

# WIPO



WO/GA/26/2

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: July 26, 2000

**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**  
GENEVA

## **WIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Twenty-Sixth (12<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary) Session**  
**Geneva, September 25 to October 3, 2000**

### WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY

*Memorandum of the Director General*

#### Background

1. In October 1999, the General Assembly “approved the idea of declaring a particular day as a World Intellectual Property Day, and requested the Director General to undertake consultations on the content of and activities for that day, and on the determination of a specific date, the modalities and the budgetary implications, for declaring a World Intellectual Property Day” (paragraph 99 of document WO/GA/24/12).
2. In the debate on this agenda item, Algeria and China proposed April 26, 2000, as it is the date of entry into force of the WIPO Convention.

#### Consultations

3. The Secretariat undertook informal consultations with the regional group coordinators on three occasions, on April 14, May 8 and July 6, 2000. At their request and to facilitate discussions, the Secretariat provided information on some other international Days of other United Nations bodies, covering the objectives, financial arrangements, types of activities and results.

Proposed Date, Frequency, Activities and Financial Implications

4. In the light of the above-mentioned consultations and guidance given by the regional group coordinators, the proposals which are given below are for the consideration of the General Assembly.

- (i) The date of the World Intellectual Property Day would be April 26, for the reason stated in paragraph 2, above. The first World Intellectual Property Day would be April 26, 2001, and following Days on the same date of each year thereafter.
- (ii) The objective of a World Intellectual Property Day would be to highlight the role and contribution of intellectual property in the economic, cultural and social development of all countries as well as to raise public awareness and understanding in this field of human endeavor.
- (iii) Activities linked to the Day would be carried out by WIPO and by the Member States. The range and type of activities at the national level would be at the discretion of each Member State. The financial implications of activities undertaken by WIPO would be borne by its regular budget for the biennium. The coordinators advised that the activities to be carried out by the Secretariat, while being modest, should have maximum impact and could be coordinated at both the national and international levels. In this regard, the Secretariat will inform the intellectual property administrations of Member States as well as interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations of its planned activities and vice versa. Resources permitting, the Secretariat will provide to Member States, at their request, with useful information materials and related support.
- (iv) For the first Day in 2001, the Director General will issue a public statement which, it is hoped, would also be diffused by the Member States. In addition, WIPO will organize an international essay competition for university students on a suitable intellectual property subject. This will directly engage young people in the international discussion of intellectual property issues. The winner will be chosen by the Secretariat.

5. *The General Assembly is invited to consider and decide on the proposals contained in paragraph 4, above.*

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