

## **Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO**

### **Forty-Eighth Series of Meetings Geneva, September 20 to 29, 2010**

#### **POLICY ON WIPO EXTERNAL OFFICES**

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. WIPO currently has four external offices, located (in chronological order of their establishment) in New York, United States of America; Singapore; Tokyo; and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The New York Office has served principally as a liaison office for the United Nations and has been in existence since WIPO became a specialized agency of the United Nations. The remaining offices were more recently established, in response to offers to host them by the respective host countries.
2. A significant number of other Member States have approached the Director General in the past two years and have expressed an interest in hosting, or have made a concrete proposal to host, an external office for the Organization. The extent of interest is a very welcome sign of engagement in, and support for, the Organization. It highlights, however, the absence of a clear policy on the part of the Organization for the establishment of new offices. The Director General proposes, therefore, to initiate a consultation process with Member States in the coming twelve months, with a view to being able to recommend a policy for the consideration of Member States at the meetings of the WIPO Assemblies in September/October 2011. It is not intended in this process to re-consider the agreements already concluded with Member States concerning the existing external offices.
3. It is intended that the consultation should cover at least the following questions:
  - (i) What needs and purposes may be served by external offices?
  - (ii) What functions should external offices perform?
  - (iii) What is the cost/benefit analysis of performing those functions through external offices compared to performance of the functions from Headquarters?

- (iv) How would the relationship between Headquarters and external offices function?
- (v) How should the location of external offices be decided?

*4. The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it are invited to take note of the present document.*

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