

WIPO ASSEMBLIES 2010

Synthesis of Decisions

PREFACE

The forty-eighth series of meetings of the Assemblies and other bodies of the Member States of WIPO was held at the International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG), Geneva, from September 20 to 29, 2010. The present document contains the synthesis of decisions of the Assemblies, list of agenda items, list of documents and list of Ministers. The General Report is published in document A/48/26, the Report of the General Assembly is published in document WO/GA/39/14, the Report of the Coordination Committee is published in document WO/CC/63/8, the Report of the Patent Law Treaty is published in document PLT/A/8/2, the Report of the International Patent Cooperation Union (PCT Union) is published in document PCT/A/41/4, the Report of the Special Union for the International Registration of Marks (Madrid Union) is published in document MM/A/43/3, the Report of the Special Union for the International Deposit of Industrial Designs (Hague Union) is published in document HA/29/2 and the Report of the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (STLT) is published in document STLT/A/2/2.

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 - (iii) Progress Report on the Revision of the WIPO Staff Regulations and Staff Rules;
 - (iv) Report on the Implementation of the Voluntary Separation Program (VSP);
 - (v) Progress Report on the Performance Management and Staff Development System (PMSDS);
 - (vi) Progress Report on the Carbon Neutrality Project;
 - (vii) Progress Report on Accessibility in the WIPO Campus; and
 - (viii) International Year of Biodiversity: Biodiversity on the WIPO Campus.

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21. WIPO Safety and Security Upgrade Project for the Existing Premises

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22. Report of the Working Group on Audit Committee Related Matters
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27. Report on the Work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR)
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 - (ii) Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP);
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MINISTERS IN THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)

Afghanistan	Mr. Anwar Ul-Haq AHADY Minister for Commerce and Industry
Angola	Mrs. Maria Rosa DA CRUZ E SILVA Minister for Culture
Antigua-et-Barbuda/ Antigua and Barbuda	Mrs. Joanne Maureen MASSIAH Minister of State, Ministry of Legal Affairs
Azerbaïdjan/Azerbaijan	Mr. Ramiz HASANOV Chairman, State Committee on Standardization, Metrology and Patents
Bangladesh	Mr. Dilip BARUA Minister for Industries
Bélarus/Belarus	Mr. Igor VOITOV Chairman, State Committee on Science and Technologies
Botswana	Mrs. Dorcas MAKGATA-MALESU Minister for Trade and Industry
Brunéi Darussalam/ Brunei Darussalam	Mrs. Datin Paduka Hayati Mohd SALLEH Attorney General
Bulgarie/Bulgaria	Mr. Dimitar DERELIEV Deputy Minister for Culture
Cameroun/Cameroon	Mme Ama Tutu MUNA Ministre de la culture
Chine/China	Mr. TIAN Lipu Commissioner (Vice Minister), State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO)
	Mr. FU Shuangjian Vice Minister, State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC)
	Mr. YAN Xiaohong Vice Minister, National Copyright Administration of China (NCAC)

Comores/Comoros	M. Abdérémane MOUSSA Ministre de l'industrie, de l'emploi, du travail et de l'entreprenariat féminin
Congo	M. Rodolphe ADADA Ministre d'État, Ministère du développement industriel et de la promotion du secteur privé
Costa Rica	Sr. Fernando FERRARO Viceministro de Justicia
Cuba	Sra. América SANTOS RIVERA Viceministra, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente
Égypte/Egypt	M. Maged Mostafa AL-SHERBINY President, Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT)
ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine/the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Mrs. Elizabeta KANCHESKA-MILEVSKA Minister for Culture
Fidji/Fiji	Mr. Aiyaz SAYED-KHAIYUM Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Anti-Corruption, Public Enterprises, Industry, Tourism, Trade and Communications
Finlande/Finland	Mr. Marcus TANTALA State Secretary, Ministry of Education
Gabon	M. Jules Marius OGOUEBANDJA Ministre délégué auprès du ministre des affaires étrangères, de la coopération internationale et de la francophonie M. Paul BUNDUKOU-LATHA Ministre délégué auprès du ministre de l'économie, du commerce, de l'industrie et du tourisme
Ghana	Mr. Ebo BARTON-ODURO Deputy Minister for Justice and Attorney General
Grèce/Greece	Mr. John PANARETOS Deputy Minister for Higher Education, Research and Technology and Religious Affairs
Guatemala	Sr. Erick Haroldo COYOY ECHEVARRÍA Ministro de Economía
Guinée/Guinea	M. Mamadou NIARE Ministre du commerce, de l'industrie et de la promotion du secteur privé

Indonésie/Indonesia	Mr. Patrialis AKBAR Minister for Law and Human Rights
Iran (République islamique d')/ Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Mr. Ahmad TOUYSERKANI Deputy Head of Judiciary and Head, State Organization for Registration of Deeds and Properties Mr. Seyed Ali RAEISALSADATI Deputy Minister, Ministry of Justice
Iraq	Mr. Jaber Mohammed Abbas AL-JABERI Deputy Minister for Culture
Kenya	Mr. Henry Kiprono KOSGEY Minister for Industrialization
Lettonie/Latvia	Mrs. Laila MEDIN Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Justice
Lituanie/Lithuania	Mr. Gytis ANDRULIONIS Vice Minister for Justice
Madagascar	M. Richard Désiré FIENENA Ministre de l'économie et de l'industrie
Malaisie/Malaysia	Ms. Dato' TAN Lian Hoe Deputy Minister for Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism
Malte/Malta	Mr. Jason AZZOPARDI Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business and Land, Ministry of Finance, the Economy and Investment
Maroc/Morocco	M. Khalid NACIRI Ministre de la communication, porte parole du Gouvernement
Mongolie/Mongolia	Mr. Norov ALTANKHUYAG First Deputy Prime Minister
Namibie/Namibia	Mr. Tjikero TWEYA Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry
Nigéria/Nigeria	Mr. Jubril MARTINS-KUYE Minister for Commerce and Industry
Oman	Ms. Sheikha Aiysha Al-Siyabiyah Minister, Chairperson of the Public Authority for Craft Industries (PACI)
Ouganda/Uganda	Mr. Edward KHIDDU MAKUBUYA Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs

Pérou/Peru	Sra. Elizabeth ASTETE Subsecretaria de Asuntos Económicos, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Philippines	Mr. Ricardo R. BLANCAFLOR Undersecretary (Vice Minister) and Director General, Intellectual Property Office (IP Philippines)
Portugal	Mr. José MAGALHÃES, State Secretary for Justice
République arabe syrienne/ Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Abdul Al Khalek ALAANI Deputy Minister for Economy and Trade
République de Corée/ Republic of Korea	Mr. LEE Soo Won Vice Minister, Ministry of Knowledge Economy, and Commissioner, Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO)
République de Moldova/ Republic of Moldova	Mr. Dorin RECEAN Deputy Minister for Information Technologies and Communication
République démocratique populaire lao/Lao People's Republic	Mr. Bountiem PHISSAMAY Minister, Department of Intellectual Property, Standardization Democratic and Metrology (DISM)
Royaume-Uni/ United Kingdom	Baroness Judith Ann WILCOX Minister for Business, Innovation, Skills and Intellectual Property
Sainte-Lucie/Saint Lucia	Mr. Lorenzo Rudolph FRANCIS Attorney General and Minister for Justice
Samoa	Mr. Anauli Pofitu FESILI Associate Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labor
Serbie/Serbia	Mr. Božidar DJELIĆ Vice Prime Minister, Minister for Science and Technological Development
Sri Lanka	Mr. Rishard BATHIUDEEN Minister for Industries and Commerce
Thaïlande/Thailand	Mr. Alongkorn PONLABOOT Deputy Minister for Commerce
Togo	M. El Hadj Bakalawa FOFANA Ministre de l'industrie, de la zone franche et des innovations technologiques
Trinité-et-Tobago/ Trinidad and Tobago	Mr. Prakash RAMADHAR Minister for Legal Affairs
Turquie/Turkey	Mr. Hüsnü TEKIN Deputy Undersecretary for Industry and Trade

Uruguay	Sr. Roberto KREIMERMAN Ministro de Industria, Energía y Minería
Viet Nam	Mr. NGUYEN Quan Vice Minister for Science and Technology
Yémen/Yemen	Mr. Mohamed Abu Bekr ALMAFLAHI Minister for Culture
Zambie/Zambia	Mr. Lwipa PUMA Deputy Minister for Commerce, Trade and Industry
Zimbabwe	Mr. Patrick CHINAMASA Minister for Justice and Legal Affairs

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

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A/48/INF/2	List of Preparatory Documents
A/48/INF/3	List of Participants
A/48/INF/4	Officers
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A/48/1	Consolidated and Annotated Agenda
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A/48/3	Medium Term Strategic Plan for WIPO, 2010 – 2015
A/48/4	Status of the Utilization of Reserves and Updated Financial Overview for 2010
A/48/5 Rev.	Review of Budgetary Process Applied to Projects Proposed by the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) for the Implementation of the Development Agenda Recommendations
A/48/6	Program Performance Report for 2008/09
A/48/7	Financial Management Report for the 2008-2009 Biennium: Arrears in Contributions as of June 30, 2010
A/48/8	Status of the Payment of Contributions on September 17, 2010
A/48/9 Rev.	Policy on Reserve Funds and Principles Applied in Respect of the Use of Reserves
A/48/10	Policy on Investments
A/48/11	Policy on Languages at WIPO
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A/48/12	Policy on WIPO External Offices
A/48/12 Rev.	Policy on WIPO External Offices
A/48/14	Proposal for the Implementation of a Comprehensive Integrated Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System

A/48/15	Progress Report on the Implementation of IT Modules to Establish Compliance with the New Financial Regulations and Rules (FRR) and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)
A/48/16	Progress Report on the Carbon Neutrality Project
A/48/17	Progress Report on Accessibility in the WIPO Campus
A/48/18	International Year of Biodiversity: Biodiversity on the WIPO Campus
A/48/19	Progress Report on the New Construction Project
A/48/20	Progress Report on the Project to Upgrade the Safety and Security Standards for the Existing WIPO Buildings
A/48/21	IOAD Validation Report for the Program Performance Report 2008/09
A/48/22	Progress Report on the New Conference Hall Project
A/48/23	Draft Agendas of the 2011 Ordinary Sessions of the WIPO General Assembly, the WIPO Conference, the Paris Union Assembly and the Berne Union Assembly
A/48/24	Summary of Recommendations made by the Program and Budget Committee at its Fifteenth Session (September 1 to 3, 2010)
A/48/25	International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) Version of Financial Statements for the 2008-2009 Biennium
A/48/26	General Report
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WO/GA/39/1	Evaluation of the Function of Internal Audit
WO/GA/39/2	Financial Supervision Audit of Surface and Infrastructure Management
WO/GA/39/3	New Construction Project: "Evaluation Report of the External Auditor on the New Administrative Building and Additional Storage Construction Project – Follow-Up to the 2008 Audit"
WO/GA/39/4	Report on the Status of the Selection of External Auditor
WO/GA/39/5	Summary Annual Report of the Director of the Internal Audit and Oversight Division
WO/GA/39/6	Review of the Internal Audit Charter
WO/GA/39/6 Rev.	Review of the Internal Audit Charter

WO/GA/39/7	Report of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)
WO/GA/39/8 Rev.	Report on the Work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights
WO/GA/39/9	Information Reports on Other WIPO Committees
WO/GA/39/10	Internet Domain Names
WO/GA/39/11	WIPO Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities: Amendments to the Rules
WO/GA/39/13	Report of the Working Group on Audit Committee Related Matters
WO/GA/39/14	Report
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WO/CC/63/1	Approval of Agreements
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WO/CC/63/5	Long-Serving Temporary Employees: Regularization Strategy Proposal
WO/CC/63/6	Other Staff Matters
WO/CC/63/7	Request for the Advice of the Coordination Committee on the Renewal of the Internal Auditor's Appointment in Accordance with the WIPO Internal Audit Charter
WO/CC/63/8	Report
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PLT/A/8/1	Applicability of Certain Amendments and Modifications of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) to the Patent Law Treaty (PLT)
PLT/A/8/1 Rev.	Applicability of Certain Amendments and Modifications of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) to the Patent Law Treaty (PLT)
PLT/A/8/2	Report
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PCT/A/41/1 Rev.	PCT Working Group: Report of the Third Session
PCT/A/41/2 Rev.	Proposed Amendments of the PCT Regulations

PCT/A/41/3	Quality Management Systems for the PCT International Authorities
PCT/A/41/4	Report
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MM/A/43/1	Information Technology Modernization Program (Madrid and Hague International Registration Systems): Progress Report
MM/A/43/2	Madrid System Goods and Services Database: Progress Report
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H/A/29/1	Information Technology Modernization Program (Madrid and Hague International Registration Systems): Progress Report
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STLT/A/2/1	Review of Rule 3(4) to (6) of the Regulations under the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks
STLT/A/2/2	Report

ITEM 1

OPENING OF THE SESSIONS

The forty-eighth series of meetings of the Assemblies and other bodies of the Member States of WIPO was convened by the Director General of WIPO, Mr. Francis Gurry (hereinafter referred to as “the Director General”).

