

WIPO Coordination Committee

Sixty-Ninth (25th Extraordinary) Session Geneva, March 6 and 7, 2014

NOMINATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF WIPO

Memorandum by the Chair of the Coordination Committee

1. The Chair of the Coordination Committee sent, on September 6, 2013, Information Circular No. 3470 to all Member States of WIPO inviting them to propose one of their nationals as a candidate for the post of Director General of WIPO.
2. The nominations of the following persons, listed in alphabetical order, were received by the Chair of the Coordination Committee and each was communicated, following its receipt, to the Member States of WIPO:
 - Mr. Francis Gurry (Australia)
 - Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama (Nigeria)
 - Mr. Jüri Seilenthal (Estonia)
 - Mr. Alfredo Suescum Alfaro (Panama)
3. The Annex to this document sets out the text of the letter of transmittal of each of the above-mentioned candidatures, together with the curriculum vitae of the corresponding candidate.

[Annex follows]



THE HON JULIE BISHOP MP

Minister for Foreign Affairs

HE Mr Kwok Fook Seng
Chair, WIPO Coordination Committee
34 chemin des Colombettes
CH 1211 Geneva 20
SWITZERLAND

Dear Ambassador Kwok

I am writing to formally nominate Dr Francis Gurry for re-election to the position of Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Dr Gurry is an Australian national and his nomination enjoys the support of the Australian Government. Since his election as Director General in 2008 Dr Gurry has served WIPO and its Member States with great distinction, introducing much-needed management reforms, revitalizing WIPO's normative agenda and ensuring the organization is well-placed to lead international developments on intellectual property into the future. Given his proven performance and outstanding personal qualities I believe Dr Gurry should be given the opportunity to complete his reform agenda at WIPO.

Dr Gurry's curriculum vitae is attached, as requested by WIPO Circular CN 3470-04 of 6 September 2013. On behalf of the Australian Government I warmly commend his candidature to all WIPO Member States.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Julie Bishop'.

Julie Bishop

18 SEP 2013

Curriculum Vitae of Dr Francis Gurry



Date of Birth: 17 May 1951
Nationality: Australian
Family: Married, three children

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

1980 **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D)**
University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Yorke Prize, Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge

1976 **Master of Laws (LL.M)**
University of Melbourne, Australia

1975 **Admitted Barrister and Solicitor**
Supreme Court of Victoria, Australia

1974 **Bachelor of Laws (LL.B)**
University of Melbourne, Australia

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2008-present **Director General**

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
Geneva, Switzerland

Secretary General, International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of
Plants (UPOV)

2003-2008 **Deputy Director General**

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Responsible for: the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT); patent law and policy
and International Patent Classification (IPC); WIPO Standards; WIPO

statistics; the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center; Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions, Genetic Resources and Life Sciences

1999-2003 Assistant Director General and Legal Counsel

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Legal Counsel's Office; also responsible for: the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center; electronic commerce; and from 2002: the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), patent law and policy and the International Patent Classification (IPC); Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions, Genetic Resources and Life Sciences

1997-1999 Legal Counsel

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Legal Counsel's Office; also responsible for the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center; electronic commerce

1993-1997 Office of Deputy Director General

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Director, WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center; Acting Legal Counsel (1996-1997)

1990-1993 Office of the Director General

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Special Assistant to the Director-General (1991-1993) and Director-Counsellor

1988-1990 Head, Industrial Property Law Section

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Industrial Property Division

1985-1988 Consultant and Senior Program Officer

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Development Cooperation and External Relations Bureau for Asia and Pacific

- 1984** **Attorney-at-Law**
Freehills, Sydney
- 1982-1983** **Visiting Professor of Law**
University of Dijon, France
- 1976 – 1979** **Research Student**
Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge
(Tapp Studentship, Gonville and Caius College, 1978-79)
- 1979-1984** **Senior Lecturer in Law**
University of Melbourne
- 1974-1976** Articled Clerk, then **Attorney-at-Law**
Arthur Robinson & Co, Melbourne

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

- 2012-present** **Chair, High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board (CEB)**
- 2013** **Member, Consultative Commission for International Geneva** (Commission consultative les relations de la Genève internationale)

