

WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

GENEVA

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO

Thirty-Fifth Series of Meetings Geneva, September 25 to October 3, 2000

REQUEST TO INCLUDE THE TWO DAYS OF ISLAMIC FEASTS (*ID AL-FITR AND ID AL-ADHA*) IN THE OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS OF WIPO

*Request from the Council of Heads of Arab
Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva*

1. In a letter dated March 9, 2000, the Permanent Representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, acting in his capacity as Chairman, for the month of March 2000, of the Council of Heads of Arab Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva (the Council), requested, on behalf of the Council, the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to take into consideration the dates of the Islamic feasts of *Id al-Fitr* and *Id al-Adha* while programming the meetings convened by WIPO, and to include the dates of the said feasts among the Organization's official holidays. The text of the said letter appears in the Annex to the present document.
2. It is recalled that the United Nations (UN) General Assembly was seized with a similar issue in 1997 and, in consequence, adopted in Resolution 52/214 (Pattern of Conferences) two decisions. The text of paragraphs 5 and 6 of UN General Assembly Resolution 52/214 reads as follows:

"The General Assembly [...]

"5. Decides that henceforth the two holidays of *Id al-Fitr* and *Id al-Adha* shall be observed as official holidays of the United Nations at Headquarters, and at other duty stations where applicable, and that United Nations buildings at those locations shall be closed to the public on those days;

“6. Decides also that no United Nations meetings shall be held on Id al-Fitr and Id al-Adha, which occur in 1998 on 29 January and 7 April, respectively, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure strict implementation of this decision and of paragraph 5 above when preparing all future draft calendars of conferences and meetings of the United Nations.”

3. The WIPO General Assembly and the WIPO Coordination Committee are invited to pronounce themselves on the request contained in the letter set out in the Annex.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

[Original: Arabic; English translation by the
International Bureau of WIPO]

The Permanent Delegation of the Arab
League to the United Nations and
International Organizations
Geneva

114/2

9/3/2000

Dr. Kamil Idris
Director General
World Intellectual Property Organization

I have the honor to convey to your Excellency that the Council of Heads of Arab Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva, that I assume the periodical chairmanship, has requested me to convey to you its request to take into consideration the dates of the Islamic feasts when preparing the calendar of meetings of your esteemed Organization, and in particular the feasts of *Id al-Fitr* and *Id al-Adha* observed as non-working days in the United Nations according to the General Assembly Resolution No. 52/214 (Paragraph A) and confirmed by its Resolution No. 52/488 of 31 March 1998.

The Heads of Arab Permanent Missions, like the representatives of all Muslim countries, are looking forward to including these holy days among the Organization's official holidays — if it has not already done so — and reaffirm, however, the importance of non-programming of meetings during these two occasions as delegations of Muslim countries will be unable to participate in such meetings.

We look forward to your sincere cooperation and consideration.

Please accept, Mr. Director General, the assurances of our highest consideration.

(signed)

Ambassador
Mohamad Salih Dambarly
Permanent Representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria,
Chairman of the Council of Arab Heads of Missions for the Month of March 2000

[End of Annex and of document]