The sessions of the Assemblies and other bodies of the Member States of WIPO were opened in a joint meeting of all the 20 Assemblies and other bodies concerned by Ambassador Alberto J. Dumont (Argentina), Chair of the General Assembly who made a statement. The text of this opening address is reproduced in document A/48/26.

ITEM 2

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Discussions were based on document A/48/INF/1 Rev.

Following informal consultations among the Group Coordinators, the following officers of the WIPO Coordination Committee, the Paris Union Executive Committee and the Berne Union Executive Committee, as well as the Chair of the Lisbon Union Assembly, were elected on September 23, 2010:

for the WIPO Coordination Committee

Chair: Ms. Marion Williams (Barbados)

Vice-Chair: Ms. Li Lin Liew (Singapore)

Vice-Chair: Mr. Heinjoerg Herrman (Germany)

for the Paris Union Executive Committee

Chair: Mr. Paul Salmon (United States of America)

Vice-Chair: Ms. Grace Issahaque (Ghana)

Vice-Chair: Ms. Alexandra Grazioli (Switzerland)

for the Berne Union Executive Committee

Chair: Ms. Alexandra Grazioli (Switzerland)

Vice-Chair: Ms. Li Lin Liew (Singapore)

Vice-Chair: Ms. María de los Ángeles Sánchez Torres (Cuba)

The list of the officers for the Assemblies and other bodies appears in document A/48/INF/4.

ITEM 3

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Discussions were based on document A/48/1.

After due consideration, each of the Assemblies and other bodies concerned adopted its agenda as proposed in document A/48/1.

ITEM 4

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

At the invitation of the Chair of the General Assembly, Ambassador Alberto J. Dumont, the Director General made a statement. The text of this speech is reproduced in document A/48/26.

At the invitation of the Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, Mr. Stevie Wonder made a statement. The text of this speech is reproduced in document A/48/26.

ITEM 5

GENERAL STATEMENTS

The Ministers, Delegations and Representatives of the following 108 States, five intergovernmental organizations and one non-governmental organization made statements concerning Agenda Item 5: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Holy See, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe, African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), African Union (AU), Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO), League of Arab States, National Association of Performers Rights of Mexico (ANDI). The texts of the general statements are reproduced in document A/48/26.

ITEM 6

ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

Discussions were based on document A/48/2 Rev.

Admission of International Non-Governmental Organizations as Observers

The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, each in so far as it is concerned, decided to grant observer status to the following eight international non-governmental organizations: African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF); DigitalEurope; International Association of Lawyers (UIA); Internet Society (ISOC); Latín Artis; Motion Picture Association (MPA); Organización de Asociaciones y Empresas de Telecomunicaciones para América Latina (TEPAL); and World Women Inventors and Entrepreneurs Association (WWIEA).

Admission of National Non-Governmental Organizations as Observers

The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, each in so far as it is concerned, decided to grant observer status to the following six national non-governmental organizations: Centre for Internet and Society (CIS); Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation (CCI RF); Coalición por el Acceso Legal a la Cultura A.C. (CALC); The European College of Parma Foundation; Korea Invention Promotion Association (KIPA); and Korean Women Inventors Association (KWIA).

ITEM 7

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS

Discussions were based on document WO/CC/63/1.

The Coordination Committee approved the Agreement between WIPO and FAO, on the express understanding that any policy implications arising from the implementation of this agreement would be put by the Director General before the Coordination Committee for further analysis and decision. The Coordination Committee also approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between WIPO and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the Agreement between WIPO and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), set forth in Annexes I, II and III, respectively, of document WO/CC/63/1.

ITEM 8

DRAFT AGENDAS FOR THE 2011 ORDINARY SESSIONS OF THE WIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE WIPO CONFERENCE, THE PARIS UNION ASSEMBLY AND THE BERNE UNION ASSEMBLY

Discussions were based on document A/48/23.

The WIPO Coordination Committee adopted Annexes I and II, the Paris Union Executive Committee adopted Annex III, and the Berne Union Executive Committee adopted Annex IV of document A/48/23.

ITEM 9

MEDIUM TERM STRATEGIC PLAN (MTSP)

Discussions were based on documents A/48/3 and A/48/24.

The Director General introduced Item 9 of the MTSP, recalling that the MTSP had its origin in the 2006 decision of the Member States to adopt a “new mechanism to increase the involvement of Member States in the preparation and follow-up of the program and budget”, and in line with recognized good practice in the UN system. The intention of the MTSP was to provide Member States and the Secretariat with a shared, high-level guiding framework, in order to help to streamline and to prepare the program and budgets of the next two biennia. The MTSP also formed a part of the efforts to increase accountability for delivering outcomes, both as a Secretariat and as an Organization, and, in this way, to strengthen the RBM framework of the Organization.

The Director General noted that the strategic framework contained in the MTSP consisted broadly of the following elements: an outline of how the external environment is changing and how those changes impact upon the work of the Organization; the nine strategic goals that form part of the approved program and budget of the Organization; one or two high-level strategic outcomes in relation to each of those nine strategic goals; a number of indicators intended to enable Member States to assess whether those outcomes have been reached; and a number of proposed strategies to obtain those outcomes.

The Director General recalled the consultative process through which the MTSP was developed. This had started on May 27, 2010, when the Director General presented a first draft MTSP paper to Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives in Geneva. In the following weeks, the members of the Senior Management Team (SMT) conducted two detailed consultation meetings with Member States at expert level. Member States contributed a series of both oral and written comments. Written comments were received from the African Group, the Arab Group, the DAG, the Delegations of Australia, Barbados, China, Japan, Mexico, Monaco and the United Kingdom, and subsequently, France. The majority of all these comments, from all the Member States or groups which contributed them, were reflected in a revised draft MTSP, which was published on July 29, 2010. The Director General then held a second meeting with Ambassadors on August 19 to hear their views on the revised draft. Those further comments were incorporated into a proposed final revised draft of the MTSP, dated August 19, 2010. This document (WO/PBC/15/19) was in turn considered by the PBC which met from September 1 to 3, 2010. At that meeting of the PBC, a decision was taken to invite the Chair of the PBC to conduct further consultations with the Member States. The delegates suggested that the Chair of the PBC, Mr. Douglas Griffiths, be invited to inform the Assemblies of the outcome of those consultations.

The Chair of the PBC, Mr. Douglas Griffiths, (United States of America) reported that the informal consultations on the MTSP had taken place in a productive and collaborative manner, and that Member States had arrived by consensus at the following decisions:

- (i) The MTSP as contained in PBC document WO/PBC/15/10 was to be submitted to the General Assembly with no further changes to the text;
- (ii) Paragraph 4 of the document cover page was to be amended as follows:
The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO are invited to take note of, and comment on, the content of the document; and
- (iii) The decision paragraph of the General Report of the Assemblies was to be drafted as follows: The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO take note of the contents of document A/48/3, and also note the comments of Member States on the document as contained in this Report, and their submissions contained in Annex I of the Report (document A/48/26).

In the General Assembly, the Vice Chair of the General Assembly reiterated the above agreement reached by delegates. He confirmed that the views and comments of delegates expressed at the Assemblies would be included in the General Report of the Assemblies, and, in addition, Member States could submit comments in writing which would be annexed to the General Report as an official document Annex. The Chair informed delegates that the final deadline for submitting written comments for inclusion in the Annex would be Monday September 27, 2010.

The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO took note of the contents of document A/48/3, and also noted the comments of Member States on the document, as contained in this report, and their submissions contained in Annex I of this report A/48/26.

ITEM 10

STATUS OF THE UTILIZATION OF RESERVES AND UPDATED FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR 2010

Discussions were based on documents A/48/4 and A/48/24.

The Secretariat explained that the document A/48/4 had been prepared for information purposes. The document contained the following: (i) a review of the level of reserves subsequent to the 2008/09 biennium closure; (ii) an overview of the appropriations approved by Member States from the reserve funds; (iii) estimates of the impact of the introduction of the IPSAS on the level of the reserves; (iv) an overview of the appropriations the Organization proposed to assign to the ERP system; and (v) an update on the 2010/11 financial situation. The recommendation of the fifteenth session of the PBC to the Assemblies made in this respect, and appearing in document A/48/24, invited the Assemblies to take note of the contents of document WO/PBC/15/16, which was reproduced as Assemblies document A/48/4.

The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each as far as it is concerned, took note of the contents of document A/48/4.

ITEM 11

REVIEW OF BUDGETARY PROCESS APPLIED TO PROJECTS PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (CDIP) FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA RECOMMENDATIONS

Discussions were based on documents A/48/5 Rev. and A/48/24.

The Secretariat introduced document A/48/5 Rev. (previously submitted to the PBC as document WO/PBC/15/6 Rev.) and explained that Members of the PBC would recall that the document had been revised to incorporate the comments made during the last PBC session. The document contained the review of the budgetary process applied to projects proposed by the CDIP for the implementation of the Development Agenda Recommendations and had been prepared in response to the request by the WIPO Assemblies in 2009 to undertake a review of such budgetary process, with a view to submitting the recommendations to the next regular session of the PBC (the fifteenth session held from September 1 to 3, 2010). Document A/48/5 Rev. provided an overview of WIPO's current planning and budgetary process within its RBM framework, and the process of considering, approving and financing Development Agenda projects and activities. Based on the review, the budgetary mechanism for Development Agenda projects and activities was being proposed using a phased approach, which consisted of a transitional solution for the year 2011 and a fully integrated solution as of the 2012/13 biennium. The PBC had recommended that the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO approve the proposals contained in paragraphs 13 to 18 of document WO/PBC/15/6 Rev. (reissued as document A/48/5 Rev.) The process so adopted would be subject to review at the PBC session in 2013. This recommendation was recorded in the Summary of Recommendations made by the PBC at its fifteenth session (document A/48/24).

The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each as far as is concerned, approved the proposals contained in paragraphs 13 to 18 of document A/48/5 Rev. The process so adopted would be subject to review at the session of the PBC in 2013.

ITEM 12

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2008/09

Discussions were based on documents A/48/6, A/48/21 and A/48/24.

The Secretariat specified that the documents under this agenda item were the Program Performance Report (PPR) for 2008-2009 (document A/48/6) and the IAOD's Validation Report for the PPR 2008-2009 (document A/48/21). The recommendation made by the PBC in this respect was recorded in the Summary of Recommendations made by the PBC at its fifteenth session (document A/48/24).

