Ms. Nicoletta Davi
assemblies@wipo.int
Tel: +41 22 338 9862
Conduct of Sessions and Method of Work

Duration of Sessions

The WIPO Assemblies 2015 will take place at the headquarters of WIPO from October 5 to 14, 2015. Access to WIPO will be possible as from 7.45 a.m. on Monday, October 5, 2015, in order for badges to be collected in a timely manner (more information on badge collection is provided on page 7).

Each day, sessions will run precisely from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. In the interests of efficiency, sessions will start on time and there will be no coffee breaks (complimentary coffee/tea will be available in the morning and in the afternoon outside the plenary room). Delegates are urged to arrive in good time. If necessary, night sessions (from 7 p.m. onwards) will be organized. Unless otherwise indicated, meetings will not take place over the weekend.

The precise seating arrangements for the WIPO Assemblies 2015 will be finalized on the basis of the online registrations received and the drawn letter. A seating map will be made available at the entrance of the plenary room.

Requests to Take the Floor

Delegations wishing to take the floor on any agenda item are strongly encouraged to send their requests in advance (in particular for Agenda Item 5 – General Statements), preferably up to the day preceding the discussions on the item. They may send their requests to assemblies@wipo.int or complete a Speaking Request Form which can be obtained from the WIPO Conference staff during the Assemblies. Delegates may also request the floor during the discussions.

Seating Order

A briefing for permanent missions on the organization of the Assemblies will be held on September 28, 2015. During this briefing, a letter of the alphabet will be drawn, which will determine the seating order for delegations at WIPO meetings during the forthcoming year.
Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation will be available during plenary meetings in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish, as well as from Portuguese into the other six languages.

In order to ensure the highest quality of interpretation for the benefit of the speakers and of all delegations, interpreters should receive prepared statements (even if in draft form) ahead of their oral delivery. This is particularly important for longer statements, such as General Statements under Agenda Item 5. Prepared statements can be sent as early as possible (at the latest on the morning of their delivery) to Ms. Christina Fertis, Chief Interpreter (christina.fertis@wipo.int) or given by hand to the WIPO Conference staff. Prior to being delivered, the statements will be made available to interpreters, in order to assist them in faithfully transmitting the message of delegates.

If a General Statement under Agenda Item 5 can be posted after delivery on the WIPO website (possibly with the indication “Check Against Delivery”), the statement may also be sent to assemblies@wipo.int.

General Statements

General Statements (Agenda Item 5) are expected to occupy the first day and part of the second day of the Assemblies. As per previous practice, and in order to minimize the need for night sessions, General Statements should be orally delivered in a maximum of five minutes by group coordinators on behalf of their members (approximately 650 to 800 words read at normal speed to allow accurate interpretation) or within three minutes by individual country delegates (approximately 390 to 480 words). The time limit will be strictly applied and a display system will assist delegates to adhere to it.

In the interests of efficiency, delegates wishing to take the floor are invited to accommodate their statements to such time limit. Therefore, delegates are invited to reduce courtesies to a minimum, so as to enter into the substantive elements of their statement without delay. Furthermore, as group statements represent the position of all group members, individual delegates do not need to refer to them or reiterate positions already stated by the group coordinator.

If a statement cannot be delivered at a normal speaking pace within the indicated time limit, it should be orally summarized and the full version may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat (assemblies@wipo.int). In the interests of time, delegations may also opt to submit their entire General Statement in writing and not take the floor.
Each General Statement submitted in writing to the Secretariat will be posted on the WIPO website after delivery. All statements, including those not delivered orally, will be reproduced in their entirety in the report circulated on the last day of the Assemblies.