HONOURS AND DISTINCTIONS

- 2013** **Alawite Commander Wissam**
Kingdom of Morocco
- 2012** **Fellow**
Australian Institute of International Affairs
- 2012** **Honorary Doctorate**
Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, Republic of Moldova
- 2012** **Honorary Member of the University Council of the Arts** University of Alcalá, Spain
- 2012** **Honorary Doctorate**
Eurasian National University, Kazakhstan
- 2011** **Honorary Doctorate**
University of Akron, USA

- 2010** **Honorary Doctorate**
Haifa University, Israel
- 2010** **Honorary Doctorate**
Renmin University, China
- 2009** **Honorary Doctorate**
National Technical University of Ukraine
- 2009** **Honorary Professor**
Peking University, China
- 2008** **Member**
European Academy of Sciences and Arts
- 2001** **Honorary Professorial Fellow**
Faculty of Law, University of Melbourne, Australia

ADVISORY AND EDITORIAL BOARDS

Campaign Patron, Campaign for the University of Melbourne

Honorary Chair, Board of Management, Centre for China Innovation Index Research,
Peking University

Advisory Board, Geneva LL.M. in International Dispute Settlement, University of
Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Advisory Board, Melbourne Journal of International Law

Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Law, Faculty of Law, University of
Cambridge

Intellectual Property Research Institute of Australia, Faculty of Law, University
of Melbourne, Australia

Indian Journal of Intellectual Property

SCRIPT-ed - A Journal of Law, Technology & Society, University of Edinburgh,
United Kingdom

LANGUAGES

English (mother-tongue), French (fluent)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Breach of Confidence (1984), Oxford University Press, Clarendon, pp. 1-487
(now published as *Gurry on Breach of Confidence. The Protection of Confidential Information*,
Second Edition by Tanya Aplin, Lionel Bently, Phillip Johnson, and Simon Malynicz, Oxford
University Press, Clarendon, 2012)

Intellectual Property in an Integrated World Economy (2007) (with Frederick Abbot and
Thomas Cottier), Aspen publishers, pp ix-xxix, 1-683

International Intellectual Property System: Commentary and Materials (1999) (with Frederick
Abbott and Thomas Cottier), Kluwer, pp i-xxxii, 1-2026

Chapters in Books

Foreword, David Lindsay, *International Domain Name
Law: ICANN and the UDRP* (Hart, Oxford, 2007)

Préface, Valérie-Anne Giscard d'Estaing, *Inventions* (Edition 2007) (Michel Lafon)

Foreword, *Intellectual Property Management in Health and Agricultural Innovation* (eds. A.
Krattinger et al.) (MIHR and PIPR) (2007)

“The Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy” (2002) *XXVII Yearbook Commercial
Arbitration* 299-304

Foreword, *Martindale-Hubbell International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution Directory*
(1999) (Martindale-Hubbell, East Grinstead, U.K.)

“WIPO Arbitration Center,” in American Intellectual Property Law Association, *ADR Guide*
(1994)

“Arbitrability of Intellectual Property Disputes,” in Swiss Arbitration Association, *Objective
Arbitrability, Antitrust Disputes, Intellectual Property Disputes* (ASA Special Series N/6, 1994)

“Institutional Aspects,” in Peter Robinson, Karl P. Sauvant and Vishwas P. Govitrikar,
Electronic Highways for World Trade – Issues in Telecommunication and Data Services
(Westview Press, 1989)

“Liability Issues Affecting Non-Contracting Parties,” in OECD, *Transborder Data Flows* (North
Holland, 1985)

“Confidentiality,” in P.D. Finn (Ed.), *Essays in Equity* (Law Book Co, Sydney, 1985)

Journal Articles

“Copyright in the Digital Environment: Restoring the Balance” (24th Horace S. Manges Lecture, April 6, 2011) (2011) 35 *Columbia Journal of Law and the Arts* 1-15

“The Cambrian Explosion” (2007) 38 *International Review of Intellectual Property and Competition Law* 255-258

“Globalization, Intellectual Property and Development,” *Proceedings of the American Society of International Law* 2005

“The Growing Complexity of International Policy in Intellectual Property” (2005) 11 (1) *Science and Engineering Ethics* 13-20