The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each as far as it is concerned, approved the Program Performance Report for 2008-2009 (document A/48/6) and took note of the contents of document A/48/21.

ITEM 13

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE 2008-2009 BIENNIUM

Discussions were based on documents A/48/7, A/48/8 and A/48/24.

The Secretariat presented the documents for this agenda item and explained that document A/48/7 contained the Financial Management Report (FMR) for the 2008/09 biennium, as well as arrears in contributions as of June 30, 2010, which had been submitted to the PBC as document WO/PBC/15/2. Document A/48/8 contained updated information on the arrears in the payment of contributions and towards the Working Capital Fund as at September 17, 2010. The Secretariat recalled that, as recorded in document A/48/24 (Summary of Recommendations made by the PBC at its fifteenth session), the PBC recommended to the Assemblies to approve the FMR for 2008-2009 and to take note of the status of payment of contributions.

The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each as far as it is concerned, approved the 2008-2009 Financial Management Report (publication FMR/2008-2009) and took note of the status of the payment of contributions on September 17, 2010.

ITEM 14

REPORTS OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Discussions were based on documents WO/GA/39/1, WO/GA/39/2, WO/GA/39/3 and A/48/24.

The External Auditor thanked the Chair for the opportunity to make the presentation on the work of his office, as the external auditor of WIPO. He recalled that the mandate of Switzerland as External Auditor for WIPO would come to an end on December 31, 2011. Despite this fast approaching date, external audit activities had not been scaled back, especially as the Organization was facing the challenge of the move to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). The External Auditor proceeded to outline what the Swiss Federal Audit Office was doing at the moment in terms of audit for the Organization. The External Auditor explained that in order to carry out an audit of the financial statements of such a major organization as WIPO in financial terms, and in order to perform such audit in a professional manner, whilst respecting the international audit standards issued by the International Federation of Accountants, several

types of different audits needed to be carried out, which required considerable investment of time and staff. For example, for the 2008-2009 biennium the external auditors carried out the following audits: an intermediate audit in preparation for the closing audit for the financial statements for the 2008-2009 biennium followed by its final audit (so as to be able to issue an opinion on the accuracy and legality of WIPO's accounts); a computer audit of the PeopleSoft software, to ensure that it had been working properly and that the application had been fully secure; financial supervision audit of surfaces and infrastructure management performed in order to compare the situation in WIPO with two other United Nations (UN) agencies for which the Swiss Confederation was also the auditor. The External Auditor added that an intermediate audit had been carried out on the new administrative building to ensure all the stages of this major project had been properly managed. The auditors also had carried out an evaluation of internal audit services in accordance with the standards of the International Internal Auditors Institute to ensure that the unit had been working properly. Other audits that had been carried out were: two audits on behalf of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York, to assure the UNDP that the funds entrusted by them to WIPO were being managed correctly; and two annual audits for the closed WIPO pension fund carried out to ensure its beneficiaries that it had been operating smoothly and that it had been in good financial health. Apart from the reports that had already been presented to the Assemblies, these audit reports were part of the overall documentation provided for this meeting by the Secretariat. In order to carry out all the above mentioned audits, 300 working days had been put in by a team made up of specialists, including chartered accountants, computer technicians, economists and architects. The method used consisted not only of revising and the review of accounts and movements on the basis of factual evidence, but also consisted of the review of management procedures and making an assessment of the internal control system. The purpose was to arrive at a reasonable assurance that the accounts were being managed and dealt with accurately, that expenditure was legal and that the funds entrusted to WIPO were being used well. Turning to the biennium 2008-2009, the External Auditor stated that it effectively coincided with the last accounting period being submitted under the UN System Accounting Standards (UNSAS) as WIPO would now be switching over to IPSAS. On this last biennium, the result of the External Auditors' examination was fully satisfactory and no significant problem had been detected. For this reason, the External Auditor was able to issue an audit opinion without reservation and without comment. However, the External Auditor emphasized that he had refrained from making any recommendations relating to the operations involved in transiting from the UNSAS to the IPSAS standards in his report. The move to IPSAS standards was a major challenge, both for the Organization and the Organization's auditors, and that was why it had been decided to carry out a specific audit of the opening balance sheet of the financial statements presented under IPSAS. The first phase had been completed last June and the second phase would commence in mid-September. The External Auditor added that there was a tremendously large amount of work being done by the Finance Department as it endeavored to respond to these new accounting standards. This involved a total change of approach, meaning that a lot of financial procedures had to be adapted, adjusted and overhauled. The External Auditor also added that it also meant that high performing software was needed for all areas of management. The External Auditor felt certain that WIPO was heading in the right direction. A great deal of work still remained to be done to receive certification for being IPSAS compliant (when the next financial period would be closed). The IPSAS standards were very strict and as such they did not leave a lot of room for interpretation, e.g., in the evaluation of fixed assets where very specific criteria on the make-up of these assets and depreciation had to be respected. Furthermore, if just one IPSAS standard from among the existing 26 was not respected, that meant that the entire financial statement had to be declared as not being IPSAS compliant. Thus, the auditor had no longer the possibility of issuing a reservation in his opinion, but would simply state whether the standards were being complied with or not. The External Auditor also wished to inform the Member States that, given the rate, on an annual basis, imposed by IPSAS for the establishment of the financial statements, he would have the opportunity to audit two further financial periods, i.e., in 2010 and 2011. That meant that he and his team had made a major commitment and were very motivated and certainly did not consider

themselves as lame-duck auditors. The External Auditor stated that, as a member of the panel of external auditors at the UN, he personally attached great importance that his team's experience and knowledge would be handed on to those who would succeed Switzerland in 2012. The External Auditor added that he was ready to provide further comments or information and to respond to any questions that the Member States might have.

The General Assembly took note of the External Auditor's reports contained in documents WO/GA/39/1, WO/GA/39/2 and WO/GA/39/3, and of the recommendations made by the PBC as recorded in document A/48/24.

ITEM 15

POLICY ON RESERVE FUNDS

Discussions were based on documents A/48/9 Rev. and A/48/24.

The Secretariat introduced the documents for this item and explained that document A/48/9 Rev., in its original form, had been revised by the PBC to incorporate a number of changes requested by the Member States. The recommendation of the PBC in respect of this document appeared in the Summary of Recommendations made by the PBC at its fifteenth session (document A/48/24). The Secretariat explained that the proposed policy on reserve funds had been drawn at the request of the PBC made in 2009, when the Secretariat committed itself to preparing such a proposal. The document provided an overall view of the reserve policy, the main approval mechanism and the principles that governed the use of the reserves. In addition, following discussions at the PBC, it had been confirmed that the Director General and the Member States might propose the financing of specific projects from the reserve funds. The PBC requested the Assemblies of the Member States to approve the mechanism for the use of the reserves, as described in paragraphs 20 to 23 of document WO/PBC/7/Rev. (reproduced as document A/48/9 Rev.)

The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each as far as it is concerned, took note of WIPO's policy on reserves, and endorsed the proposed recommendations for the principles and approval mechanism to be applied for the use of reserves as described in paragraphs 20 to 23 of document A/48/9 Rev.

ITEM 16

POLICY ON INVESTMENTS

Discussions were based on documents A/48/10 and A/48/24.

The Chair recalled that the PBC had considered the content of the PBC document WO/PBC/15/8 (reissued as document A/48/10) and had requested the Secretariat to submit a revised proposal at a later session of the PBC, taking into account the observations and comments made by the Member States. This recommendation by the PBC was recorded in the Summary of Recommendations made by the PBC at its fifteenth session (document A/48/24). The Chair stated that in view of this recommendation, there was no decision to be taken under this agenda item by the Assemblies.

In the absence of comments the item was closed.

ITEM 17

POLICY ON LANGUAGES AT WIPO

Discussions were based on documents A/48/11, A/48/11 Add. and A/48/24.

The Secretariat referred to documents A/48/11 (incorporating document WO/PBC/15/9), Policy on Languages at WIPO, A/48/24, Summary of Recommendations made by the PBC at its fifteenth session, and A/48/11 Add., and reassured Member States that it was committed to extending language coverage in a phased manner over the period of the MTSP from 2010 to the end of 2015. Document A/48/11 was a first contribution towards a comprehensive language policy. The Secretariat would subsequently prepare further studies addressing the other areas of language usage, namely publications, interpretation and the WIPO website.

The Secretariat recalled that two scenarios had been presented to the fifteenth session of the PBC. The first, Scenario A, had assumed a constant volume of committee documentation compared with 2009, in which case resources were insufficient to enable language coverage to be extended to six languages in the current biennium. Such extended coverage would have had to be postponed to the 2012/13 biennium with resource needs being factored into the draft budget for that biennium. The second scenario, Scenario B, assumed agreement by Member States to a number of document volume rationalization and control measures, in which case extension of language coverage to six languages for all committees could have been implemented as of 2011 with no increased resource requirements. Given that the PBC supported only some and not all of the proposed rationalization measures, in particular rejecting the adoption of summary records to replace verbatim reports, the Secretariat had been requested to prepare a revised proposal, which was presented in point (vii) of document A/48/11/Add. Under that proposal, and given the agreement to the limitation in the length of working documents and the translation of only executive summaries for studies and support documents, the Secretariat would be able to extend language coverage as of 2011 to the SCCR and the SCT. Those committees had been selected on the basis of the expected annual number of pages of translation they would generate, which corresponded to the resources made available by the anticipated document volume reductions arising from the approved rationalization measures. For the remaining committees, the necessary resource adjustments for extended language coverage would be introduced in the context of the 2012/13 Program and Budget.

The Director General stated that it was not a question of principle that was being debated, since all were agreed on the principle of an extension of language coverage, but some pragmatic decisions had to be discussed. He believed that it was essential to proceed fairly for all languages, in a transparent and phased manner. The issue was how to advance in the middle of a biennium when resources had in principle been allocated. Member States had been given various options, one of which in particular, namely the replacement of verbatim reports, although not liked in the PBC, would have enabled the Secretariat to extend coverage to all languages for all committees in the coming year. However, given the desire to retain verbatim reports for all committee meetings, only partial progress could be made. As a substitute for the verbatim reports, webcasting of all meetings would be provided and the record of the webcast would be available on the website for consultation as a digital archive. Moreover, a synthetic written report would be produced, and there would also be the record of captioning. Captioning was being introduced for the hearing impaired in the SCCR and could be extended to other meetings. It would provide a more or less verbatim, but not official, written record of the meetings.

