

# WIPO



WO/GA/XXI/5

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: July 31, 1997

**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**  
GENEVA

## **WIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Twenty-First Session (13th Ordinary)**  
**Geneva, September 22 to October 1, 1997**

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

*Memorandum of the International Bureau*

1. In its extraordinary session of March 20 and 21, 1997, the WIPO General Assembly decided that a working group would “meet in June or July 1997, whose membership will be open to every Member State of WIPO on an equal footing as well as to those organizations which usually participate in WIPO meetings” (document WO/GA/XX/3).
2. The working group, called “WIPO Working Group on Information Technologies for Intellectual Property” (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”), was convened by the Director General of WIPO and met at the headquarters of WIPO in Geneva from July 14 to 18, 1997.
3. The following States were represented: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam (65). There were also representatives from the World Trade Organization (WTO), the African

Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO), the Commission of the European Communities (CEC) and the European Patent Office (EPO).

4. The Working Group adopted by consensus the following “Conclusions and Recommendations”:

- “1. The First Session of the WIPO Working Group on Information Technologies for Intellectual Property,
- “2. Notes with appreciation the WIPO report on Current Information Technology Activities of the International Bureau of WIPO [document ITIP/WG/I/2];
- “3. Recognizing that the Memoranda of the United States of America, Canada and Japan [documents ITIP/WG/I/3, 4 and 6, respectively] have enlightened the debate of technical, financial and procedural issues, reached an understanding on the following:
  - a) the overall recognition of the advantages for the establishment of a global WIPO network for all countries;
  - b) the network should address requirements of industrial property activities and copyright and neighboring rights activities;
  - c) the recognition of the need to establish, upgrade and modernize the intellectual property offices and to provide training, particularly in developing countries, in order to enable them to participate effectively in the proposed network;
  - d) the need for the coordination and management of horizontal issues related to the effective use of information technology in WIPO activities, in a coherent manner and to avoid duplication with other WIPO bodies;
  - e) the need for a better understanding of information technology infrastructure in intellectual property offices, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition, and their requirements;
  - f) the need to develop a new strategy encompassing any required additional resources and expertise for WIPO information technology structures;
- “4. Notes that, in order to deal with the structure, additional information and analysis is required.
- “5. The Working Group recommends to the next session of the General Assembly:
  - a) To request the new Director General, taking into account views from WIPO members and interested intellectual property offices, to make a proposal for the requirements for the implementation of a global WIPO network and effective use of information technology in WIPO activities. The proposal should take into account the legal and other requirements of all countries, the need to improve efficiency of the intellectual property offices and the need to expand the

development cooperation activities of the International Bureau through increased access to information technology infrastructures (including institutional and capacity building) and to intellectual property data. It should also include an indication of the magnitude of the costs for the implementation of the global WIPO network and for the establishment, upgrading and modernizing as well as the capacity building requirements of the intellectual property offices of the developing countries and countries in transition, and the envisaged information technology infrastructure and personnel requirements, as well as the implications to WIPO projects and activities;

b) To request the new Director General to submit at the Second Session of this Working Group his views for the structure to deal with information technology projects including its terms of reference, the relationship with other WIPO bodies and its “modus operandi”;

c) To convene the Second Session of this Working Group at the end of January 1998 to consider the proposals and views of the new Director General and to recommend an overall implementation and automation plan.”

*5. The General Assembly is invited to take a position on the above-quoted recommendations of the Working Group.*

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