“The Dispute Resolution Services of the World Intellectual Property Organization” (1999) *Journal of International Economic Law* 385-398

“The Evolution of Technology and Markets and the Management of Intellectual Property Rights,” in Frederick Abbott and David Gerber (eds.), *Public Policy and Global Technology Integration* (Kluwer, 1997)

“IP Licensing Disputes: When Courts are not the Answer” (1995) *IP Worldwide* 13

“Arbitrage et propriété intellectuelle,” in Institut de recherche en propriété intellectuelle, *Arbitrage et propriété intellectuelle* (Libraires Techniques, 1994)

“Introduction” to 1994 Annual Volume (Volume 5) of the *American Review of International Arbitration* 1-5

“New Television Services – Opportunities for Diversification” (1982) 10 *Australian Business Law Review* 157-173

“The Implementation of Policy through Executive Action” (1977)
11 *Melbourne University Law Review* 189-222

“The Role of the Permanent Establishment in Double Taxation Agreements” (1976) 5 *Australian Tax Review* 12-26

“Aspects of the Law of Contract in Takeover Offers” (1976) 50 *Australian Law Journal* 167-174



MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Tafawa Balewa House
Plot 736-737, Central Business District,
Abuja - Nigeria.

PM B 130, Garki - Abuja
Telegram: Foreign Abuja

Chairman of the Coordination Committee
World Intellectual Property Organization
34 Chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland.

16th September, 2013

Your Excellency,

**NOMINATION OF MR GEOFFREY ONYEAMA FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR
GENERAL, WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO);
FOR THE PERIOD 2014 - 2020**

I write in response to your Circular Note No. 3470 of 6 September, 2013 announcing the vacancy of the post of Director-General of WIPO for the period 2014 - 2020, and in this regard, to formally forward the nomination of Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as Nigeria's candidate for the post. Mr. Onyeama's Curriculum Vitae is attached herewith for ease of reference.

2. Mr. Onyeama has served WIPO with great distinction for more than 28 years, having joined the Organization in 1985, and risen to be Deputy Director General (Development Sector). His legal training, professional experience, exposure and loyal stewardship in various challenging positions for 28 years at WIPO qualify him for the post of Director-General. Given his sterling performance, dedication and proven delivery capabilities over the years, it is self-evident that Mr. Onyeama will greatly enhance the growth of WIPO, improve on its services to Member-States, and advance its competitiveness beyond its peers. The Federal Government of Nigeria is therefore pleased to submit Mr. Onyeama's candidature for the post of Director-General of WIPO.

3. In the interim, the Permanent Representative of Nigeria in Geneva will continue to work and cooperate with your Committee in the selection process.

4. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Professor (Mrs.) Viola Adaku Onwuliri
Minister of Foreign Affairs

CURRICULUM VITAE OF MR. GEOFFREY ONYEAMA

Date of Birth:
February 2, 1956

Nationality:
Nigerian

Family status:
Married with three children



Education:

Bachelor of Arts (BA), Political Science, Columbia University (Columbia College),
New York, USA, (1977)

Bachelor of Arts (BA), Law, Cambridge University (St. John's College), Cambridge,
United Kingdom (1980)

Master of Laws (LL.M), Law, University of London (London School of Economics and Political
Science (LSE), London, United Kingdom (1982)

Master of Arts (MA), Law, Cambridge University (St. John's College), Cambridge,
United Kingdom (1984)

Academic Recognition:

- Dean's List of Columbia College, Columbia University, New York, USA

Professional Qualification:

- Barrister-at-law, Gray's Inn, London, United Kingdom (1981)
- Solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, Nigerian Law School, Lagos,
Nigeria (1983)

Work Experience:

- Research Officer, Nigerian Law Reform Commission, Lagos, Nigeria,
(1983-1984)
- Law Practitioner, Mogboh and Associates, Enugu, Nigeria (1984-1985)

1985 to present World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

1985–1986 – Assistant Program Officer, Development Cooperation and External
Relations, Bureau for Africa and Western Asia

(The Bureau was renamed the Development Cooperation and External Relations Bureau for Africa
at the end of 1985)

