WIPO COVID-19 response package

Briefing for Permanent Missions in Geneva and IP Offices

March, 2022
• In October 2021, Member States approved a package of support measures as part of WIPO’s Program of Work and Budget 2022/23.

• WIPO resources for COVID-related activities in 2022/23: 3 million CHF.

• The implementation of the package will require a ‘whole of WIPO’ approach.

• The COVID-19 Focal Point will serve as a gateway for technical assistance requests, supported by the Regional and National Development Sector and Lead Sectors.

• WIPO will engage in a continuous dialogue with Member States to ensure that the package meets Member State needs and priorities.
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• Expected results and activities 2022/23
Strategic Pillar 1: Reach out worldwide to explain the potential for IP to improve the lives of everyone, everywhere.

ER1.1 More effective communication and engagement world-wide to raise awareness of and increase knowledge about the potential of IP to improve the lives of everyone, everywhere.

- **Regular briefing sessions** for Geneva-based Permanent Representatives and capital-based Heads of IP offices will provide information about the package and how Member States can access and request support.

- **WIPO’s COVID-19 response package webpage** will be regularly updated with information and resources related to planned and ongoing activities. The webpage includes a contact link to request technical support and assistance via the WIPO COVID-19 Focal Point: [https://www.wipo.int/covid-19/en/](https://www.wipo.int/covid-19/en/)

**Lead Sector(s):**
- Office of the Director General
- Regional and National Development Sector
Strategic Pillar 2: Bring people together and partner with stakeholders to shape the future of the global IP ecosystem.

ER2.2 WIPO brings the international community together to proactively address emerging issues and policy challenges at the global level relating to IP, innovation and creativity.

- **Legislative and policy advice**, relating to patents, trade secrets, and other related forms of IP, including assistance in making use of available **patent-related flexibilities** in national laws.

- Inclusion of “epidemic” in **PCT legal framework** to invoke “excuse of delay” provisions as an example of a **force majeure** circumstance.

- Creation of **two legal bases allowing granting of limited time extensions to PCT time limits** in case of ‘general disruption’ and allowing waiving the provision of evidence of a force majeure circumstance.

- In cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), WIPO will support the **Program on Non-proprietary Names (INNs) for Pharmaceutical Substances**, including COVID-19 INNs for medicines.

- Studies on **innovation determinants** in the COVID-19 vaccine and medicine development as well as the production ecosystem, including access to publicly funded research results, and organization of a related seminar.

**Lead Sector(s):**
- Patents and Technology Sector
- Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector
- Brands and Design Sector
Strategic Pillar 2: Bring people together and partner with stakeholders to shape the future of the global IP ecosystem.

Er2.4 Effective interaction and partnerships with the UN, IGOs and NGOs in support of global goals to which IP can contribute.

- **Strengthened cooperation with WHO and WTO** in global policy areas at the intersection of health, trade and IP.

- Launch of the [WIPO – WTO- WHO Trilateral Technical Assistance Gateway](#): ‘one stop shop’ for coordination and delivery of support.

- **2022 Trilateral Symposium on Lessons Learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and looking forward** (June, 2022).

- WIPO’s role on the [Executive Board of the Medicines Patent Pool](#) (MPP) will leverage strengths in response to COVID-19 and other global health challenges.

**Lead Sector(s):**
- Global Challenges and Partnership Sector
Strategic Pillar 3: Provide high quality IP services, knowledge and data that deliver value to users around the world.

**ER3.1 Wider and more effective use of WIPO’s global IP systems, services, knowledge and data.**

- WIPO will accelerate efforts to increase access and use of the Madrid and Hague Systems by SMEs and implement time limit flexibilities.

- New services by the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Centre, including tailored WIPO mediation agreements to facilitate contract negotiation and developing best practices in dispute resolution particularly in the health and life sciences sectors.

- Launch of WIPO ADR Guidance Document for the Life Sciences sector (October 2022) and promotion of new WIPO ADR Options through publications and events.