Report of the Meeting

In order to facilitate the drafting of the report of the meeting with the fullest and most accurate record of all interventions, delegations are requested to submit a written version of all their prepared statements as soon as possible after delivery, preferably on the same day. Statements can be submitted in paper on the spot to any WIPO Conference staff or by e-mail to assemblies@wipo.int.
Registration of Delegates and Credentials

Online Registration

Preliminary note: Registrations originating from individuals or organizations NOT accredited to WIPO cannot be processed. Information to request permanent observer status is available at: www.wipo.int/members/en/admission/observers.html

In order to avoid delays on the first day of the Assemblies, and in accordance with the invitation circular sent on March 26, 2015, to Member States and Observer Organizations accredited to WIPO, delegates from capitals as well as those based in Geneva are kindly requested to register online by September 18, 2015 at: www.wipo.int/meetings/en/registration/a/index.jsp

The secure code to enable the online registration was provided in the invitation circular sent on March 26, 2015, to Member States and Observer Organizations accredited to WIPO.

Online registration is very simple and consists of completing a short online form. This can be done in a few minutes by each delegate or by a staff member on her/his behalf.

The submission of credentials is required for completion of the online registration form. The credential document should be a dated and signed/stamped note verbale, official letter or document, originating from a competent authority of a Member State or Observer Organization accredited to WIPO, nominating the delegate to attend the WIPO Assemblies 2015 on behalf of that Member State or Observer Organization. The Invitation Circular issued by WIPO or a credential for another WIPO meeting cannot be considered as a valid credential for the WIPO Assemblies 2015 and should not be uploaded as such.

Once registered online, each delegate receives by e-mail a registration number confirming the registration to the Assemblies. All registrations are subsequently verified by the Secretariat, which may individually contact a registered participant if required (for instance, in case of questions regarding the credential document).

Any questions or comments on the online registration procedure may be addressed to assemblies.registration@wipo.int.
Conference Badges

In order to obtain the official conference (admission) badge, it will be necessary to produce, on arrival at WIPO, the registration confirmation received by e-mail, together with a photo identification document (ID) and the original of the credentials previously uploaded on the online registration form.

Conference badges can be collected at the registration desk in the WIPO Access Center on 34 Chemin des Colombettes (North side of the WIPO AB Building: Tel: +41 22 338 7941 or +41 22 338 7944), as follows:

- Friday, October 2, 2015, from 1.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.;
- Sunday, October 4, 2015, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.; and
- Monday, October 5, 2015, from 7.45 a.m. onwards.

The registration counters in the WIPO Access Center will be open every day during the Assemblies. Although registration counter coverage will be reinforced on the morning of the opening day, delays may be experienced between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. In order to avoid such delays, delegates are invited to collect their badges on Friday or Sunday afternoon, October 2 or 4, 2015, or as early as possible on Monday, October 5, 2015.

Delegates from Member States may have their badges collected by an authorized representative of their permanent mission in Geneva subject to providing, in advance, the names and registration numbers of delegates concerned and the approximate time of pick up. Contact Ms. Laurence Nicolo or Mr. Abdelhak Chaieb (meetings@wipo.int; Tel: +41 22 338 9949 or +41 22 338 9591).

Please note that access to and presence on the WIPO premises will be restricted to persons wearing badges. Any lost badge should be reported without delay to the WIPO reception desk. Delegates should return their badges to the reception desk upon departure.

List of Participants

On the first day of the Assemblies, a provisional list of participants will be distributed, which will include the online registrations received by 5 p.m. on Friday, September 18, 2015.

Online registrations submitted after that deadline will not be reflected on the provisional list of participants.
Visas

Attention is drawn to the strict provisions in force regarding entry into Switzerland, and particularly the requirement by the Swiss authorities to provide biometric data (10 fingerprints and facial image). This implies the applicant’s presence in person at a Swiss Representation to submit and register biometric data (this may even require traveling to a neighboring country). It is important to note that the Swiss authorities will not authorize entry in Switzerland without the required biometric visa and will not deliver entry visas on arrival. Delivery of the required visa (Schengen visa) may take up to 21 days. Therefore, any visa application should be filed by the traveler between three months and at the latest three weeks before departure. Delegates requiring a visa to enter Switzerland are invited to contact WIPO at visa@wipo.int in order to obtain assistance.
Funding of PCT and Madrid Delegates

Requests for Funding

In accordance with circulars (C. PCT 1444 and C. M 1417) sent on May 22, 2015, to WIPO Member States, the travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance of one delegate from each member of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Union and/or the Madrid Union will be financed by WIPO at the express request of any concerned member, provided that the required designation form is completed and returned to WIPO by September 4, 2015, 5 p.m. The circulars referred to above contain all details and attachments necessary for the submission of requests for financing. As only one delegate from each member of each Union (PCT and/or Madrid) can be financed, members are invited to return only one designation form for each Union.

