

WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

WIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Twenty-Second Session (9th Extraordinary)
Geneva, March 25 to 27, 1998

REPORT

adopted by the General Assembly

1. The General Assembly was concerned with the following items of the Consolidated Agenda (document A/32/1 Prov.2): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11.
2. The report on the said items, with the exception of item 7, is contained in the General Report (document A/32/7).
3. The report on item 7 is contained in the present document.
4. Ms. Sheila Batchelor, Chair of the General Assembly, presided over the meeting of the General Assembly.

ITEM 7 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA:

PREMISES

5. Discussions were based upon documents WO/GA/22/1 with Annex attached to WO/BC/18/3-WO/PC/8/2 and WO/BC/18/6 Prov.-WO/PC/8/3 Prov.
6. The Chairman of the joint session of the Budget and Premises Committees, Mr. Shigeti Sumi (Japan), stated that the two Committees had a full discussion on the issue of premises, including extensive consideration of the possible acquisition of the Steiner lot or the Procter & Gamble Building. After careful deliberation, the two Committees decided to adopt an amended version of paragraph 87 of document WO/GA/22/1, as contained in paragraph 116 of document WO/BC/18/6 Prov. - WO/PC/8/3 Prov., inviting decisions by the General Assembly.
7. In the general discussion on Agenda Item 3 (“Draft Program and Budget for the 1998-99 Biennium”), the matter of premises was also dealt with in the interventions (contained in document A/32/7 Prov.) of the Delegations of the Russian Federation (speaking on behalf of the Group of Central Asian and Eastern European Countries), the United States of America, Singapore (speaking on behalf of the ASEAN countries of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam), Senegal, Sudan, Lesotho, Kenya, Switzerland, Benin, Uruguay, Pakistan, China, France, Liberia, Canada, Burkina Faso and Cameroon.
8. The Delegation of Sri Lanka, speaking on behalf of the Asian Group and China, welcomed the recommendations of the Budget and Premises Committees, in particular, the recommendation to authorize the Director General to find out the final sale price from the owners of the Procter & Gamble Building and the Steiner lot. The Delegation considered it a step forward in finding a practical solution to the long-standing question concerning additional working places, additional meeting facilities and additional parking places for the Organization. The Asian Group fervently hoped that when the Budget and Premises Committees meet again in June this year, the members of the Committees will be able to give definitive guidance to the Director General in solving the acute problem of premises, on the basis of his findings and responses to the concerns raised by the members of the Budget and Premises Committees.
9. The General Assembly decided
 - (a) to note WIPO’s urgent long-term needs for working places (as indicated in Table 3 on page 6 of document WO/GA/22/1) and for conference and meeting room facilities (reference paragraphs 23 to 29 of document WO/GA/22/1);
 - (b) to approve the conversion of the WIPO Mezzanine floor to be essentially for meetings and use by delegates (reference paragraph 30 of document WO/GA/22/1);
 - (c) to approve the renovation, modernization, connection and extension of the WMO Building (reference paragraphs 32 to 35 and 52 of document WO/GA/22/1);

(d) to authorize the Director General to explore with the owners of the Steiner lot and the P&G Building the best price at which each might be acquired by WIPO and to report those prices to a joint session of the Budget and Premises Committees on June 4 and 5, 1998, with a view to enabling those Committees to take a decision;

(e) to approve the financing of the measures listed in (b) and (c) above from the Special Reserve Fund for Additional Premises and Computerization.

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