

Program and Budget Committee

Eighteenth Session Geneva, September 12 to 16, 2011

WEBCASTING AT WIPO

Document prepared by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. This document relates to the progressive introduction of webcasting services in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) meetings, and is prepared in response to the requests made by Member States in the June 2011 informal session of the Program and Budget Committee (PBC).
2. Webcasting was introduced for the first time in September 2010, for the 48th series of Meetings of the Assemblies of Member States. The progressive expansion of webcasting services is planned in response to requests by Member States, and in line with the Organization's values referred to in the Strategic Realignment Program, notably "Service Orientation" and "Environmental, Social and Governance Responsibility".

COVERAGE

3. Webcasting services will comprise live webcasting, as well as access to recorded meeting content, through Video-on-Demand (VoD) service on the WIPO web site.
4. Embedding the webcasting of WIPO meetings is expected to provide the following benefits: greater transparency, enhanced communications, greater outreach, remote access by stakeholders, reduced travel costs, and more efficient use of participants' time.
5. The current plan targets the progressive implementation of webcasting coverage for the meetings of all WIPO Committees and Main bodies, involving 18 events per year, starting as of

the 2011 Assemblies, with a total estimated duration of 100 working days in a calendar year. In the light of experience gained, further refinements of webcasting coverage will be considered.

6. To make this coverage possible, the Organization has made capital investment during the current biennium and will consolidate the relevant audio and video services, currently available in the Organization. This approach allows the Organization to take advantage of technological advancement and to achieve greater operational efficiency.

OPERATIONAL MATTERS

7. The webcasting of large meetings, including the Assemblies of Member States, requires significant Internet bandwidth to accommodate the large number of concurrent remote connections. The effect is further compounded by the need to accommodate access to VoD content. To ensure that this increased Internet bandwidth demand does not compromise other critical services that WIPO provides over the Internet, specific contractual arrangements would be established, as was done during the last Assemblies, with external service providers.

8. In order to contain cost, only one meeting will be webcasted at a time, with a maximum number of 200 concurrent connections. Few sessions exceeded this limitation during the Assemblies in 2010. The access would be open to public without any form of registration and be granted on a “first come, first served basis”. The Organization will maintain statistics, regarding the number and duration of participant connections, in order to assess and plan for future capacity requirements.

9. With regard to audio language support, for technical reasons, live webcasting would initially be streamed with the “Floor” and “English” audio tracks. However, in order to ensure that the ‘English’ audio-track is not treated as the official record of the meeting, it would contain the following disclaimer: “The interpretation of proceedings serves to facilitate communication and does not constitute an authentic record of the proceedings. Only the original speech is authentic. ”The recorded VoD content would only feature the “Floor” audio track.

10. The recorded VoD content would be retained on-line for a maximum duration of up to 12 months or less depending on the frequency of the individual meeting. After this retention period the VoD content will be archived.

IMPLEMENTATION ROAD MAP

11. The progressive deployment of webcasting services would begin from the 2011 Assemblies.

12. The coverage will be provided to selected meetings in Room A and Room B in the WIPO AB Building, as well as the CICG Conference Center.

13. The Program and Budget Committee is invited to take note of the contents of the present document.

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