Travel Expenses and Daily Subsistence Allowances (DSAs)

Concerning travel expenses, each financed delegate is individually contacted after the submission of the designation form, and provided with the appropriate arrangements. The travel procedures are in accordance with the decisions of the Member States aiming at simplifying administrative procedures, reducing travel costs and ensuring that resources are used efficiently. Financed delegates may collect their DSAs at the finance desk in the lobby of WIPO AB Building on Monday, October 5, 2015, from 8 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., and on Tuesday, October 6, 2015, from 8 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Thereafter, the following WIPO staff may be contacted: Ms. Elsbeth Leicht (Tel: +41 22 338 9962) or Ms. Sylvia Moita (Tel: +41 22 338 9730).

Unplanned early departure

Kindly note that in the case of an unplanned early departure, a financed delegate should immediately inform the WIPO Secretariat travel and finance services by e-mail (assemblies.financing@wipo.int) or by phone (Tel: +41 22 338 8242). Arrangements will be made at the delegate’s convenience so that any overpaid DSAs can be reimbursed before departure, thus avoiding the administrative burden imposed by a reimbursement from home by bank transfer.
Information and documentation on the WIPO Assemblies 2015 are available online as follows:

Information on the Assemblies:

Agenda of the Assemblies and links to the documents of each agenda item:

As a positive contribution to an environmentally-friendly meeting and as a cost-saving measure, Assemblies documents are posted on the WIPO website for downloading. Hard copies of documents will not be sent in advance unless specifically requested. All documents are available in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish.

The Assemblies document counter is located outside the plenary room. Paper copies of documents will be limited and made available on a daily basis for items scheduled for discussion on that day. Delegates are strongly encouraged to come to the meetings with pre-printed copies of documents and/or to use portable computers/devices.

Delegations wishing to circulate any paper may inquire with the document counter.
Premises and Room Bookings

Access to WIPO

Access to and presence on the WIPO premises will be restricted to badge-holders and strictly controlled during the Assemblies. Delegates will be subject to badge control at the entry points and badges should be worn in plain view at all times.

The entrance to the WIPO Campus will be via the WIPO Access Center on 34 Chemin des Colombettes (North side of the WIPO AB Building) (see Map). Delegates arriving at WIPO by car can be dropped-off/picked-up from the WIPO Access Center. Pre-accredited official vehicles from permanent missions can access WIPO’s parking area as indicated below and drop off or pick up delegates. Delegates meeting the Director General in his office are requested to contact the Protocol and Event Management Section in advance (Mr. Omar Katbi: Tel: +41 22 338 8261; Mr. James Neale: Tel: +41 22 338 8025 or Ms. Tina Andrianjafy: Tel: +41 22 338 9388) and will be duly escorted from the parking area or from the WIPO AB Building lobby.

As usual, pre-accredited official vehicles from permanent diplomatic missions can access the reserved diplomatic underground parking area in WIPO, with their magnetic WIPO access badges. Access to the WIPO parking is possible via the entrance at 34 Chemin des Colombettes. Delegates can park their cars on a first-come-first-served basis for the duration of the meetings. Otherwise, a public parking area at Place des Nations is very close to WIPO. More information on the parking fee is available at: www.ge.ch/parkings/parkings/nations.asp

Access for persons with reduced mobility is available throughout WIPO premises. Guide-dogs for visually-impaired are allowed. Requests for information or assistance may be submitted to: meetings@wipo.int or Tel: +41 22 338 9581.
Room Bookings

Meeting rooms will be assigned for regional group meetings during the Assemblies. Group coordinators will be advised in advance of the room assignments.