- 1986–1990 – Program Officer, Development Cooperation and External Relations Bureau for Africa
- 1990–1996 – Senior Program Officer, Development Cooperation and External Relations Bureau for Africa
- 1996–1998 – Senior Counsellor, Development Cooperation and External Relations Bureau for Africa

(The Bureau was renamed the Cooperation for Development Bureau for Africa at the end of 1997)

- 1998 – Deputy Director, Cooperation for Development Bureau for Africa
- 1998–1999 – Acting Director, Cooperation for Development Bureau for Africa

(The Bureau was renamed the Economic Development Bureau for Africa at the end of 2003)

- 1999–2006 – Director, Cooperation for Development Bureau for Africa
- 2006–2009 – Assistant Director General, Coordination Sector for External Relations, Industry, Communications and Public Outreach.

Responsible for: coordinating relations with United Nations (UN) organizations, other intergovernmental organizations, industry, non-governmental organizations (NGOs); and responsible for communication, public outreach, media relations and gender focal point.

* In this capacity, initiated, in 2008, with the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organizations (IFRRO), the process within WIPO that culminated in the adoption of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

- 1/12/2009 to present – Deputy Director General, Development Sector.

Responsible for: the regional bureaus for Africa, Arab Countries, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean; the Least-Developed Countries Division (LDCs); the Development Agenda Coordination Division (DACD); the WIPO Academy and the Special Projects Division.

Languages:

- English, French, German and Ibo



Välisminister
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Estonia

H.E. Mr. Fodé Seck
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Sénégal
Chair of the Coordination Committee
World Intellectual Property Organization
34, Chemin des Colombettes,
CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Dear Mr. Fodé Seck,

5. December 2013 No *0.1-3/9925*

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I have on behalf of my government decided to nominate our ambassador to UN and other International Organizations in Geneva, Mr. Jüri Seilenthal as a candidate for the position of Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

Mr. Seilenthal has served his country with distinction, including for the last 4 years in Geneva as our Permanent Representative. That period has included numerous chairing and oversight responsibilities on behalf of member states in different international organizations. This includes WIPO, where he served in the position of Chair of the Coordination Committee two years ago.

The *curriculum vitae* of Mr. Seilenthal will be added for ease of reference.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration

Urmas Paet

JÜRI SEILENTHAL

Short biography

Mr. Jüri Seienthal was appointed as the Permanent Representative, Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia to UN and other international organizations in Geneva in August 2009. During his tenure in Geneva he has held several elective or nominated positions in various UN bodies and other International Organizations.

From September 2012 to March 2013 Mr. Jüri Seienthal was the President of the Trade and Development Board (TDB) of UNCTAD and currently he continues as Vice President of the TDB. Between September 2011 and 2012 he chaired WIPO Coordination Committee and from March 2011 to 2012 he chaired the WTO Council for Trade in Goods. Mr. Seienthal also served as friend of Chair (facilitator) for UNCTAD XIII in 2012/2013 and was the Vice-president of CCW prot V in 2012.

Since 1995 Mr. Jüri Seienthal has held various positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia:

From June 2007 till present - Estonian Ambassador to the Holy See (non-resident);

From 2006 to 2009 – Chief of Staff of the Minister of Foreign Affairs;

Between 2002 and 2006 - Estonian Ambassador in Italy and in Malta (non- resident);

From 1999 to 2005 – Estonian Ambassador in Israel (non-resident);

From April 1999 to August 2002 - Deputy Permanent Undersecretary for Administrative Affairs. Also, between autumn 1999 and 2010 Mr. Seienthal was the head of delegation for the negotiations on diplomatic real-estate with the Russian Federation;

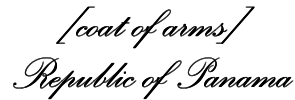
From April 1997 to 1999 - Estonia's first *Charge d'Affaires* a.i., Estonian Embassy in Ireland;

Between February 1996 and April 1997 - Director of the Human Resources Department;

From February 1995 to 1996 – Counselor, Assistant of the Secretary General.

Before joining the public service in 1995 Mr. Seienthal worked in a bank and in a public opinion research company.