Following informal consultations led by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the PBC, the Member States adopted the following decision:

The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO:

- (i) took note with appreciation of the information contained in document WO/PBC/15/9 as a positive step towards the establishment of a policy on languages at WIPO;*
- (ii) requested the Secretariat to increase the share of outsourced translation, in particular to developing regions/countries, in accordance with WIPO procurement rules, and take necessary measures to ascertain that the quality of the outsourced translation is up to standard, and submit to the next session of the PBC information on the savings that may be derived from such increased outsourcing;*
- (iii) requested the Secretariat to establish rigorous criteria with respect to outsourcing options;*
- (iv) welcomed the initiatives taken by the Secretariat to introduce electronic recording of conference proceedings and, progressively, webcasting thereof on the WIPO website, and requested that this be extended to all official meetings of WIPO;*
- (v) recognizing that more concise working documents would facilitate deliberations, approved the proposal made by the Secretariat to further reduce the average length of the working documents, on the understanding, however, that such further reduction would not be a statutory requirement but an indication of principle, and that while quality of information should be ensured, it would not apply to documents submitted to the Secretariat by Member States;*
- (vi) adopted the proposal made by the Secretariat in paragraphs 40 and 41 of document WO/PBC/15/9 (whereby exceptionally voluminous documents and support papers (studies, surveys) that may be commissioned by certain committees will be made available only in the original languages, with a summary to be prepared by the Secretariat in all six languages) on the understanding, however, that if a Member State or a group of Member States were to express specific interest in one of such documents, the Secretariat would translate its full text in the required language;*
- (vii) noted with appreciation that through immediate implementation of the provisions of (v) and (vi) above, the Secretariat will be able to extend language coverage to all six official languages of the UN (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) for documentation of the SCCR and SCT as from January 1, 2011. It is understood that, as a first stage, the implementation of the extended six language coverage to other WIPO Committees, as defined in document WO/PBC/15/9, is proposed to begin as of 2012. If resource adjustments are required by the introduction of the new policy, these will be factored into the draft Program and Budget for 2012/13 after consideration by the PBC;*
- (viii) noted that the resource adjustments for beginning implementation, as of 2012, of the extended language coverage to WIPO Committees, as defined in (vii) above and in document WO/PBC/15/9, as well as to Working Groups, shall be discussed in the context of the program and budget process for 2012/13. In order to facilitate the discussions under this process, the Secretariat shall, as a first step, provide detailed information on current resources under Program 27 by November 25, 2010. The Chair or Vice-Chair of the PBC shall convene, within this process, a dedicated half-day informal consultation in conjunction with the extraordinary session of the PBC in January 2011 with a view to having a clear understanding of the cost implications as a result of the introduction of the new policy. Based on the financial information provided by the Secretariat, a decision concerning the extended language coverage for the Working Groups shall be taken at the next formal session of the PBC in 2011;*

- (ix) *decided that the progress made in the implementation of the new policy, and follow-up on the 2000 decision of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO (paragraph 14 of document WO/PBC/15/9 refers), will be discussed at the next formal session of the PBC in 2011, with a view to making recommendations thereon to the September 2011 WIPO General Assembly;*
- (x) *noted that the extension of language coverage in the WIPO Committees would be reflected in the language section of the rules of procedure of the respective WIPO Committees.*

ITEM 18

POLICY ON WIPO EXTERNAL OFFICES

Discussions were based on document A/48/12 Rev.

The Director General indicated that this was not an item inviting a decision by Member States, but rather one that was being introduced in a spirit of transparency in view of certain developments in the last 12 months. It was recalled that WIPO has at present four External Offices located in New York, Singapore, Tokyo and Rio de Janeiro. The Director General stated that in the course of the last 12 months, a significant number of Member States had approached the Secretariat and expressed an interest in hosting an external office. He welcomed this as a sign of engagement by Member States which, however, highlighted the fact that WIPO does not have a clear policy for the establishment of new offices. Past decisions on the establishment of offices were made on an ad-hoc basis. The Director General suggested that the Organization engage, in the course of the next 12 months, in a process of consultation to develop guidelines or a policy on how to proceed in this area. Reference was made to document A/48/12 containing suggestions on some of the issues that needed to be taken into account and on which the Secretariat intended to provide some empirical data for consideration by Member States. This should cover questions such as: (i) what needs and purposes may be served by external offices; (ii) what functions should they perform; (iii) what is the cost/benefit analysis of performing those functions through external offices as opposed to performance of the functions from the Headquarters; (iv) how would the relationship between Headquarters and external offices function in order to ensure coherence of delivery of services on the part of the Secretariat; and (v) where will the additional external offices be located and what would be the considerations in determining location. The Director General concluded by signaling that, as far as he was concerned, such a consultation would not affect existing contractual arrangements with the Member States in which WIPO has external offices.

The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO noted document A/48/12 Rev. and expressed support for the proposal to initiate a consultation process among Member States in the next 12 months with a view to agreeing on a policy on the establishment of WIPO external offices.

ITEM 19

STRATEGIC REALIGNMENT PROGRAM AND PROGRESS REPORTS ON PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

The Chair introduced item 19 and stated that the SRP and Progress Reports on projects and initiatives would commence with a Power Point presentation on the overall program.

The Secretariat clarified that the agenda item (Strategic Realignment Program) was structured to provide an overall presentation on the Program and its progress, after which the sub-items (i) through to (viii), which

related to the various initiatives and projects within the SRP, would be taken up after the presentation and during the Coordination Committee to be held on Monday, September 27, 2010. The Secretariat stated that the SRP was launched by the Director General in October 2008 to respond to the changing landscape that the Organization was expected to function in and to the changing needs of the global IP community. Its primary objective was to enable the Organization to be more efficient, responsive, responsible and accountable. The SRP sought to address how the Secretariat could function better, and to bring in innovative and modern practices so that WIPO could deliver against its strategic goals. It was an ambitious change program, which the Director General and the SMT were committed to making a success. The Secretariat reported regularly to the Audit Committee and valued their input and advice and would continue to provide information on progress regularly to the Member States.

The Secretariat's presentation was structured around key topics which included the content of the SRP, its governance, the results framework, the key achievements, reporting and the next steps. The Secretariat recalled that the Director General had launched the SRP in 2008. Following the progress made over the first 12 to 18 months, the Secretariat found the need to restructure the Program, so that it would resonate better with various stakeholders, including, most importantly, staff and managers. The Director General had led the effort to develop a comprehensive roadmap in April 2010, which structured the SRP around four core values: Service Orientation; Working as one; Accountability for results; and Environmental, Social and Governance Responsibility. The SRP addressed most of the recommendations contained in the desk-to-desk assessment report that the Secretariat had been mandated by Member States to implement, while going beyond the desk-to-desk assessment recommendations in its scope. It was an ambitious change program and the 19 initiatives and projects had been grouped under the four core values. Examples of the initiatives under the different values were provided, including the initiative to improve the experience and the interface with the Organization, Member States, customers in the private sector, and other stakeholders, through the establishment and use of modern tools and best practices; and the initiative to complete the implementation of the ERP System, subject to the Member States' approval. The Secretariat stated that the core of the ERP initiative related to the establishment of processes, systems and tools that would provide managers and staff with information and the capability to manage their resources more effectively and to link resources to the delivery of results. The Secretariat then presented the governance structure of the SRP and emphasized that, as with any change program, the biggest challenge of the SRP was to have it owned by every single staff member of the Organization. Each staff member had to feel a part of the program and the SMT were expected to tirelessly commit themselves to the implementation of the different initiatives. This was being achieved through a clear governance structure that provided leadership and accountability for every single initiative within the program, and assigned a project leader to each initiative whose responsibility was the day-to-day planning, execution and management of the initiative. Furthermore, the Secretariat had established the mechanism of value groups to ensure collaboration and collective ownership of the SRP initiatives, and a Project Management Office to facilitate and coordinate the work of the various initiatives within the SRP. In respect of reporting on the SRP, the Secretariat reported on a regular basis to the Audit Committee and would continue to provide Member States with regular updates through the PBC and the Assemblies. The Secretariat welcomed their interactions with the Audit Committee and in particular the Audit Committee's constant focus on the risks to the Program. It stated that the Audit Committee's questions and recommendations assisted the Secretariat in the review and improvement of the planning and definition of the program. In respect of progress to date, a value-based governance structure had been established and was working. The Secretariat stated that the 19 different initiatives were under various stages of planning, definition and implementation. Measuring success and achievement was very important, and to this end the Secretariat was identifying indicators to measure SRP success. Examples of the achievements to date were provided, including the launch of the new logo, the successful conduct of the WIPO Open Day, the progress that had been made on the Performance Management and Staff Development System (PMSDS), which was now in its second phase of implementation, and the establishment of an Ethics Office. The Secretariat explained that indicators were being identified for each of

the initiatives, as well as for the value outcomes as a whole. These would be simple but based on reliable performance data, and a results framework would be finalized by the end of 2010. The Secretariat noted that the risks to the SRP were similar to the risks faced by any complex, ambitious change program in any organization, and related to resource availability, wide-spread engagement of staff and managers, and the inherent complexity of the different initiatives within the Program. The Project Management Office currently worked closely with the Director General, with the SMT, and with staff to assess the risks and to develop strategies to mitigate these. The Secretariat recalled that, during the PBC discussions on the SRP, a number of Member States had sought clarifications on the resource requirements for the SRP. The Secretariat was in the process of compiling and collating the resource requirements across all the initiatives and expected to complete this exercise by the end of October 2010, after which it would be in a position to share this information with the Audit Committee and with Member States. The resource requirements were in three broad categories: those which were already covered within the current Program and Budget 2010/11 envelope; those which may be included in the proposals for the 2012/13 budget; and those which would be appropriated from the reserves. The Secretariat would be reporting progress yearly, undertaking an internal quarterly assessment, and had updated the SRP website both on the Internet and Intranet. The next steps would be focused on completing the definition and planning of all the initiatives and on moving all the initiatives into the implementation phase by the end of this year.

ITEM 19(i)

PROPOSAL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING (ERP) SYSTEM IN WIPO

Discussions were based on documents A/48/14 and A/48/24.

The Secretariat stated that the relevant document under this agenda item was the document on ERP, which was a proposal for implementation of a comprehensive integrated ERP system. WIPO had commenced the implementation of an ERP system, upon approval by Member States in 2002/2003, with the establishment of the AIMS system for finance and budget reporting. The system was then enhanced through the implementation of procurement and asset management modules to establish full compliance with the new financial rules and regulations and IPSAS, upon approval by Member States. WIPO had followed a prudent phased approach, which had resulted in manageable projects, and had completed these two phases on time and within budget. However, a number of critical horizontal and cross-cutting functions, such as human resources management development systems, enterprise performance management and development remain poorly supported or unsupported by WIPO's current IT systems. It was emphasized that the full benefits of an ERP system were only realized if the system was used in a coherent and integrated manner across the Organization. The Secretariat explained that the ERP system would provide management information and tools that would be central to the successful implementation of the SRP, which sought to improve service levels to Member States, other stakeholders and customers; to establish a more service-oriented and integrated administration and management sector, which was modern and based on best practices; to improve accountability; and strengthen RBM. The Secretariat referred to earlier interventions by the Delegations of Egypt and Brazil asking for much more detailed reporting when it came to Development Agenda related issues, and clarified that, as had been pointed out at the PBC, it did not have the capacity nor the systems in place to be able to provide them with that level of granularity in detail. The Secretariat expected that, with the implementation of an ERP system, it would be able to do just that. In addition, the Secretariat assured the Member States that the project would be implemented with strong governance, senior management leadership, requisite skills and qualified resources, building on lessons learnt from the first two phases and those learned by other organizations within the UN system, several of whom had completed the implementation of an ERP system. The proposal before the Member States, and

the recommendation which the PBC was making to the Assemblies was to approve the proposal to implement the ERP project as set out in the Annex of document WO/PBC/15/17, and to approve the appropriation of a total of 25 million Swiss francs for this purpose from the reserves to be available to be utilized in accordance with the plan and progress of the portfolio of projects for the envisaged duration of the implementation, as set out in paragraph 15 of document WO/PBC/15/17 and in paragraph 24 of the Annex to document WO/PBC/15/17.

The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each one as far as it is concerned, in accordance with the recommendation of the PBC as recorded in document A/48/24, approved the proposal to implement the ERP project as set out in the Annex of document WO/PBC/15/17, and approved the appropriation of a total of 25 million Swiss francs for this purpose from the reserves, to be available to be utilized in accordance with the plan and progress of the portfolio of projects for the envisaged duration of the implementation, as set out in paragraph 15 of document WO/PBC/15/17 and in paragraph 24 of the Annex to document WO/PBC/15/17.

ITEM 19(ii)

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING STANDARDS (IPSAS) IMPLEMENTATION; IPSAS VERSION OF THE 2008/09 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Discussions were based on documents A/48/15, A/48/25 and A/48/24.

