

WIPO Coordination Committee
Sixty-First (22nd Extra-ordinary) Session

Summary by the Chair

1. The Sixty-First (22nd Extraordinary) session of the Coordination Committee was held on June 15 and 16, 2009. The meeting was opened by the Vice-Chair of the Coordination Committee Mr. Muktar Djumaliev (Kyrgyzstan) and presided over by Mr. Muktar Djumaliev and the second Vice-Chair Mr. Mohamed Abderraouf Bdioui (Tunisia).

2. The following Member States of the Coordination Committee were represented at the meeting: Afghanistan (*ad hoc*), Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia (*ad hoc*), France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland (*ex officio*), Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, Yemen, Zambia (74).

3. The following States were represented in an observer capacity: Belarus, Burundi, Cambodia, Comoros, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea, Holy See, Iraq, Israel, Lesotho, Monaco, Panama, Sri Lanka, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe (21).

Agenda Item 3: Appointment of Deputy Directors General and Assistant Directors General

4. The discussions were based on document WO/CC/61/2.

5. The Director General paid tribute to the existing team, who had worked with such dedication throughout their terms of office. He thanked Member States for their constructive participation in the nomination process, which had resulted in 20 excellent candidates proposed and for the flexibility shown by all Groups in seeking consensus around the proposals. He stressed the importance of geographical representation, assuring that it was a priority question that would be addressed in the proposed 2010/2011 Program and Budget.

6. The Committee thanked the Director General for the extensive consultative process he had undertaken on the appointments of Deputy Directors General and Assistant Directors General and expressed general support for the appointments proposed. The Committee paid tribute to the outgoing team and wished success to the new team, emphasizing the challenges before them in light of the Strategic Realignment. Concerns were expressed however, regarding the need for proper geographical representation, not only for senior management but also across the Secretariat.

7. The Committee approved the appointments to the posts of Deputy Director General of Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama (Nigeria), Ms. Wang Binying (China), Mr. Johannes Christian Wichard (Germany), Mr. James Pooley (United States of America), and gave a favorable advice on the appointments to the posts of Assistant Director General of Mr. Yoshiyuki Takagi (Japan), Mr. Trevor C. Clarke (Barbados) and Mr. Ramanathan Ambi Sundaram (Sri Lanka), for the period from December 1, 2009, to November 30, 2014, on the understanding that Mr. Sundaram might start on an earlier date.

Agenda Item 4: Proposal for Voluntary Separation Scheme

8. Discussions were based on document WO/CC/61/3.

9. The Director General introduced the proposed voluntary separation program.

10. After extensive deliberations, the Committee approved the Director General's proposal to derogate temporarily until June 30, 2010, from the relevant provisions in Chapter IX of the WIPO Staff Regulations and Staff Rules on separation from service, for the purpose of implementing a voluntary separation program as described in Paragraphs 1 to 24 of the document. The Committee took note of the fact that the financing of these measures would be charged to the existing provision for separation from service and medical benefits following separation from service, up to a maximum amount of 30 million Swiss francs.

11. The Coordination Committee requested the Secretariat to produce for the Committee in its September 2009 session, an addendum to document WO/CC/61/3, providing detailed responses to the questions and concerns raised by Member States. The document should be circulated before the next meeting of the Program and Budget Committee. The Staff Council was also invited to submit its comments in writing on the voluntary separation scheme before the September 2009 Session of the Coordination Committee. The voluntary separation scheme should remain a standing item on the Coordination Committee's agenda, until the end of the derogation period.

12. In addition to amending paragraph 25, the Committee agreed to amend Paragraphs 13, 17 and 21 of the document, as follows.

13. Paragraph 13 would read "Applications will be examined by the Human Resources Management Department and the Finance Department, Budget and Program Management, prior to submission to the Director General. The Director General will have final discretion to approve or reject applications based on the interests of the Organization, as determined in the light of operational needs, the findings of the Strategic Realignment review process, and the calculation of cost savings in each case. The implementation of this program will be reviewed by the Audit Committee, which will report on its review to the General Assembly."

14. The last sentence would be added to Paragraph 17 which would read: "In exceptional cases, however, after a minimum period of seven years from the date of separation, the Director General may decide to re-employ a former staff member who had separated under the Pre-retirement scheme, if he judges that such action is in the interests of the good administration of the Organization. Any such exceptional cases will be reported to the Coordination Committee."

15. Paragraph 21 was amended by adding at the end the following words “including Consultancy contract, Special Labour contract, Special Service Agreement, or the like. In exceptional cases, however, after a minimum period of seven years from the date of separation, the Director General may decide to re-employ a former staff member who had separated under the voluntary separation scheme, if he judges that such action is in the interests of the good administration of the Organization. Any such exceptional cases will be reported to the Coordination Committee.”

Agenda Item 5: Financial Disclosure/Declaration of interest.

16. The discussions were based on document WO/CC/61/4. The Legal Counsel stated that this constituted a first phase to specifically address the statutory requirements under the WIPO Staff Regulations and Staff Rules, in particular Staff Regulation 1.6, and that it would be followed by a second phase aiming at developing a more extensive financial disclosure system modeled after the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions.

17. The Committee welcomed the proposal as an important step toward good governance and accountability. The Secretariat informed the Committee that all their comments, together with the written comments received from the WIPO Audit Committee, would be taken into account in the subsequent implementation of the scheme. The Committee approved the proposal and took note of the information contained in the document.

Agenda Item 6: Designation of the Chair of the WIPO Appeal Board

18. The Committee designated Mr. Dominick Devlin as the Chair of the WIPO Appeal Board as proposed in document WO/CC/61/5.

19. The Secretariat proposed that the full draft report of the Committee would be circulated to the Group Coordinators and to the Member States. A deadline of about one month would be accorded to Member States for amendments to the draft report, after which the report of the Coordination Committee would be adopted as final and put on the WIPO website.

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