- Upgrading existing e-tools and web services for PCT operations including Virtual Desktop Infrastructure and ePCT. Increasing intelligent automation and self-service activities to enhance customer journey.

**Lead Sector(s):**
- IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector
- Brands and Design Sector
- Patents and Technology Sector
Strategic Pillar 3: Provide high quality IP services, knowledge and data that deliver value to users around the world.

ER3.3 Knowledge transfer and technology adaptation is facilitated through WIPO’s IP-based platforms and tools to address global challenges.

• Supporting platforms to accelerate knowledge transfer and technology adaptation, matching developers and input suppliers with producers and users, to scale up COVID-19 vaccine production.

• Enhancing cooperation and partnerships, particularly with research institutions, to facilitate better access to publicly available patent information.

• Strengthening patent information services, innovation support programs and tools, including the Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI) program and the WIPO INSPIRE platform.

Lead Sector(s):
- IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector
- Global Challenges and Partnership Sector
Strategic Pillar 4: Support governments, enterprises, communities and individuals to use IP as a tool for growth and sustainable development.

ER4.3 Increase IP knowledge and skills in all Member States.

- Empowering Member States to deliver IP training through national IP Training Institutions (IPTIs), including modules on IP and Public Health and Innovation and Medical Technology.

- WIPO Academy to deliver new pilot series of short Executive Programs focusing on post COVID-19 economic recovery.

- Expanding WIPO Academy Distance Learning scholarship program and fee exemptions for participants from developing countries, LDCs and economies in transition.

- Expanding cooperation with the International Trade Centre’s (ITC) eLearning Academy.

- WIPO will broaden the scope of PCT technical assistance activities, increasing impact through combined remote and hands-on trainings.

Lead Sector(s):
- Regional and National Development Sector
- Patents and Technology Sector
Strategic Pillar 4: Support governments, enterprises, communities and individuals to use IP as a tool for growth and sustainable development.

ER4.4 More innovators, creators, SMEs, universities, research institutions and communities leverage IP successfully.

- Publishing preliminary (March, 2022) and updated patent landscape reports on COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics and creating related content in the PATENTSCOPE portal.
- Preparing a package of technology transfer resources for pandemic preparedness including a database of relevant IP policies.
- Leveraging WIPO Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) and other technology transfer structures.
- Developing decision making and licensing tools for improved use of genetic resources (GR) and GR data and a report on GR data and new technologies illustrating their relevance for vaccines and therapeutics.
- Improving availability of knowledge resources including both online and offline, e.g. textbooks and reference materials, for primary and secondary schools in LDCs and developing countries.

Lead Sector(s):
- IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector
- Brands and Design Sector
- Copyright and Creative Industries Sector
Engaging with SMEs, Youth, Women & Local Communities

**SMEs**
- Supporting SMEs to access the Madrid and Hague systems and develop IP management processes.
- Empirical study on the link between IP intensive industries and national economic resilience to the pandemic.

**Youth**
- Organizing specialized trainings on technology transfer and IP rights, including sector specific capacity building programs targeting SMEs that have experienced significant growth during the pandemic (e.g. video gaming industry), with emphasis on youth.

**Local Communities**
- Supporting participation of entrepreneurs in the digital economy.
- Exploring the impact of COVID-19 on local communities, including indigenous communities, to inform the design of appropriate initiatives.

**Women**
- Implementation of specific projects aiming at the creation, protection and leveraging of brand value through collective, certification marks and geographical indications, including for women entrepreneurs.
Accessing Information & Requesting Support

- **WIPO COVID-19 response package webpage** is regularly updated with information and resources.

- [https://www.wipo.int/covid-19/](https://www.wipo.int/covid-19/)

- **WIPO Focal Point:** Mr. Sherif Saadallah

- **Email contact:** Emily Fraser, Program Officer, COVID-19 Focal Point ([emily.fraser@wipo.int](mailto:emily.fraser@wipo.int))