The Secretariat explained that the relevant document A/48/15 contained a Progress Report on the Implementation of IT Modules to Establish Compliance with the New Financial Regulations and Rules (FRR) and IPSAS. The PBC had requested the Assemblies to take note of this report, as recorded in the Summary of Recommendations made by the PBC at its fifteenth session (document A/48/24).

The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each as far as it is concerned, took note of the contents of documents A/48/15 and A/48/25, and of the recommendation made by the PBC and recalled in document A/48/24.

ITEM 19(iii)

The Secretariat made a general statement linking documents WO/CC/63/2, WO/CC/63/3, WO/CC/63/4 and WO/CC/63/5 under the next agenda item concerning the long-serving temporary employees and a regularization strategy proposal. It explained how the four papers represented an update on a number of initiatives being undertaken to align the Human Resources (HR) policies and practices with the Organization's need to right-size its architecture, in order to ensure that within a Results-Based Management (RBM) framework, HR needs were planned, administered and managed in an effective and fair manner. It then explained that the Voluntary Separation Program (VSP) would enable the Organization to resource programs with the right skilled workforce, while at the same time allowing the Organization to regularize a number of long-serving temporary employees. It then referred to document WO/CC/63/5 on the long-serving temporary employees and outlined the phased approach to the implementation of proper HR planning, whereby staffing needs are defined by actual needs, and not by what it referred to as a "resource based budgeting and planning approach". It indicated that this phased approach would afford the Organization sufficient flexibility to allocate HR where needed, based on the principles of RBM. The Secretariat then referred to document WO/CC/63/2 on the proposed revision of the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules, which would ensure that WIPO would have the much needed regulatory framework to provide its staff with fair conditions of service.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE REVISION OF THE WIPO STAFF REGULATIONS AND STAFF RULES

Discussions were based on document WO/CC/63/2.

The Secretariat provided a progress report on the revision of the WIPO Staff Regulations and Staff Rules. It indicated that WIPO commenced the revision of the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules in 2009 which was aimed at supporting (i) the Organization's corporate culture and values, (ii) the efficiency of its business and managerial progresses, and (iii) the rationalization of WIPO's framework of staff contractual arrangements. It further explained that this initiative will also provide an opportunity for the Organization to simplify and streamline its processes, ensure linkages on cross-functional processes and to review the approval and certification processes, which would facilitate the future integration of the HR components into the Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP) project which Member States had approved last week.

The Secretariat further explained that the revision of the WIPO Staff Regulations and Staff Rules was conducted in 2009 by a Working Group composed of management and staff representatives. The Working Group recommended that WIPO Staff Regulations and Staff Rules be more normative in nature, capturing the regulatory framework, and that the Organization's policies and procedures should be better placed in an HR manual. It also indicated that the proposed revision of the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules had been presented to the WIPO Coordination Committee in 2009.

The Secretariat then explained that, following briefings to staff, the wish for further clarification and consultations on the proposed revision was expressed. Consequently, the Director General had decided to establish a Consultative Group, composed of staff and management representatives to address the various issues and to move forward with the process. It mentioned that the administration and the staff representatives were presently finalizing the terms of reference of the Consultative Group. It indicated that the proposals of the Consultative Group would be discussed with the Member States through informal consultations, prior to submission for approval to the Coordination Committee in 2011 and that the Director General had also decided to defer the target date for the implementation of the revised Staff Regulations and Staff Rules to January 2012.

The WIPO Coordination Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 1 to 15 of document WO/CC/63/2.

ITEM 19(iv)

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VOLUNTARY SEPARATION PROGRAM (VSP)

Discussions were based on document WO/CC/63/3.

The Secretariat indicated that the VSP was the first structured institutional separation program to be launched at WIPO which had been approved by the WIPO Coordination Committee in 2009, and was aimed at responding to the Organization's need to reduce the number of employees, as well as for the Organization to address its evolving business requirements by creating the opportunity to bring in additional skills and competencies, that were necessary to deliver its mandate. It indicated that an evaluation team was established to review the applications composed by representatives from HR Management, the Office of the Director General, the Office of the Controller, and the Staff Association. The Evaluation Group

examined 105 applications, based on the age, the number of months to retirement, the cost of separation versus retention cost, and the information provided by the program managers regarding the post and the need for replacement. Of the 105 applications, 6 were not approved, 99 favorable recommendations were made, of which 11 withdrew and a decision on 1 case is still pending, resulting in a total of 87 departures by the end of June 2010. It drew attention to the two graphs in the document that indicated the distribution of the vacated posts by sector and by grade. The Secretariat explained that 30 million Swiss francs were earmarked for this program, and the actual cost has been estimated roughly at 22 million Swiss francs. It further clarified that the posts liberated by the program would allow the Organization to (i) reinvigorate workforce through recruitment of new talents with language and technical skills sets that may not be available internally and which are necessary for the achievement of the Organization's mandate, especially in the context of the strategic realignment program, (ii) reduce the total WIPO headcount by filling in some of the vacated posts with internal candidates, and (iii) regularize the short term status of high-performing and well qualified long-serving temporary employees.

The WIPO Coordination Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 1 to 19 of document WO/CC/63/3.

ITEM 19(v)

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM (PMSDS)

Discussions were based on document WO/CC/63/4.

The Secretariat indicated that the new Performance Management and Staff Development System (PMSDS) was launched in April 2009 and supports the Strategic Realignment Program (SRP) core values: "accountability for results" and "working as one". There has been a strong commitment from the Senior Management team (SMT), who has also followed extensive training through separate workshops. The first phase introduced a new 5-points rating scale and amended the dialogue between the supervisors and the supervisees improving communications on performance. The second phase, deployed in June 2010, introduced detailed planning functionality for staff work and development, with explicit linkage to the expected results under the RBM framework as well as a competency model covering core and managerial competencies. Provision was also made for the identification of training needs, the closing of organizational skill gaps and for recording expressions of interest for internal staff mobility. It comprised mandatory workshops on SMART objective setting, competency models and performance evaluation related communication skills in which 1100 employees participated. Further PMSDS oriented training is planned during the Autumn of 2010 and will lead to the third phase in the first quarter of 2011 with the deployment of detailed evaluation functionality. Staff will then be evaluated on their performance in the first quarter of each calendar year. A key objective of the PMSDS is to provide management with HR-related information, in particular, development and training needs, which would feed into the elaboration of staff development and learning strategy that will be reflected in the preparation of the program and budget proposals for 2012/13 and beyond. In support of this objective, an IT system has been developed, specifically for PMSDS, with sophisticated reporting possibilities. The Annex of document WO/CC/63/4 provides, for information purposes, the official guidelines and a description of the core and managerial competencies employed by the system.

As no delegation wished to express any views on the document, the WIPO Coordination Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 1 to 8 of document WO/CC/63/4.

ITEM 19(vi)

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE CARBON NEUTRALITY PROJECT

Discussions were based on document A/48/16.

The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each one as far as it is concerned, took note of the progress report contained in document A/48/16.

ITEM 19(vii)

PROGRESS REPORT ON ACCESSIBILITY IN THE WIPO CAMPUS

Discussions were based on document A/48/17.

The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each one as far as it is concerned, took note of the progress report contained in document A/48/17.

ITEM 19(viii)

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY: BIODIVERSITY ON THE WIPO CAMPUS

Discussions were based on document A/48/18.

The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each one as far as it is concerned, took note of document A/48/18.

ITEM 20

THE NEW CONSTRUCTION; THE NEW CONFERENCE HALL PROJECT

Discussions were based on documents A/48/19 and A/48/22.

The Secretariat recalled that the PBC had taken note of the Progress Reports on the New Construction Project and New Conference Hall Project (documents WO/PBC/15/19 and WO/PBC/15/20) at its fifteenth session held from September 1 to 3, 2010, as recorded in document A/48/24.

Regarding the progress on the New Construction Project, the Secretariat confirmed that the Project was expected to be completed on time before the end of the year and within the approved budget, therefore allowing the Organization to start relocating employees from rented premises, as planned, from the beginning of 2011, after completion of the final installations which would last until the end of December 2010. The Secretariat also confirmed that the reserved underground parking spaces for delegates of Member States would become available as from the beginning of 2011, the details and modalities of which would be communicated in due time. Until completion of the Project, the Secretariat would continue to pay particular attention to the use of the remaining funds available in the approved contingency provision for miscellaneous and unforeseen, in line with the External Auditor's recommendation on the matter (document WO/GA/39/3).

The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each as far as it is concerned, took note of the contents of documents A/48/19 and A/48/22, of the recommendations made by the PBC as recorded in document A/48/23 and of the updates provided by the Secretariat.

ITEM 21

WIPO SAFETY AND SECURITY UPGRADE PROJECT FOR THE EXISTING PREMISES

Discussions were based on document A/48/20.

The Secretariat recalled that the PBC had taken note of the Progress Report on the Project to Upgrade the Safety and Security Standards for the Existing WIPO Buildings (document WO/PBC/15/21) at its fifteenth session held from September 1 to 3, 2010, as recorded in document A/48/24.

The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it, each as far as it is concerned, took note of the contents of document A/48/21 and of the recommendation made by the PBC as recorded in document A/48/24.

ITEM 22

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON AUDIT COMMITTEE RELATED MATTERS

Discussions were based on documents WO/GA/39/13 and A/48/24.

The Chair of the PBC introduced the documents and thanked the Audit Committee for its input in the Audit Committee selection process.

The Chair invited the General Assembly to approve the recommendations made by the Working Group on Audit Committee Related Matters and noted that, pursuant to the request made by the Delegation of Bangladesh, the additional timetable prepared by the Audit Committee for the Audit Committee Selection Process would be included as part of the decision on this item.

The WIPO General Assembly approved the implementation of the recommendations made by the Working Group on Audit Committee Related Matters as contained in paragraphs 3 to 30 of the Report of the Working Group (document WO/GA/39/13) and decided to attach the timetable prepared by the WIPO Audit Committee for the Audit Committee Selection Process as an Annex to the present Report.

ITEM 23

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE SELECTION OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Discussions were based on documents WO/GA/39/4 and A/48/24.

The Secretariat introduced document WO/GA/39/4 (Report on the Status of Selection of External Auditor), which consisted of the following: the invitation issued for nominations of candidates and the related call for

proposals document; two lists of the questions from the candidates; and the answers given in response to these. This document had been considered by the PBC and all documents (including the evaluation matrix) had been examined by the Audit Committee. The Secretariat added that the Selection Panel, consisting of the representatives of Angola, Bangladesh, China, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico (Chair), Slovenia (Vice-Chair) and Switzerland, had met on a number of occasions and was considering the submissions received. The next meeting of the Panel was scheduled for September 30, 2010, with the aim of considering the proposals and evaluations put forward by the Secretariat and the Audit Committee in order to make a selection. The Secretariat added that the recommendation made by the PBC in respect of this progress report had been recorded in the Summary of Recommendations made by the PBC at its fifteenth session (document A/48/24).

In the absence of comments, the WIPO General Assembly took note of the contents of document WO/GA/39/4.

ITEM 24

SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT DIVISION

Discussions were based on documents WO/GA/39/5 and A/48/24.

At the invitation of the Chair of the General Assembly, the Director of the Internal Audit and Oversight Division (IAOD) presented the IAOD Summary Annual Report for the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 (document WO/GA/39/5). Mr. Treen noted that the annual report is required by paragraph 23 of the Internal Audit Charter. Mr. Treen said he would like to highlight a few matters. He noted that his office has continued to provide the Director General and the Audit Committee with internal audit reports on high risk topics. The Evaluation Section has again done good work to validate the biennial Program Performance Report and this has been the main independent evaluation output in the period. IAOD's plans are to also validate the next biennial report, scheduled for 2012.