In 1993 Mr. Seilenthal graduated with *Cum Laude* from the University of Tartu in Estonia. During his studies he spent the academic year of 1991 to 1992 at the University of Lund in Sweden and acted as the President of the Student Union of the University of Tartu between 1993 and 1994. Mr. Jüri Seilenthal speaks fluently Estonian, English, Finnish, Russian and Italian, and has basic knowledge of French and German languages.



**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Office of the Minister**

DGOCl/DGca/1362/2013
November 29, 2013

Mr. President,

I am honored to write to you with reference to your Circular No. 3470 of 6 September 2013 announcing the vacancy of the position of Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for the 2014-2020 period.

With reference to the attached Note D.M. N-2090-2013 of 27 November 2013 from His Excellency Ricardo Quijano, Minister of Trade and Industry of Panama, we are pleased to reiterate the candidacy of Ambassador Alfredo Suescum, Permanent Representative of Panama to the World Trade Organization and other trade-related international organizations in Geneva, for the position of Director General of WIPO. Accordingly, on behalf of the Government of Panama, we request you to recommend Ambassador Suescum's candidacy to all the Member States of WIPO.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

[signed]
Mayra I. Arosemena
Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs

Ambassador
Fodé Seck
President of the Coordination Committee
World Intellectual Property Organization
Geneva, Switzerland



República de Panamá

*Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Despacho del Ministro*

DGOCI/DGca/1362/2013
29 de noviembre de 2013

Señor Presidente:

Tengo el honor de dirigirme a Vuestra Excelencia en ocasión de hacer referencia a su Nota circular No.3470, del 6 de septiembre de 2013, en la cual se anuncia la vacante para el cargo de Director General de la Organización Mundial de la Propiedad Intelectual (OMPI); período 2014-2020.

En ese sentido, y en atención a la nota D.M. N-2090-2013 de 27 de noviembre de 2013, firmada por S.E. Ricardo Quijano, Ministro de Comercio e Industrias de Panamá, la cual adjunto, nos complace reiterar la postulación del Embajador Alfredo Suescum, Representante Permanente de Panamá ante la Organización Mundial del Comercio y otros Organismos Internacionales vinculados al Comercio con sede en Ginebra, como candidato de la República de Panamá para el cargo de Director General de la OMPI. Por lo tanto, en nombre del Gobierno panameño, solicitamos recomiende esta candidatura a todos los Estados Miembros de dicho organismo.

Aprovecho la oportunidad para reiterar a Vuestra Excelencia las seguridades de mi distinguida consideración.


MAYRA I. AROSEMENA
Ministra Encargada de Relaciones Exteriores

A Su Excelencia
FODÉ SECK
Presidente del Comité de Coordinación
Organización Mundial de la Propiedad Intelectual
Ginebra, Suiza

Republic of Panama
Ministry of Trade and Industry

27 November 2013
D.M.-N-2090-2013

Your Excellency,

Nomination of Alfredo Suescum as candidate for the position of Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization for the 2014-2020 period.

With reference to your circular no. 3470 of 6 September 2013, wherein the vacancy for the position of Director General of WIPO was announced, we are pleased to inform you of the application of Ambassador Alfredo Suescum as candidate of the Republic of Panama to this position.

Ambassador Suescum is a lawyer as well as an international trade law and trade diplomacy consultant, with 27 years of professional experience. He is currently the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Panama to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Centre (ITC).

He is also Chairman of the TRIPS Council in the WTO and acting Chairman of the TRIPS Council in Special Session. He has served as Vice – Chair of the WIPO General Assembly and currently sits on the Advisory Committee of UNCTAD. He has also chaired the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements of the WTO and the UNCTAD Commission on Trade and Development.

Attached hereto is the resume of Ambassador Alfredo Suescum as requested in circular no. 3470 of 6 September 2013.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Panama, we request you to recommend this candidacy to all the Member States of WIPO.

Please accept the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

[signature and seal]

Ricardo A. Quijano

Minister of Trade and Industry

Ambassador

Fodé Seck

President of the Coordination Committee

World Intellectual Property Organization

34 Chemin des Colombettes

1211 Geneva 20.

Switzerland



República de Panamá
Ministerio de Comercio e Industrias

27 de noviembre de 2013
D.M.-N-2090-2013

Excelencia:

Nominación del Embajador Alfredo Suescum para el cargo de Director General de la Organización Mundial de la Propiedad Intelectual para el periodo 2014-2020.

