



CDIP/20/8
ORIGINAL: FRENCH
DATE: OCTOBER 13, 2017

Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)

Twentieth Session

Geneva, November 27 to December 1, 2017

REVISED PROPOSAL OF THE AFRICAN GROUP CONCERNING THE BIENNIAL ORGANIZATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. In a communication dated September 29, 2017, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Senegal, in its capacity as the Coordinator of the African Group, submitted to the Secretariat on behalf of the African Group, "a revised version of the Proposal Concerning the Biennial Organization of an International Conference on Intellectual Property and Development for consideration at the twentieth session of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP). The proposal is prompted by a decision of the nineteenth session of the Committee to continue discussions on the organization of that international conference, bearing in mind the comments submitted by Member States.

2. The above-mentioned submission from Senegal is contained in the annex to this document.

3. *The CDIP is invited to consider the information contained in the Annex to this document.*

[Annex follows]



Geneva,

SEPTEMBER 29, 2017

PERMANENT MISSION OF SENEGAL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE

EMBASSY IN SWITZERLAND

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Senegal to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the World Intellectual Property Organization (**WIPO**) and, in its capacity as Coordinator of the African Group on intellectual property matters for 2017, has the honor to enclose the revised Proposal of the African Group Concerning the Biennial Organization of an International Conference on Intellectual Property and Development to be discussed at the twentieth session of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) from November 27 to December 1, 2017.

The Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) the assurances of its highest consideration.

WORLD INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)**GENEVA**

Revised version of the Proposal of the African Group Concerning the Biennial Organization of an International Conference on Intellectual Property and Development

Senegal has the honor to present the revised version of the Proposal of the African Group Concerning the Biennial Organization of an International Conference on Intellectual Property and Development, taking into account the comments received from Member States during the ninth session of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) held from May 15 to 19, 2017 and contained in document CDIP/19/7, as a follow-up to the one held from April 7 to 8, 2016.

It is necessary to provide a brief background summary of the process that led to the organization of this important meeting. The few setbacks it experienced rather attest to the clear political determination to create an environment that is conducive to fruitful discussions on IP-related development issues.

The relevant decision was taken at the fourteenth session of the CDIP. That session also gave the Secretariat clear guidance on organizational and logistic arrangements and requested it to prepare a factual report, summarizing the main discussions.

Prior to this event, the Committee had already decided at its tenth session, held in November 2012, to proceed with the organization of such a conference after considering two related documents referenced CDIP/10/16 and CDIP/IO/17. The Committee agreed to the following:

- The title of the conference will be “Conference on Intellectual Property and Development”;
- The conference will be held in Switzerland over a period of two to three days;
- An open-ended informal consultation will be held over a period of two to three days;
- The Secretariat will prepare a background document based on identified general agreements; and
- Delegations will submit written comments and proposals prior to commencement of the informal consultations.

Following the informal consultations held on January 6 and 24, 2013, under the leadership of the then CDIP Chair, the organizational and logistic arrangements were definitively suspended.

The Conference was attended by a large number of high-level participants from different backgrounds. It facilitated the sharing of national and regional experiences while serving as a platform for reviewing the latest IP trends.

It also facilitated review of the political, technological, social and economic dimensions of IP as a tool and vector of development.

Edified by this experience, the African Group presented a proposal concerning the biennial organization of an international conference on intellectual property and development to the nineteenth session of the CDIP in May 2017, in a bid to institutionalize and ensure the sustainability of this meeting within WIPO's agenda.

That proposal, supported by many delegations, was confirmed and encouraged by the highly appreciated outcomes of the conference held on this topic in Geneva from April 7 to 8, 2016, as evident in the report found in document CDIP/18/3 and the positive comments of Member States on this subject (cf. document CDIP/18/11).

In light of the foregoing, the African Group, as it announced at the eighteenth session of the CDIP, is pleased to submit to the various delegations its proposal to institutionalize the international conference on intellectual property and development.

The organizational and logistical arrangements for implementing this proposal include those approved by Member States for the conference held in April 2016.

Indeed, the terms of reference already available and agreed upon will be re-utilized as follows:

GENERAL TITLE:

International Conference on Intellectual Property and Development

SECONDARY TITLE

The secondary title of the conference must be drawn from its theme, which relates to IP and development as well as practical challenges. It must be approved during the first session of the Committee which meets in the first year of the WIPO budget cycle.

FREQUENCY:

Every two years for an initial period of six years starting from the 2018/2019 biennium.

VENUE:

WIPO headquarters in Geneva or in another country proposed by Member States.

DURATION:

Two to three days

DATES:

First half of the second year of the WIPO budget cycle

TOPICS:

The international conference will discuss on a theme related to the secondary title agreed upon by Member States at the first session of the Committee which meets in the first year of the WIPO budget cycle.

The Secretariat shall be requested to structure the international conference program and to prepare the content of each theme through informal consultations with Group coordinators. The final program of the conference will be presented at the second session of CDIP in the first year of the budget cycle for information.

FORMAT:

The Conference meets in the first half of the second year of the WIPO budget cycle. All the meetings will be held in plenary sittings. Each session will consist of a moderator, three speakers and moderated audience discussion based on questions and comments submitted by participants to the moderator before and during each session. The working languages will be the six official languages of the United Nations and simultaneous interpreting will be available in these six languages.

SPEAKERS:

The Secretariat will be requested to select speakers based on geographical balance, appropriate expertise, and balance in perspective. Member States will be given the opportunity to suggest the names of speakers.

PARTICIPANTS:

The International Conference will be open to Member States, international intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society. Registration will be conducted in advance online and in person at the meeting.

MAIN OBJECTIVES :

- Brief Member States on recent developments in IP and development;
- Enable participants to discuss the relevance of IP to social, economic and cultural development.

OUTCOME AND COMMUNICATIONS:

A factual report will be produced by the Secretariat, summarizing the main discussions at the International Conference, and presented to the CDIP at its last session in the second year of the WIPO budget cycle. That report would also contain the results from speaker assessment forms filled out at the end of the conference by participants and speakers.

A dedicated web page on the WIPO website will be established to provide details of the International Conference. The web page will be used for the free dissemination of all Conference documentation including the program, written presentations, audio and video files from the Conference proceedings, and the report. The web page will also be used to provide access to a live webcast of the proceedings.

International Conference on Intellectual Property and Development in the 2018/2019 Budget Cycle

For the 2018/2019 budget cycle of WIPO, it is proposed that::

The secondary title of the conference should be: "How to benefit from the system".

The Secretariat should develop a program for the conference in consultation with Member States so that it can be discussed during the second session of the Committee in 2018.

The seminar should take place in the first half of 2019 at a venue chosen by Member States.

The factual report will be submitted to the second session of the CDIP in 2019.

This is the summary of the African Group proposal concerning an international biennial conference on intellectual property and development.

[End of Annex and of document]