To facilitate planning and service arrangements, group coordinators are kindly requested to advise the WIPO Conference Section on a daily basis (or more often, if changes arise), of the anticipated schedule of their group meetings (meetings@wipo.int). Interpretation requirements should be received as soon as possible and no later than 10.30 a.m. for afternoon meetings and 4 p.m. for meetings on the following morning (christina.fertis@wipo.int). Confirmed group meetings will be announced accordingly on the WIPO electronic display panels.

There is very limited availability of rooms at WIPO for bilateral meetings. Requests for room reservations at WIPO should be addressed to the Conference Section (meetings@wipo.int). Room allocation will be done according to overall availability and will commence during the week beginning August 24, 2015. We regret that, in the interests of all delegations and in view of the limited facilities, block bookings for a specific room over a long duration of time cannot be arranged.

Staff on site at the document counter or conference room attendants may also be contacted for last-minute room reservations.

Kindly note that the Geneva Delegates Welcome Service (CAGI) (Tel: +41 22 546 2300; www.cagi.ch/en/delegates-welcome/working-and-meetings-rooms/workspace-request-form.php) and the John Knox Conference Center (CIRJK) (Tel: +41 22 747 0000; welcome@johnknox.ch) also offer meeting rooms and business lounges within walking distance of WIPO.

Cafeterias, Coffee Bar and Lunch Facilities

Tea and coffee will be available free of charge to delegates each day during the morning and afternoon sessions (9.30 a.m. to 11.15 a.m. and 2.45 p.m. to 5 p.m.) at the foyer of the Conference Hall. Soft drinks and snacks will also be available at the Delegates’ Lounge next to the plenary room (against payment) throughout the day (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Cafeterias located in the WIPO PCT Building and the WIPO NB Building will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (lunch will be served from 11.30 a.m. to 2.45 p.m.). Both cafeterias offer, every day, a large variety of food options, including dishes prepared from locally produced ingredients and vegetarian dishes, as well as take-out options. Also available is a coffee/tea lounge with coin-operated vending machines on the 13th floor of the WIPO AB Building. Vending machines are also placed on the -1 floor of the WIPO AB Building. Drinking water dispensers are available at different locations in the WIPO buildings, rooms and corridors.
The neighboring International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) buildings also have corporate restaurants (Assemblies badge and photo ID will be required). A number of cafés and restaurants are within walking distance.

Meditation Room

A meditation room accessible to delegates is located on the ground floor of the WIPO GBI Building (Room GBI 0.4), near the WIPO AB Building lobby.

Other

Self-service cloakrooms are located outside the plenary room at the WIPO Conference Hall and outside Room A in the WIPO AB Building. These areas are unattended, and WIPO can take no responsibility for any loss or theft of property left there. Delegates are encouraged not to bring their luggage to WIPO and to secure their personal property at all times. A number of lockers are available for delegates at the reception of the NB Building. All inquiries concerning lost and found items should be addressed to the WIPO Access Center (Tel: +41 22 338 7941 or +41 22 338 7944 – 24/7).

Kindly note that consumption of food and beverages is not permitted in meeting rooms (except water) and that smoking is prohibited inside WIPO buildings. Designated smoking areas are located around WIPO buildings and accessible from the foyer of the WIPO Conference Hall.
Internet and IT Matters

Web Site and Webcasting

The Assemblies page on the WIPO website is operational at the address indicated on page 10. The sessions will be publicly webcasted at the following address: www.wipo.int/webcasting/en/

After the Assemblies, the webcasting will remain available as video-on-demand (VOD) at the same address.

Wireless Internet (Wi-Fi)

A free wireless Internet connection (Wi-Fi) will be available in the WIPO New Conference Hall. The access code and instructions will be provided at the WIPO registration desk. In the plenary room, every delegate’s table has two electrical plugs (a Swiss plug and a European plug), that can be used for portable computers and similar equipment. Wi-Fi is also available in WIPO public areas (lobbies/foyer, cafeterias/lounge, library). In the interests of all delegates, users are invited to limit heavy downloading.