En referencia a su circular No.3470 del 6 de Septiembre de 2013, en la cual se anuncia la vacante para el cargo de Director General de la OMPI para el periodo 2014-2020, nos complace anunciarle formalmente la postulación del Embajador Alfredo Suescum como candidato de la República de Panamá para el cargo en mención.

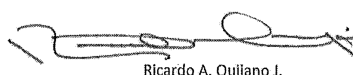
Cabe destacar que el Embajador Suescum es abogado y consultor en derecho de comercio internacional y la diplomacia comercial, con 27 años de experiencia profesional. Actualmente ocupa el cargo de Embajador y Representante Permanente de Panamá ante la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC), así como ante la Organización Mundial de la Propiedad Intelectual (OMPI), la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre el Comercio y el Desarrollo (CNUCED/UNCTAD) y el Centro de Comercio Internacional (CCI).


Es el actual Presidente del Consejo de los ADPIC de la OMC y del Consejo de los ADPIC en sesión especial. Fue Vice-Presidente de las Asambleas Generales de la OMPI y actualmente es miembro del Comité Consultivo de la UNCTAD. También presidió el Comité de Acuerdos Comerciales Regionales de la OMC y la Comisión de Comercio y Desarrollo de la UNCTAD.

Encontrará adjunto la hoja de vida del Embajador Alfredo Suescum, tal y como ha sido requerido en la circular No.3470 del 6 de Septiembre de 2013.

En nombre del Gobierno de la República de Panamá le solicitamos recomiende esta candidatura a todos los Estados Miembros de la OMPI.

Aprovechamos la oportunidad para reiterarle a Usted, las seguridades de mi aprecio y atenta consideración.


Ricardo A. Quijano J.
Ministro de Comercio e Industrias



Embajador
Fodé Seck
Presidente del Comité de Coordinación
Organización Mundial de la Propiedad Intelectual
34 Chemin des Colombettes
1211 Ginebra 20
Suiza.-

Facilitando el Desarrollo Económico con una Visión Social

Edison Plaza, Avenida Ricardo J. Alfaro-Teléfono 560-0600 / 560-0700
Apartado Postal 0815-01119, Panamá, República de Panamá
Web: www.mici.gob.pa

ALFREDO SUESCUM ALFARO

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Panama
to the World Trade Organization
and other trade-related international organizations in Geneva

Ambassador Suescum is a lawyer by training, a diplomat, and consultant in international trade law and commercial diplomacy, with 27 years of professional experience. He has held his current position since July 2009, having previously held the same position from 1997 to 2002. His portfolio includes the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Centre (ITC), the International Standards Organization (ISO), and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).

He is the current Chairman (2013-2014) of the TRIPS Council in the WTO, and acting Chairman of the TRIPS Council in Special Session. Between 2011 and 2013, he served as Vice – Chair of the General Assembly of WIPO and currently sits on the Advisory Committee of UNCTAD. He also chaired (in 2010-2011) the WTO's Committee on Regional Trade Agreements and the UNCTAD Commission on Trade and Development (in 2012-2013).

From 2006 to 2009, when Panama was a member of the United Nations Security Council in New York, he was Ambassador, Alternate Representative of the Republic of Panama to the United Nations. In this role, he directed and coordinated all work related to the Security Council, managing a team of professionals assigned to the Panamanian Mission's Security Council team.

His projects as a consultant have covered topics such as WTO accession, intellectual property regulation inventories, negotiation of trade agreements and rules, dispute resolution, and training for the private sector for participation in trade policy development. He served for seven years as Legal Counsel at the Embassy of Panama in Washington, DC. He has written and delivered talks on issues of trade regulation, international trade negotiations, and the role of civil society in the process of formulating trade policy.

Ambassador Suescum has also practiced law in the United States of America, in the areas of corporate law, nonprofit associations, labor law, administrative law and localities, civil rights and liberties, freedom of information, real estate, and the media.