Mr. Treen noted that a significant amount of investigation activity was again completed in the period and confirmed that the division is progressing better in the regular delivery of all the internal oversight activities.

However, it was noted that staffing challenges still persist in the Internal Audit and Oversight Division and this has hindered progress in delivering a more reasonable amount of oversight activities and reports over the last several years. Mr. Treen nevertheless thanked the Director General for the extra resources he has continued to provide to meet immediate and urgent oversight needs in the reporting period and for his commitment to increasing the permanent resources required to support internal audit, investigation, and administrative activities in the year ahead. Mr. Treen said he was very grateful for this support.

Regarding Internal Audit, Mr. Treen mentioned that several audits were completed in the period. These covered: (i) WIPO's main revenue sources (PCT, Hague and Madrid), which is the first time these key business areas have been audited; (ii) the progress in improving information security and IT controls; (iii) the new construction project; and (iv) the Internal Control Gap Review, which produced valuable results and findings and dealt with high level and entity wide controls, the control environment, and included a culture survey of staff. Mr. Treen pointed out that the Director General has expressed significant interest in this report and supports the findings, which will support well several of the strategic realignment initiatives.

Mr. Treen made reference to the External Auditors' independent quality assurance review of the Internal Audit Section, which benchmarked WIPO internal audit against relevant international standards. Mr. Treen noted that the External Auditors concluded that the IAOD's work is in general in conformity with the standards of the Institute of Internal Auditors, which are the global standards for Internal Audit.

Mr. Treen also noted that the recent review of UN Auditing by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) showed that WIPO is amongst the best in the class of UN Internal Audit Sections and that the External Auditors mentioned that WIPO's IAOD is amongst the better performing Internal Audit sections they have reviewed in the public sector, with an 80 percent compliance with international internal auditing requirements. In addition, Mr. Treen stated that following implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor, IAOD has the scope and ability to increase its good compliance rate, which will be very possible provided the Section is suitably staffed.

Mr. Treen mentioned that the Investigation Section's workload continues to be large with some very complex and difficult cases. He noted that long standing cases are being steadily completed and elapsed times for dealing with cases are being significantly reduced. Mr. Treen again welcomed the fact that the Director General has been proactive and generous in providing high quality and expert short-term investigation resources. He also pointed out that independent investigation experts have recommended the Investigation Section be increased to three posts.

An Investigation Procedures Manual was recently issued and made available to all WIPO staff for their information on the IAOD Homepage in English and French. A final draft of an Investigation Policy has been submitted to the Audit Committee for comments before internal consultations on the Policy are completed; and as required by the Internal Audit Charter, consultations on the Policy with Member States would also be held. In line with suggestions by the Member States, lessons learned from investigation work are identified with a view to adding value to the Organization. Details of the significant IAOD recommendations to strengthen WIPO systems and procedures are included in the Summary Annual Report. It is hoped that these recommendations will help improve WIPO systems and procedures and also help reduce the need for future investigations.

As regards Evaluation activities, work has been severely restricted due to the absence of staff in the Section for the majority of the reporting period. IAOD currently has no permanent staff in place as the Senior Evaluator is on maternity related leave until the New Year. However, evaluation work has continued to be delivered with plans and an evaluation strategy completed for 2010/2011. An Evaluation Section Annual Activities Report for 2009 was also presented to the Director General and the Audit Committee. The Validation of the Program Performance Report was largely completed before the Senior Evaluator went on maternity leave. In addition, the Procedures Manual for the Independent Evaluation Section was also finalized, which will complement the draft prepared last year on Self-Evaluations for WIPO managers. The evaluation of WIPO country-based activities, planning for which commenced in 2009, has been postponed until the Senior Evaluator returns. Independent evaluation of the Development Agenda will continue to be a key priority for IAOD once the Evaluation Section is functioning again.

On other matters, it was recorded that IAOD cooperated closely and well with the External Auditors and has established extremely good working relations with them. The IAOD Director welcomed the appreciation and interest of the PBC in the Division's work as expressed at the Committee's last meeting. The IAOD Director reminded Member States that Internal Audit and Evaluation Reports could be read by Member States in his office and welcomed Member States that wished to do so.

The General Assembly took note of the summary annual report of the Director of the Internal Audit and Oversight Division.

ITEM 25

REVIEW OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER

Discussions were based on documents WO/GA/39/6 and WO/GA/39/6 Rev.

At the invitation of the Chair of the General Assembly, Mr. Treen introduced the Member States to the Internal Audit Charter document (WO/GA/39/6) and explained that the Internal Audit Charter must be reviewed every three years. He noted that the Charter was discussed at the 2010 PBC meeting and changes, with which the Secretariat concurred, were agreed.

The Chairman of the Audit Committee, Mr. Roz, explained the terms of reference of the Audit Committee to the Delegates and stated that they give the Committee a measure of responsibility to oversee the effectiveness of the Internal Audit Function. Mr. Roz explained that the Audit Committee had reviewed the revised draft Audit Charter at its 17th and 18th meetings and noted that the Committee had recommended that the term of office of the Director of IAOD should be five years non-renewable, and not six years as recommended in document WO/GA/39/6. Mr. Roz explained that the recommendation was made to synchronize the term of office of the Director IAOD with those of the External Auditor to minimize the risk of a concurrent vacancy of both audit functions. The Audit Committee also recommended the new term of office to align WIPO with the UN Secretariat, while noting that other UN agencies have a six year term of office for the Internal Auditor.

Mr. Roz made reference to the 18th session of the Audit Committee in which four recommendations were made, which were: (i) concerning the title of the Internal Audit Charter; (ii) the Director should not be part of WIPO's management team; (iii) when needed, the Director IAOD should have access to the Chair of the General Assembly; (iv) the revision clause. Mr. Roz noted that the Audit Committee's four recommendations were not reviewed by the PBC and that the Audit Committee would be replaced in 2011. He also stated that he submitted a separate report to the PBC in 2010 on the Audit Committee's work, in which he recommended that in 2012, the PBC should request the newly appointed External Auditor, the Internal Auditor and the Audit Committee to independently review their respective terms of reference, also in consultation with each other and with the Secretariat. Mr. Roz mentioned that this approach would improve the coordination of the overall oversight mechanism in WIPO which would be in the interests of the Member States and the Secretariat. He went on to say that this recommendation was in line with previous observations relating to the coordination of the three oversight bodies that the Director General had made in the past. Mr. Roz concluded by stating that he thought the coordination and cooperation amongst the three bodies had considerably improved in 2010.

The Chair of the General Assembly confirmed that the proposal made by the Delegation of India was accepted by all Member States and that the revised document was approved with the amendments proposed by the Member States.

ITEM 26

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (CDIP)

Discussions were based on document WO/GA/39/7.

The Report of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP), document WO/GA/39/7, was introduced by the Secretariat. It informed that since the last session of the WIPO General Assembly in

2009, the CDIP had met in two sessions. The Fourth Session, in November 2009, had essentially reviewed progress reports on certain Development Agenda projects and activities, and also considered and approved certain new projects for implementation of the Development Agenda recommendations. The Fifth Session, in April 2010, had dealt with a number of issues. First, it considered the report of the Director General on the implementation of the Development Agenda, and a report on WIPO's contribution to the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It also considered a document on patent-related flexibilities in the multilateral legal framework and their legislative implementation at the national and regional levels, which addressed how countries and regional institutions had adopted the various flexibilities available in international legal instruments in various fora, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), WIPO and others. In addition, the Committee also considered a number of projects and approved a certain number of them for implementation. A breakthrough was achieved in the approval of the coordination mechanisms and monitoring, assessing and reporting modalities. The Secretariat noted that the two previous sessions of the CDIP were held in a very congenial atmosphere, and the Member States showed a spirit of cooperation and compromise, which it was hoped would continue. The Secretariat invited the Assembly to take note of the information contained in the documents and to approve the coordination mechanism and monitoring, assessing and reporting modalities affixed as Annex II of the document.

The Chair invited the Members to take action on the recommendations contained in document WO/GA/39/7, page 6. The General Assembly was invited to: (i) take note of the information contained in the document; and (ii) approve the Coordination Mechanism and Monitoring, Assessing and Reporting Modalities contained in Annex II to the Summary by the Chair of the Fifth Session of the CDIP. As no delegations sought to take the floor, the recommendations were adopted.

ITEM 27

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS (SCCR)

Discussions were based on WO/GA/39/8 Rev.

The Chair introduced item 27 of the agenda which dealt with the Report on the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), and gave the floor to the Secretariat.

The Secretariat informed the Member States that it had prepared document WO/GA/39/8 Rev. which related to the activities which had taken place since the last General Assembly in September 2009. Two meetings of the SCCR had been held in addition to some informal meetings addressing some specific topics. The work in the SCCR had continued to address proposals for the protection of broadcasting organizations, protection of audiovisual performances and exceptions and limitations to copyright. Both at SCCR/19 in December 2009 and at SCCR/20 in June 2010, discussions on the three substantive agenda items had proceeded in a pragmatic and fairly progressive manner. However, difficulties tended to emerge in reaching agreement on the conclusions, which should capture the outcome of the substantive discussions in summary as well as identify future actions. SCCR/19 had reached conclusions; however, as had happened on two previous occasions of the Committee, SCCR/20 was unable to reach agreement on all of the paragraphs in the Chair's draft conclusions. The Secretariat had taken Member States' agreement on the paragraphs of the conclusions dealing with audiovisual performances in the context of the Committee's call for an acceleration of the work in general, and had proceeded to give notice of a consultation on audiovisual performances as agreed in the discussions in the conclusions. However, it was stated at the end of the SCCR/20 discussions on the conclusions that "Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed". The Secretariat mistakenly understood the statement to refer to the agenda items on broadcasting

and exceptions and limitations, where, in each case, some paragraphs of the conclusions were not agreed. Upon the representations of some Member States, the notice for a consultation on audiovisual performances was withdrawn. The Secretariat extended its apologies to all Member States who were inconvenienced by that sequence of events. Some Member States had indicated that it could be useful for SCCR/21 to discuss the principle of “Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed” in the upcoming November Session of the SCCR, in order to ensure that this principle did not create unnecessary restrictions on the flexible working methods of the Committee. The Secretariat would be guided by any decisions made by the Committee.

The Chair informed the Member States that an amendment had been proposed by the Delegation of Bangladesh, and supported by India and Brazil. The Chair read the proposal. The new version of document WO/GA/39/8 Rev., paragraph 29(i), would read:

“The General Assembly is invited to take note of the information contained in document WO/GA/39/8 Rev., while bearing in mind that there was no agreed conclusion reached at the 20th session of the SCCR.”

The Assembly adopted the amendment proposed by the Delegation of Bangladesh.

The General Assembly:

- (i) *took note of the information contained in document WO/GA/39/8 Rev., while bearing in mind that there was no agreed conclusion reached at the 20th session of the SCCR; and*
- (ii) *encouraged the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights to continue its work regarding the issues reported on in document WO/GA/39/8 Rev.*

ITEM 28

INFORMATION REPORTS ON OTHER WIPO COMMITTEES

ITEM 28(i)

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE (IGC)

Discussions were based on document WO/GA/39/9, “Information Reports on Other WIPO Committees”, in particular on item 28(i): Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC).

The General Assembly took note of the information contained in document WO/GA/39/9.

ITEM 28(ii)

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF PATENTS (SCP)

Discussions were based on document WO/GA/39/9 “Information Reports on Other WIPO Committees”, in particular on item 28(ii): Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP).

The General Assembly took note of the information contained in document WO/GA/39/9.

ITEM 28(iii)

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRADEMARKS, INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS AND FOLKLORE (SCT)

Discussions were based on document WO/GA/39/9 “Information Reports on Other WIPO Committees”, in particular on item 28(iii): Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT).