Computers with Internet Access

A number of computers with Internet access and a shared printer will be available to delegates, on a first-come/first-served basis, in the Internet room situated on the ground floor level of the WIPO Conference Hall, and on the mezzanine level of the WIPO AB Building (Room AB 1.11). In the WIPO Library (first floor of the NB Building and behind the WIPO Information Center (ground floor of the WIPO AB Building), there are also several PCs with Internet access. In the interests of other delegates, users are encouraged to reduce their access time in case of high demand. The software for visually impaired installed on these computers allows web pages to be read aloud to users.

Kindly note that the Geneva Delegates Welcome Service also offers free PC-equipped workstations at walking distance from WIPO, from 6 a.m. to midnight (Tel: +41 22 546 23 00; www.cagi.ch).
Telephone

When phoning locally in Geneva, replace “+41 22” by “022” or “+41 79” by “079” and so on.

Local and international calls can be made from the three public booths on the ground floor of the WIPO AB Building, near the main lifts. Credit cards are accepted as well as phone cards, which may be purchased at the Post Office (see page 20). Incoming calls can be made to the WIPO switchboard (Tel: +41 22 338 9111).

Delegates should switch their mobile phones to silent mode during meetings.
Other Matters Related to the Assemblies

Assemblies Reception and Side-Events

All delegates are cordially invited to attend a reception hosted by WIPO on October 5, 2015, following the conclusion of the Assemblies daily session.

Various workshops/seminars, exhibitions and receptions will be organized by WIPO and by delegations on the margins of the Assemblies. Information on these events will be posted on the website and provided at the briefing for delegates on September 28, 2015, and during the Assemblies.

Media

Journalists wishing to cover the Assemblies, and who are not yet UN-accredited, are invited to apply for media accreditation to WIPO. All journalists applying for accreditation must submit proof that they represent a bona fide media organization according to the standards defined by the United Nations. Journalists must submit their request for accreditation to the News and Media Section on their media organization’s letterhead by e-mail at publicinf@wipo.int by September 25, 2015. To facilitate coverage, a press room will be available in the foyer of the WIPO Conference Hall.

WIPO press officers will be available throughout the Assemblies to assist with any press requests (publicinf@wipo.int; Tel: +41 22 338 8161 and +41 22 338 7224). Delegations wishing to distribute their statements to the press can provide them to the WIPO press officers, the WIPO Conference staff or the document counter, outside the plenary room.

WIPO Customer Service Center

The Customer Service Center will operate a desk at the foyer of the WIPO Conference Hall from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will be available to help delegates with their requests, i.e., provide responses to general queries and facilitate meetings with WIPO staff members (Tel: +41 22 338 8787; customer.service@wipo.int).

WIPO Library

With its holdings of some 35,000 monographs and over 300 periodicals and journals, the WIPO Library collection covers all aspects of intellectual property. These materials can be consulted in the Library’s Reading Room. An online catalogue lists the titles available in the print collection: www.wipo.int/library/en/
All delegates are welcome to visit the WIPO Library during their stay in Geneva. They can enter with their official conference (admission) badge (a photo ID may be requested). The Library is located on the first floor of the WIPO NB Building. Opening hours: Monday to Friday, from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. (library@wipo.int; Tel: +41 22 338 8573).

The Library and Publication Distribution Section will have a presence in the lobby of the WIPO AB Building where delegates can obtain information on WIPO publications and copies of the latest available titles. Further information can be obtained by contacting: publications.mail@wipo.int.

The WIPO Information Center

Located in the lobby of the WIPO AB Building, the WIPO Information Center offers a selection of WIPO publications and souvenirs, as well as reference books in the field of intellectual property. It also houses a number of computers with Internet access.

WIPO Photographer

As in previous years, WIPO’s official photographer will be present during the Assemblies to take photographs of delegates and make them available at WIPO’s Flickr site (www.flickr.com/wipo/collections/assemblies). Delegates can download Assemblies photos free of charge directly from the Flickr site. Delegates can signal to the photographer that they do not wish to be photographed, either during the Assemblies or in advance to photos@wipo.int. Photos can also be immediately withdrawn from the Flickr site by notifying the photographer or sending an e-mail to photos@wipo.int.