Ambassador Suescum was born in 1962. He is married and has one teenage daughter.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

December 2006 – February 2009: **Ambassador, Alternate Representative of Panama to the United Nations**, New York, NY

Supervised and coordinated Panama's work on the United Nations Security Council during the 2007-2009 biennium. Advised on the formulation and implementation of national policies covering all aspects of the Council's mandate to maintain international peace and security. Also coordinated the work of a team of experts in the cyclical aspects of international security and civil and human rights, development and humanitarian law.

January 2002-December 2006: **Director**, Corvus Center for Trade and Economic Policy, Inc., Silver Spring, MD.

Led consultancy work in international trade law and commercial diplomacy. Major projects included accession to the WTO, intellectual property regulations, negotiation of trade agreements and rules, dispute resolution, training and participation of the private sector in the development of trade policy. Clients included several governments in Latin America, in addition to several other consulting firms, international organizations and exporters' associations.

July 1997– January 2002: **Ambassador, Permanent Representative** of the Republic of Panama to the WTO and other international trade-related organizations in Geneva, Switzerland.

The portfolio also included the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Commission (ITC), the International Standards Organization (ISO) and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).

He coordinated relations of the Republic of Panama with WIPO. Specific trade areas he regularly dealt with in WTO included the TRIPS agreement, dispute settlement, trade in services, trade in maritime services, trade in financial services; transparency in the operations of international organizations; transition periods for subsidies; electronic commerce; state procurement and contracting; the Information Technology Agreement; accession and the ongoing round of WTO trade negotiations.

In addition to his responsibilities as Head of Mission, he also played a leading role in the monitoring and development of any project on trade issues of interest to the Government of Panama, including dispute settlement, trade negotiations, policy development, and commercial positions and strategies for their implementation.

February 1990 – July 1997: **Legal Counsel**, Embassy of Panama, Washington, DC. From September to November 1994, also acting Chargé d'Affaires and acting General Consul.

Principal responsibilities as Chief Legal Counsel of the Embassy to the White House covered the negotiation of bilateral agreements, monitoring multilateral issues and coordinating policy and diplomatic initiatives among various Panamanian bodies. He coordinated and provided advice regarding initiatives and strategies for all Government of Panama suits and cases before courts in the United States, the State Department, Congress, the Trade Representative, the Committee on Maritime Affairs, etc.

Notable among the specific projects under his charge is the Framework Agreement under the Initiative for the Americas program. He also participated as a negotiator in textile trade agreements with the United States, the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) and the inconclusive negotiations with the United States on the exchange of tax information. He was also responsible within the Embassy for the initial stages of the Miami process and the drafting of the initial documents concerning the organization and purpose of the FTAA negotiations.

August 1987 – February 1990 **National Legal Counsel**, Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), New Orleans Local, Louisiana.

Provided legal advice and services to 43 offices in 27 states, as well as to affiliated labor and community organizations. Practiced in the fields of company law, the law of charities and non-profit organizations, union and labor law, administrative law, civil rights and liberties, real estate and the media.

PROFESSIONAL AND SPECIAL INTEREST ASSOCIATIONS:

Member of the Louisiana Bar, United States

Member of the Maryland Bar, United States

Director and President of the Corvus Center for Trade and Economic Policy, Inc., Silver Spring, MD

Former President of the National Capital Chapter of Trout Unlimited; Co-Chair of the Conservation and Environmental Affairs Committee

Former Executive Board Member for the Mid-Atlantic Council of Trout Unlimited, Washington DC

Founding member and former Steering Committee member of the Maryland Brook Trout Alliance

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION:

TULANE LAW SCHOOL, New Orleans, Louisiana

Juris Doctor, Civil and Common Law Curriculum, May 1987

Honors: American Jurisprudence Prize, Agency

Comparative Law Exchange Program at the Regensburg University Law School, Germany

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, New York, New York

Master of Arts; Comparative Literature, May 1984

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, Middletown, Connecticut
Bachelor of Arts; cum laude, June 1983
Major: College of Letters (Comparative Literature)
Minors: Medieval Studies, German Language and Studies

LANGUAGES:

Completely bilingual in English and Spanish. Advanced knowledge of German and French.

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