The WIPO General Assembly took note of the progress made by the SCT in its work in the field of trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications.

ITEM 28(iv)

COMMITTEE ON WIPO STANDARDS (CWS)

Discussions were based on document WO/GA/39/9 “Information Reports on Other WIPO Committees”, in particular on item 28(iv): Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS).

The Secretariat recalled that the WIPO General Assembly, at its thirty-eighth session, held in September 2009, had approved the discontinuation of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) and the creation of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS). The General Assembly referred the discussion on the recommendation for the creation of the Committee on Global IP Infrastructure (CGI) to the Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG). The SDWG, at the eleventh session, held in October 2009, did not reach consensus regarding the recommendation on the CGI to be provided to the General Assembly.

The General Assembly noted the information on the discontinuation of the SCIT and the creation of the CWS provided by the Secretariat in document WO/GA/39/9.

ITEM 28(v)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENFORCEMENT (ACE)

Discussions were based on document WO/GA/39/9, “Information Reports on Other WIPO Committees”, in particular on item 28(v): Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE).

The General Assembly took note of the information contained in document WO/GA/39/9.

ITEM 29

WIPO VOLUNTARY FUND FOR ACCREDITED INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Discussions were based on document WO/GA/39/11.

The Secretariat explained that the proposed amendments were intended to permit the Voluntary Fund to extend also to the IWGs, as had been recommended by the IGC at its most recent session in May 2010. The precise change was to add a new Article 2bis to the Rules, which recognized the IWGs as a “related activity” for purposes of the Rules, thus enabling the Fund to extend to the IWGs. All the other proposed amendments, which were set out in Annex II to the document and underlined for ease of reference, were administrative changes in consequence of this new Article 2bis.

The WIPO General Assembly adopted the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities as set out in Annex II to document WO/GA/39/11.

ITEM 30

PCT SYSTEM

Discussions were based on document PCT/A/41/1 Rev.

In introducing document PCT/A/41/1 Rev., Deputy Director General Pooley stated that, of the great variety of issues discussed by the Working Group at its third session, he wished to particularly highlight the discussions in the Working Group on the study “The Need to Improve the Functioning of the PCT System”. That study had been prepared by the Secretariat following agreement by the Working Group at its second session in May 2009 that efforts should continue on improving the PCT, noting that the system could and should function more effectively on behalf of all stakeholders, within the existing legal framework, without limiting the freedom of Contracting States to control substantive patent law issues as well as national search and examination procedures, and that further dialog should be informed by an in-depth study to be prepared by the International Bureau on how the PCT was measuring up to its stated aims.

Based on the study prepared by the Secretariat, and following an intensive debate characterized by a constructive spirit of cooperation and compromise, the Working Group had unanimously endorsed a set of recommendations as to the further work aimed at improving the PCT. Those recommendations included measures to help reduce the unsustainable backlogs of some 4.2 million unprocessed patent applications around the world and improve the quality of granted patents. The patent Offices of PCT Member States would play a key role in implementing many of these recommendations.

The Working Group had endorsed a number of practical steps to be undertaken by WIPO in close cooperation with Member States for implementation in the near future. These included the deployment of computer systems that would allow third parties to alert patent Offices about information which they believed showed that a patent application did not meet the conditions of patentability. Other electronic systems to be developed would support technology transfer by promoting the licensing of inventions and by helping to identify information about technologies which were in the public domain.

The Working Group had also commissioned a series of studies to assess how successful the PCT system

had been in disseminating technical information, in facilitating access to technology and in providing technical assistance for developing countries. These studies would include recommendations on ways to boost the PCT's performance in these areas and would also explore the possibility of extra-budgetary funding arrangements to finance technical assistance projects.

Deputy Director General Pooley further stated that the recommendations were an important step towards improving the operation of the international patent system for the benefit of all WIPO Member States.

Other issues considered by the Working Group included revised proposals concerning the "Eligibility Criteria for Reductions in Certain PCT Fees". Unfortunately, the Working Group had not been able to reach a consensus. The Secretariat would thus further consider the issue with a view to finding alternative solutions which could be agreed upon by all Member States, pending which the *status quo* would remain.

The Assembly:

- (i) *noted the report of the third session of the PCT Working Group contained in document PCT/WG/3/14 Rev. and reproduced in the Annex to document PCT/A/41/1 Rev.; and*
- (ii) *approved the recommendation concerning the further work of the PCT Working Group set out in paragraph 13 of document PCT/A/41/1 Rev.*

Proposed Amendments of the PCT Regulations

Discussions were based on document PCT/A/41/2 Rev.

The Assembly:

- (i) *adopted the proposed amendments of the Regulations under the PCT set out in the Annex to this report;*
- (ii) *decided that the amendments of Rules 12.2, 48.2, 53.9, 55.3, 62.1, 62.2, 66.9, 70.2 and 92.2 set out in the Annex to this report shall enter into force on July 1, 2011, and shall apply to international applications whose international filing date is on or after July 1, 2011;*
- (iii) *decided that the amendments of Rule 49.5 set out in the Annex to this report shall enter into force on July 1, 2011, and shall apply to international applications in respect of which the applicant has performed the acts referred to in Article 22 or Article 39 on or after July 1, 2011, and in respect of which an amendment under Article 19 or 34 was filed on or after July 1, 2009; and*
- (iv) *decided that the amendments of Rule 70.16 set out in the Annex to this report shall enter into force on July 1, 2011, and shall apply to any international preliminary examination report which is completed in accordance with Rule 70.4 on or after July 1, 2011, irrespective of the international filing date of the international application concerned.*

Quality Management Systems for the PCT International Authorities

Discussions were based on document PCT/A/41/3.

In introducing document PCT/A/41/3, the Secretariat stated that document PCT/A/41/3 had been drawn-up so as to draw attention to the fact that, as in previous years, the annual reports by PCT International Authorities on their quality management systems had been published on WIPO's website. Furthermore, document PCT/A/41/3 informed on recent efforts by PCT International Authorities to improve their quality management systems and, most notably, the quality of the PCT work products, namely, international search reports, written opinions and international preliminary examination reports.

Both issues had featured prominently on the agenda of the most recent Meeting of International Authorities (PCT/MIA) held in February 2010 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where it had been agreed to introduce a new common template for future reports on quality management systems. Furthermore, it had been agreed to set up a Quality Sub-group to discuss quality related issues in greater detail, noting the importance of the PCT as a work sharing tool, that confidence in the high quality of international reports was essential to effective use of those reports by Offices during national phase processing, and that confidence was best served by an effective evaluation of the value of the reports for the purposes of assisting Offices of PCT Member States in processing international applications which had entered the national phase. As its first two concrete projects, this Quality Sub-group would discuss the possible establishment of quality feedback systems and third party observation systems, in line with the recommendations to set up such systems as agreed by the PCT Working Group.

The Assembly took note of the content of document PCT/A/41/3.

ITEM 31

MADRID SYSTEM

Discussions were based on documents MM/A/43/1 and MM/A/43/2.

In opening the session, the Chair welcomed the accession of Israel to the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks (Madrid Protocol), which entered into force with respect to Israel on September 1, 2010. The Chair also welcomed the deposit of the instrument of accession of Kazakhstan to the Madrid Protocol, on September 8, 2010. The Chair further remarked that those accessions would bring the number of Contracting Parties to the Madrid Protocol to 83, and the total number of members of the Madrid system to 85.

The Assembly:

- (i) *took note of the status of implementation of Phase I of the IT Modernization Program; and*
- (ii) *took note of the revised schedule for the implementation of Phase II of the IT Modernization Program, with an expected completion date of December 2012.*

Discussions which followed were based on document MM/A/43/2 (Madrid System Goods and Services Database: Progress Report).

In presenting document MM/A/43/2, the Secretariat indicated that considerable progress had been made in the construction of the database of acceptable indications of goods and services for the purposes of the Madrid system procedures (Madrid System Goods and Services Database) in the three working languages

of the Madrid system. As a result, the database would be operational as scheduled. The Secretariat also informed that the International Bureau had engaged in a number of cooperation initiatives with interested Offices to make the database available also in other languages.

The Assembly took note of the progress report presented in document MM/A/43/2.

ITEM 32

HAGUE SYSTEM

Discussions were based on document H/A/29/1.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed, in particular, Norway, which had joined the Hague Union since the session of the Assembly held in September 2009, and Azerbaijan, whose instrument of accession to the Geneva (1999) Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs had been received by the Director General, on September 8, 2010. The Chair further congratulated Serbia and Germany on their recent accession to the Geneva (1999) Act.

The Chair further informed the Assembly that Germany had communicated its consent to the termination of the London (1934) Act of the Hague Agreement. The other Contracting States to the London (1934) Act were reminded to communicate their respective consent to the termination, as specified in Note C.H 76, dated August 3, 2010, addressed to all the Contracting States to that Act. Furthermore, the Chair informed the Assembly that the denunciation of the London (1934) Act by Indonesia took effect on June 3, 2010, and that the denunciation by Switzerland of that Act would take effect on November 19, 2010.

In introducing the document, the Secretariat recalled that the IT Modernization Program was approved by the twenty-eighth session of the Assembly of the Hague Union in September 2009. Since then, steady progress has been made in its implementation, and the current document laid out how Phase II of the project would be pursued. The Secretariat also informed the Assembly that an electronic filing facility for renewals had been made available to selected users of the Hague system. The facility would be available to users by the end of 2010.

The Assembly:

- (i) took note of the status of implementation of Phase I of the IT Modernization Program, as described in Annex II of document H/A/29/1;*
- (ii) took note of the implementation of Phase I activities that are specific to the Hague Union, as described in document H/A/29/1; and*
- (iii) took note of the revised schedule for the implementation of Phase II of the IT Modernization Program, as presented in Annex I of document H/A/29/1, with an expected completion date of December 2012.*

ITEM 33

INTERNET DOMAIN NAMES

Discussions were based on document WO/GA/39/10.

The Secretariat reported on WIPO's activities in domain name dispute resolution and also in relation to developments in the domain name system (DNS) relevant to the protection of trademarks.

Since the adoption in December 1999, on the basis of recommendations made by WIPO in the First WIPO Internet Domain Name Process, of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, through September 2010, has administered nearly 19,000 domain name cases under the UDRP and related policies. In 2009, WIPO administered a total of 2,107 cases covering a record 4,685 domain names. Since then, WIPO's UDRP caseload has increased by some 20 percent compared to the same period in 2009. Conducted in multiple languages, WIPO UDRP proceedings are decided by experts appointed from the List of WIPO Domain Name Panelists which includes some 450 trademark experts from all continents. In addition to its case administration services, the Center offers online tools to facilitate access to WIPO UDRP procedures and decisions including a globally-used Overview of WIPO Panel Views on Selected UDRP Questions, a searchable Legal Index, and an extended statistics search facility. As of mid-December 2009, the WIPO Center has pioneered an entirely paperless UDRP case filing option. Ongoing developments in the DNS, such as the evolution of pay-per-click websites, the proliferation of proxy registration services, and registrar compliance issues are presenting increasing challenges for owners of IP, in particular trademarks. The Center is monitoring these developments and communicating with ICANN and stakeholders as appropriate.

In addition to disputes involving generic top-level domains (gTLDs), as at September 2010, the Center provides domain name dispute resolution services for 63 country code top-level domain (ccTLD) registries, and as part of its non-profit activities, regularly undertakes consultations with further ccTLDs of Member States.