WIPO Medical Emergencies and Insurance for Delegates

WIPO Medical Unit:
Located in the WIPO GBI Building, Room GBI 0.6, near the WIPO AB Building lobby (Tel: +41 22 338 9128. Open Monday to Friday, 8.30 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

Centre Médical du Léman:
17 rue Docteur Alfred-Vincent, 1201 Geneva (Tel: +41 22 716 0660. Open Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

Hôpital Cantonal:
24 rue Micheli-du-Crest, 1205 Geneva (Tel: +41 22 372 3311. Open 24/7)

Emergency home doctor visits:
Tel: +41 22 748 4950

Ambulance and Medical Emergency:
144

Pharmacy close to WIPO:
Pharmacie Populaire, 42A rue de Moillebeau, 1202 Geneva (Tel: +41 22 740 0160)
For the duration of the WIPO Assemblies 2015, all delegates will be covered by illness and accident insurance schemes. If an illness requiring urgent care or an accident occurs during the Assemblies (even if outside the premises), delegates should contact the WIPO Medical Unit (see details above). Outside working hours, and only in case of emergency, delegates may contact the Hôpital Cantonal (see details on the Centre and Hospital above). In case of accident, and in order to reimburse any medical costs as quickly as possible, delegates should contact the Pension and Insurance Unit and fill a declaration form (hrpi@wipo.int; Tel: +41 22 338 8166 or 9733).

For more details, please refer to the document entitled “Important notice for delegates – Urgent illness and accident insurance schemes”, available from the document counter.
Practical Information on Geneva

Hotels

Accommodation in Geneva is often in high demand and delegates are recommended to make hotel reservations well in advance. WIPO does not have a hotel reservation service and delegates should book hotels directly or through their permanent missions.

Information and hotel reservations are available at:
www.geneve-tourisme.ch/en/accommodation

A list of negotiated hotel rates issued by the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) is available at:

The Geneva Delegates Welcome Service offers logistical support for the planning of delegates’ accommodation and may grant financial aid to delegates from least developed countries (LDCs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), on a case-by-case basis. Further information may be found at:

Public Transports and Taxi Services

Delegates arriving at Geneva airport can obtain a free public transport ticket valid for a 80-minute journey around the Geneva area. The free ticket can be obtained at the automatic distributor located in the baggage claim area, just before going through customs. From the airport, buses 5 and 28 stop at Place des Nations (UN flag entrance and “Broken Chair” monument), at walking distance from WIPO. The train takes only six minutes from the airport to the Cornavin Geneva Central Station.

Delegates staying in a Geneva hotel can obtain a local transportation card from the hotel reception free of charge, valid for the entire duration of their stay. The personal and non-transferable card allows free access to trams, buses, trains and yellow taxi-boats on Geneva’s territory.

The following bus and tram stops are within walking distance from WIPO (see Map):

- Bus stop: “Vermont”, bus line 5 (this line also goes to and from the airport);
- Bus stop: “UIT”, bus lines 8, 11 and 22; and
Further information on Geneva public transportation can be found at: www.tpg.ch and www.unireso.ch

The nearest taxi stand is located just outside the Centre International de Conférences Genève (CICG) on 9 Rue de Varembé. Taxis may be called by dialing +41 22 320 2020, +41 22 320 2202 or +41 22 331 4133. Requests for a taxi may also be made at the WIPO Access Center.

Safety and Security

WIPO Safety and Security Coordination Service (SSCS) (24/7):
Tel: +41 22 338 9874

Police: 117
Fire Brigade: 118
Roadside assistance: 140

Geneva lost & found: Tel: +41 22 546 0900

Although Switzerland (Geneva) is rated as “low risk” regarding personal safety and security, delegates should remain vigilant regarding their safety and the security of their property. Petty crime and crimes using distraction methods are common in a number of areas in the city (train/bus terminals) and involve pickpocketing as well as purse and/or cell-phone snatching. Robbery and/or threats of robbery are uncommon, but not unheard of. If accosted, do not resist and comply with demands to turn over personal property. Remember that your personal safety is of paramount concern.

