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STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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Introduction

1. The present document contains a proposal concerning the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT). In view of the completion of an important part of work initially intended, and with a view to realigning the SCIT to WIPO's new strategic goals, the proposal is for creating two Committees to replace the SCIT.

Background

2. When the SCIT was established in 1998, the original mandates of the SCIT, as contained in documents A/32/3, were as follows:

“It [SCIT] will serve as a forum to discuss issues, facilitate coordination and provide guidance concerning the implementation of the WIPO global information network and the provision of intellectual property information services on the network (emphasis added). It will formulate recommendations and policies regarding the proposed network and related matters, and will submit its recommendations and policies to the WIPO General Assembly for approval. It will address issues pertinent to the process of providing intellectual property information, including both industrial property and copyright information, in a digital

networked environment.” According to the decision at that time, the SCIT “should consist of a plenary session of the SCIT itself (SCIT Plenary) and certain working groups.”

3. In 2001, based on the initial experience accumulated by Member States, the SCIT clarified its mandate, confirmed the structure consisting of the Plenary and two Working Groups, and simplified working procedures as follows (SCIT/7/14):

4. “The SCIT Plenary will meet once a year in ordinary session and will receive annual progress reports from the Working Groups on Information Technology Projects (ITPWG) and Standards and Documentation (SDWG). Recommendations from the Standing Committee may be passed either to the WIPO General Assembly, Program and Budget Committee, or directly to the Director General, as necessary.”

5. The mandate of the SDWG was “to provide a forum to adopt new or revised WIPO standards, policies, recommendations and statements of principle relating to intellectual property data, global information system-related matters, information services on the global system, data dissemination and documentation, which may be promulgated on the authority of the SCIT or referred to the WIPO General Assembly, via the SCIT, for approval.”

6. The mandate of the IT Projects Working Group (ITPWG) was “to advise on the design and planning phases of IT project activities, monitor the implementation of IT projects, to make recommendations to the SCIT on the initiation of new activities and to advise the SCIT on issues of priority setting for projects.”

Needs for Realignment

7. The mandate of the SCIT was decided to support “*the implementation of the WIPO global information network and the provision of intellectual property information services on the network.*”

8. However, the global information network (which was called “WIPONET”) was formally terminated at the end of 2003 (document A/40/2, paragraph 70), and the mandate of the SCIT needed to be reviewed and updated since then.

9. While the ITPWG has not met since 2003 as a result of the conclusion of WIPONET, the SDWG continued to meet and work on its own until now. The SCIT Plenary last met in 2004 due to the fact that the above-mentioned reform of the SCIT in 2001 did not make it necessary for the only active Working Group, the SDWG, to seek the approval of the Plenary for decision on the revision nor adoption of WIPO Standards. Consequently, with the exception of WIPO standards development, there does not appear to be any reason to maintain the SCIT.

10. Since the Organization has established new strategic goals, it would be desirable to replace the SCIT by a body which serves as a formal consultative body that addresses the new Strategic Goal IV, which concerns “coordination and development of global IP infrastructure.” The new body should enhance transparency and consultation with Member States in the developing of global intellectual property infrastructure.

Proposal

11. It is proposed that the SCIT be replaced by the following two bodies as of the beginning of the next biennium 2010-11:

- (i) Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) and
- (ii) Committee on Global IP Infrastructure (CGI).

12. These Committees should work independently and, where appropriate, should prepare proposals and/or activity reports for the consideration of the WIPO General Assembly or relevant Assemblies.

13. The mandate of the CWS would be to continue to work on the revision and development of WIPO standards relating to intellectual property information. The CWS would, in effect, perform the same work as the SDWG, but under a different name.

14. The mandate of the CGI would be to discuss matters concerning global intellectual property infrastructure that do not fall into the mandate of the CWS. Such matters include development of good practices, common tools and coherent approaches to various projects for strengthening international cooperation and interchange of data and information of intellectual property.

15. The SCIT working methods and procedures (document SCIT/7/14) are familiar to Member States, and it is proposed that they be applied *mutatis mutandis* to the new Committees.

16. The CWS would be convened in principle once a year and the CGI would meet whenever necessary. For the next biennium 2010-11, resources required for convening up to two sessions of CWS and one session of CGI are proposed in the draft Program and Budget under Programs 12, 14 and 15.

17. The General Assembly is invited to consider and approve the proposal as contained in paragraphs 11 to 16.

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