ICANN has announced policy developments that will present opportunities and legal and practical challenges for IPRs owners and users, notably the predicted introduction in the course of the next year or two of large numbers of new top-level domains, and the ongoing introduction of internationalized domain names (IDNs: local language scripts) at the top level. The Center regularly seeks contact with ICANN and stakeholders in the interest of appropriate IP protection in the event new gTLDs are introduced as envisioned by ICANN. Such collaboration encompasses proposing and commenting on dispute resolution policies and procedures that respect IP, balanced with practical interests and legitimate expectations of DNS actors. In addition to previous consultations on a trademark-based Pre- (TLD) Delegation Dispute Resolution Procedure involving domain name registries, this collaboration concerns a number of rights protection mechanisms presently under ICANN consideration, namely a Post- (TLD) Delegation Dispute Resolution Procedure involving domain name registries, a Trademark Clearinghouse database, and a Uniform Rapid Suspension System intended to complement the UDRP.

The Secretariat also reported on the status of the recommendations made following the Second WIPO Internet Domain Name Process, which examined the relationship between domain names and certain identifiers other than trademarks. Based on the findings of this Process, which were considered by the WIPO General Assembly in September 2002, these recommendations concern the provision of protection

also for: (1) the names and acronyms of international IGOs, and (2) country names, respectively against their abusive registration as domain names (the WIPO-2 Recommendations). While the WIPO-2 Recommendations were made in the context of the DNS at that time, i.e. prior to ICANN's present plans for a broad expansion of the DNS, the extent of any ICANN-envisaged protection of such identifiers remains unclear. The Secretariat will continue to monitor any developments and provide input where possible.

The General Assembly took note of the contents of document WO/GA/39/10.

ITEM 34

PATENT LAW TREATY (PLT) ASSEMBLY

Discussions were based on document PLT/A/8/1 and document PLT/A/8/1 Rev. in French.

The Secretariat introduced two corrections to the document: (i) on page 3, paragraph 10, line 6, the word "section 3.6" shall be replaced by the word "section 5.8"; and (ii) on page 6 of the Annex, the check-boxes in Box No. VIII entitled "Request for restoration of the right of priority" and "Incorporation by reference of missing parts" shall be deleted.

The Assembly unanimously:

- (i) adopted the modified Model International Request Form as set out in the Annex to PLT/A/8/1, and decided that it should enter into force with immediate effect; and*
- (ii) decided that the modifications of the Administrative Instructions Under the PCT indicated in document PLT/A/8/1 as applicable, applied for the purposes of the PLT and its Regulations, with immediate effect.*

ITEM 35

SINGAPORE TREATY (STLT) ASSEMBLY

Discussions were based on document STLT/A/2/1.

At the invitation of the Chair, the Secretariat introduced the document.

The Singapore Treaty Assembly:

- (i) took note of the recommendation of the Working Group on the Review of Rule 3(4) to (6) of the Regulations Under the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks to amend Rule 3(4) to (6) of the Regulations Under the Singapore Treaty;*
- (ii) adopted the proposed amendments to Rule 3(4) to (6), as reproduced in the Annex to document STLT/A/2/1; and*
- (iii) set November 1, 2011, as the date for the entry into force of the proposed amendments.*

ITEM 36

LONG-SERVING TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES

Discussions were based on document WO/CC/63/5.

The Secretariat explained that the use of temporary resources to support continuing functions is a problem that many UN organizations are grappling with. WIPO had begun to address the issue since several years. Document WO/CC/63/5 provided an overview of what had been done today in this respect. Temporary contracts initially began to be used in WIPO to cater for resource requirements generated by the exceptional growth of the Organization, particularly in the PCT in the 90's. The problem has been addressed by WIPO in several phases: the first phase started in 2007 with the granting of several entitlements in order to align the conditions of service of temporary employees to that of fixed-term staff. Phase 2 in 2009 saw the creation of 30 new General Service posts specifically used for regularization purposes. In 2009 and 2010, the VSP will provide the opportunity to regularize many long-serving temporary employees. This document presents a strategy to address and resolve the problem over a five year period and the various measures necessary in order to also prevent its recurrence. These measures include legislative and administrative measures relating to the regulatory framework for temporary contracts under the new Staff Rules and Staff Regulations; appropriate contractual instruments to reflect the business needs of the Organization; enhanced workforce planning for program managers; reliable and transparent methods of costing and resourcing activities to be undertaken as mandated by the Member States through the program and budget; appropriate and timely application of the flexibility mechanisms for the PCT, Madrid and Hague systems; and the development of alternative HR solutions to staffing issues. The first two measures will be addressed in the context of the implementation of the SRP and the revision of the WIPO Staff Regulations and Staff Rules and the last three measures will be addressed in the context of the RBM framework and the program and budget process. It was pointed out that the Organization's headcount had remained relatively stable over the past years, at around 1200.

In order to be able to regularize the situation of the long-serving temporary employees, i.e. those having five years or more of continuous and satisfactory service, on January 1, 2012, it is proposed to the Member States to approve in principle the creation of up to 156 posts under the regular budget over a period of five years. The figure of 156 posts represents the difference between the number of posts today and the headcount figure of 1200. This does not mean 156 additional employees but rather that 156 long-serving temporary employees who are performing continuing functions and towards whom the Organization has a social responsibility will be given the opportunity to be regularized without being necessarily replaced. It is stressed that this category of employees does not have the same social coverage and employment conditions as their fixed-term colleagues, despite carrying out similar work. The number of such posts would be provided as part of the budget proposal submitted to the Program and Budget Committee and the Assemblies of the Member States. The process to be put in place for regularization would ensure a thorough review of the functions in order to confirm that they are of a continuing nature.

The estimated average annual marginal cost per post is approximately 15000 Swiss francs. The estimated total cost for all the 156 posts will amount to approximately 2.3 million Swiss francs per year, or just over 1 percent of the total personnel cost, once and if, all the posts are filled. The costing for any particular year will be limited to the cost of the number of regularizations in that year. The starting date would be January 2012. The Organization must first be able to assess the results of the VSP in absorbing a number of long-serving temporary employees. It will then be possible to incorporate the proposal for the first phase of the regularization exercise into the 2012-2013 budget proposal that the Organization should be considering in the course of this year.

The Coordination Committee took note of the information contained in the document WO/CC/63/5 and approved the proposals contained in paragraphs 22 to 28 of the document.

ITEM 37

OTHER STAFF MATTERS

Discussions were based on documents WO/CC/63/6 and WO/CC/63/7.

The Chair informed the meeting that under this item, Other Staff Matters, there were two documents, WO/CC/63/6 (Other Staff Matters), and WO/CC/63/7 (Request for the Advice of the Coordination Committee on the Renewal of the Internal Auditor's Appointment in Accordance with the WIPO Internal Audit Charter), and proposed to take WO/CC/63/7 first. Furthermore, the Chair proposed that the discussion concerning the intervention by the President of the Staff Association be held under this item which was accepted by the Coordination Committee members.

Introducing the document, the Director General highlighted the time-frame within which WIPO's three audit and oversight entities were due to complete their terms and the resulting issue of continuity; the recommendation given by the Audit Committee; and the assessment of the internal audit function carried out by the external auditor.

The WIPO Coordination Committee noted the contents of document WO/CC/63/7 and recommended that the fixed-term contract of the Internal Auditor (Director of IAOD) be renewed for a period of one year, from January 15, 2011 until January 14, 2012.

Amendments to the WIPO Staff Regulations and Staff Rules

Amendments to Regulations Provisionally Decreed under WIPO Staff Regulation 12.1

The WIPO Coordination Committee approved the amendment to WIPO Staff Regulation 3.1 ("Salaries"), which has been provisionally decreed and applied by the Director General, as reported in paragraph 1 of document WO/CC/63/6.

Termination of Employment Contracts

The WIPO Coordination Committee took note of the information provided, pursuant to Staff Regulation 9.1(e) and contained in paragraphs 3 to 6 of document WO/CC/63/6 concerning the agreed termination of seven staff members in 2009 and the termination of one employment contract, in 2010, for violations of WIPO Staff Regulation 1.5 ("Conduct") and various breaches of the Organization's Information Security policies and procedures.

International Civil Service Commission

The WIPO Coordination Committee noted the information contained in paragraph 8 of document WO/CC/63/6.

United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board

The WIPO Coordination Committee noted the information contained in paragraph 10 of document WO/CC/63/6.

Discussion Regarding the Intervention of the President of the Staff Association

The Director General recalled that the Secretariat had not had the advantage of reading the statement, neither seen it beforehand. Nevertheless, if any specific questions were to be raised, the Secretariat would be happy to answer them. He also indicated that the Secretariat would also be happy to furnish a detailed written reply or explanation.

The Chair summarized the consensus as follows: the statement by the President of the Staff Association would be distributed; the Secretariat would provide its written response; the Coordination Committee would give the WIPO management opportunity to resolve issues internally; and, if any remained unresolved, there was the possibility of convening a meeting of the Coordination Committee in the Spring.

ITEM 38

ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL REPORT AND OF THE INDIVIDUAL REPORTS OF EACH GOVERNING BODY

Comments by several delegations were noted by the Secretariat for inclusion in the final versions of the reports.

This General Report was unanimously adopted by the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and other governing bodies, each as far as it was concerned, on September 29, 2010.

Each of the Assemblies and other governing bodies of the Member States of WIPO, each as far as it was concerned, unanimously adopted the separate report concerning its session, on September 29, 2010.

ITEM 39

CLOSING OF THE SESSIONS

The Director General, at the invitation of the Chair, took the floor and stated that the Assemblies had started on some notes of harmony with Stevie Wonder and that this harmonious atmosphere, continued throughout the Assemblies. He expressed his gratitude to all the 70 Ministers who attended the High Level Segment and noted that their participation was a sign of high level political engagement and interest in the subject matter of the Organization's work. The Director General also thanked the delegations and Member States for their very constructive attitude throughout the duration of the Assemblies. He thanked all colleagues involved in the organization of the Assemblies, particularly Mr. Naresh Prasad, Secretary of the Assemblies and commended more particularly the enormous work accomplished by the translators. Finally, the Director General extended his thanks to the Chair for the very efficient conduct of the Assemblies' proceedings and for his advice and assistance during the course of the past 12 months.

The Chair delivered his closing remarks stating that it was a great honor for him to preside over the series of meetings of the Assemblies. He thanked the delegations for the great praise that they have bestowed upon him as well as the coordinators for the working time devoted to move forward the work of the Assemblies over these past 10 days. The Chair stated that the Assemblies had been extremely fruitful, had taken the important decisions, both on form and substance, and had given delegations and ministers the opportunity to explain their point of views in terms of policy in the High Level Segment. It was very important to have the general idea of the tasks that should be carried out in the future. Talking about consultations, the Chair noted that thanks to them the MTSP was very positively received. As was noted by a number of

delegations, the Assemblies worked in a very positive spirit. The Chair highlighted that the participation of Stevie Wonder in the opening session was a good idea which should be repeated. The Chair also noted that Stevie Wonder presented a reminder of what the individuals see in the day to day work of WIPO, how they perceive it and the nature of their hopes regarding this work. The Chair recalled that Stevie Wonder invited the delegations to adopt decisions and had urged them to continue working for consensus in order to come up with concrete solutions to real life problems. The Chair thanked the Director General at this juncture for his cooperation and all the colleagues from the Secretariat whose cooperation has been essential to the success of the work. The Chair also thanked all the Officers and the Chairs – present and the preceding chairs of these Assemblies. The Chair mentioned the statements and comments made by the regional representatives and the delegations concerning the selection process for the Chairs of WIPO bodies and thought that it would be a good idea for him to carry out consultations in the future. The Chair announced that he would like to carry formal consultations on this matter with all delegations in order to see whether it would be possible to come up with a transparent and equitable procedure that will allow a rotation system for the different bodies of WIPO. The Chair concluded by thanking wholeheartedly all the delegations for the cooperation provided to him for these Assemblies.

The Forty Eighth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies and other Bodies of the Member States of WIPO was closed by the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly.