WIPO Safety and Security Coordination Service (SSCS) recommends that delegates make copies of their passports and other identification, carrying the copies on person. Secure your original, important documents/identification in the hotels’ or your room safe.

Bank and Post Office

Geneva’s local currency is the Swiss franc (CHF), whose exchange rate is currently similar to the Euro (EUR or €) and the United States dollar (USD) (less than 10% difference in June 2015). There are currency exchange counters in the arrival area of the international airport, in the hotels and bank offices.

The closest bank office to WIPO is the UBS, located on 17bis Chemin Louis-Dunant. Opening hours: 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. (Cash dispenser ATM 24/7). A cash dispenser ATM is also available on the ground floor of WIPO GBI Building (right-hand side of the lobby of the WIPO AB Building). Both ATMs can deliver Swiss francs and Euros using internationally-recognized credit cards.

The nearest Post Office is located at the CICG in 17 Rue de Varembé. Opening hours: 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
General Safety and Security Recommendations:

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Take note of fire safety instructions in WIPO and in your hotel (emergency exits).
- Take care of and secure your personal property (luggage, briefcase, electronics, etc.).
- Do not carry large amounts of cash with you and do not expose expensive jewelry in public.
- When possible, avoid walking alone especially in the evening, try to use crowded routes and keep to well-lit areas.
- Use public transport modes (bus/train/taxi) that are considered safe modes of moving about the city.
- Be aware of individuals presenting themselves as police officers and always ask for formal police identification. Police identity cards feature a photo of the officer, their name and rank and are inscribed with the Republic and Canton of Geneva, as well as the word “Police” crossed with a yellow and red line. If there is uncertainty regarding the authenticity of a police officer, challenge him, attract the attention of others and if possible call the police emergency number (117).
- Be particularly vigilant at the airport, the train station and when checking into your hotel.
- Never leave valuables on car seats – doing so attracts the attention of thieves.
- Be careful when using bank machines and note if anyone is lingering about. If you feel uncomfortable, find another ATM.
- Carry your hotel information with you: phone number, address, hotel taxi service.

Please report all security (crime/Attempts) incidents to the Police (Tel: 117) and to WIPO’s Safety Security Coordination Service (SSCS) (Tel: +41 22 338 7478, security.coordination@wipo.int). SSCS is available 24/7 to provide delegates with assistance if a police report is required and to provide liaison with the Geneva Diplomatic Police Group.

WIPO’s onsite security guard force, Arndt, is available to assist you should a safety/security incident occur on the WIPO campus or in close proximity to it and if immediate assistance is required. They can be reached via the emergency number 9999 from WIPO internal phones and via +41 22 338 9999 on external phone lines.

In the unlikely case of an evacuation, please follow posted safety guidance and follow the direction of WIPO’s security team.

Further information and advice on security matters in Geneva can be found on the website of Geneva Police at: www.geneve.ch/police/communiques/divers/welcome.asp?comId=120
Local Conditions

October in Geneva is a mildly cold and pleasant season, with average maximum temperatures of 15°C / 59°F. However, they may drop to around 10°C / 50°F in the mornings and evenings. Geneva can also be slightly rainy in October. More information can be found at: www.meteogeneve.ch

The local time for Geneva is UTC +1 hour.

Electricity in Switzerland uses 220V.

Other

Further information on Geneva can be found here:

Specific information for delegates: www.cagi.ch/en/delegates-welcome.php


Touristic information: www.geneve-tourisme.ch/en/home

Fee-based touristic visits over the weekend can be arranged with the Geneva Tourist Office (information on guided tours) at: www.geneve-tourisme.ch/en/seeing-doing/guided-tours

or with WIPO’s travel agency partner, Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT) (Tel: +41 58 322 2630; tourismenyon@carlsonwagonlit.ch). CWT is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located on the ground floor of WIPO’s GBI building (right-hand side of the main lobby of the WIPO AB Building), next to the cash dispenser ATM on the ground floor.
For more information contact WIPO at www.wipo.int

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