

Special Union for the International Registration of Marks (Madrid Union)

Assembly

Forty-Third (25th Extraordinary) Session Geneva, September 20 to 29, 2010

REPORT

adopted by the Assembly

1. The Assembly was concerned with the following items of the Consolidated Agenda (document A/48/1): 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 31, 38 and 39.
2. The report on the said items with the exception of item 31 is contained in the General Report (document A/48/26).
3. The report on item 31 is contained in the present document.
4. In the absence of the Chair and unavailability of the Vice-Chairs, Mr. Li Feng Schrock (Germany) acted on an *ad hoc* basis as Chair of the meeting.

ITEM 31 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

MADRID SYSTEM

5. Discussions were based on documents MM/A/43/1 and MM/A/43/2.
6. 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.
7. The Delegation of Tajikistan delivered a statement on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Farrukh Hamraliev, Minister for Economic Development and Trade (document A/48/26), part of which is quoted as follows:

“The Central Asian region had enormous economic development potential and further enhancement of WIPO’s work in that region was very important. At the initiative of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan, in collaboration with WIPO and other UN agencies, work was currently being carried out to improve and harmonize existing laws in the field of intellectual property with the provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). Furthermore, the issue of devising an intellectual property strategy was being agreed with the relevant WIPO bodies, taking into account the Republic of Tajikistan’s economic development, and in that matter Tajikistan hoped for WIPO’s support. At the initiative of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan, a draft of the relevant act had been prepared on the Republic of Tajikistan’s accession to the Protocol to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, which had significant potential for developing the country’s economic growth. It was expected that the Republic of Tajikistan would accede to the aforementioned Protocol by the end of 2010. The issue of accession to other priority instruments, the administrative functions of which were performed by WIPO, was also being examined.”
8. The Delegation of Tajikistan furthermore expressed the appreciation of its Government for the cooperation provided by WIPO in the construction of a national intellectual property strategy, which would contribute to the economic development of the country. Therefore, the Delegation considered that cooperation between the Government of Tajikistan and WIPO would remain a very positive contribution to the economic improvement of the country.
9. The Director General of WIPO expressed his appreciation to the Delegation of Tajikistan and also expressed the satisfaction of all the stakeholders of the Madrid system for the decision of Tajikistan to accede to the Madrid Protocol. The Director General stated that, as a result, there would only remain one Contracting Party bound exclusively by the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, and that the prospect of a unified Madrid system was keenly anticipated in the near future.
10. Discussions were then based on document MM/A/43/1 (Information Technology Modernization Program (Madrid and Hague International Registration Systems): Progress Report).

11. The Secretariat indicated that this document provided a progress report on the Information Technology Modernization Program, as approved by the Assembly in its previous session. The Secretariat was pleased to report that significant progress had been achieved in the implementation of this program and a revised schedule for the implementation of Phase II of this program was being presented for consideration by the Assembly.
12. 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.
13. Discussions which followed were based on document MM/A/43/2 (Madrid System Goods and Services Database: Progress Report).
14. 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.
15. The Delegation of China commended the International Bureau for the work undertaken in the development of the Madrid System Goods and Services Database. The Delegation of China recalled that, under a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding with WIPO, the Government of China had engaged in a very active cooperation to ensure that the integration of Chinese terms in the aforesaid database could be done smoothly. The Delegation of China expressed that it would continue its close cooperation with WIPO concerning the implementation of this project.
16. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea expressed its appreciation for the progress made by the International Bureau in the implementation of this project and stated that it would positively consider to contribute some 15,000 indications, that were acceptable to the Office of the Republic of Korea, for integration into the aforesaid database. The Delegation also expressed its intention to provide a link from the current electronic filing facilities of the aforementioned Office to the search engine allowing access to the Madrid System Goods and Services Database, once the database becomes available to the public.
17. The Assembly took note of the progress report presented in document MM/A/43/2.

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