

WORKING GROUP ON  
AUDIT COMMITTEE RELATED MATTERS  
February 9 and 10, 2010

Summary by the Chair  
February 10, 2010

1. The Working Group of the Program and Budget Committee met on February 9 and 10, 2010, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Christophe Guilhou.
2. It dealt with the various items on its Agenda.
3. At this stage, it adopted the following recommendation:

Item 5 : Review of the Recommendations made by the Audit Committee for their implementation as appropriate

It is recommended that the title of the WIPO Audit Committee reflect its current role and be changed to the WIPO Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IOAC). This would include the term “surveillance” in French.

It also agreed on the following:

- To improve the interaction between the Audit Committee and Member States.
- To institutionalize information sessions between Member States and the Audit Committee at the end of each Committee meeting.

Item 4: Review of the process of rotation and size of the Audit Committee

- The Working Group thanked the Chair for his proposal on the process of the rotation and size of the Audit Committee.
- Some modifications have been made to this document after its presentation which, at this stage, is attached as an Annex to this document.
- This proposal will be the subject of further study by delegations in view of its adoption.

4. There were differences of opinion on the following:
  - Creation of an Executive Committee as recommended by the Audit Committee
  - The process of selection of the Audit Committee members.

These points will be the subject of discussions with a view to making recommendations to the next session of the Program and Budget Committee (September 2010).

5. The Working Group did not reach agreement on a next Working Group meeting prior to the Program and Budget Committee.

[Annex follows]

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ANNEX

Chair's draft Proposal

Item 4 : Review the Process of the rotation and size of the Audit Committee

Considering the different points expressed by delegations during the Working Group meeting, the Chair proposed the following :

1. Size of Audit Committee

The membership of the WIPO Audit Committee could be brought to seven (7) reflecting the geographical groups at WIPO.

2. Selection of Audit Committee Members

- A vacancy announcement would be widely advertised and can be nominated by Member States for the seven Audit Committee posts;
- The selection process would have to take into account geographical distribution and gender balance.
- Given the quantity of applications, external experts would be called upon to help on the selection;
- They would short-list 15 candidates based on criteria as defined in the 2007 revised terms of reference of the WIPO Audit Committee (document WO/GA/34/15) as decided upon by the General Assembly and taking into account geographical representation and gender balance ;
- The applications would be submitted to the Program and Budget Committee members who would select seven members for the WIPO Audit Committee on the basis of the expertise and complementary skills of the various candidates and with reference to the terms of reference of the WIPO Audit Committee (document WO/GA/34/15).

3. Existing Members of the WIPO Audit Committee

As the mandate of the existing WIPO Audit Committee members will expire at the end of 2010, Audit Committee members will be able to present their application for consideration in line with the above-mentioned process. If current Audit Committee members are elected, their mandate will be for one year only (given their maximum term of six years), which would imply a consequent modification of the rotation system.

4. Rotation of the Audit Committee members

In the case where all Audit Committee members are new and will begin their mandate at the same time (January 2011), they will draw lots amongst the elected members to determine the duration of their mandate. This draw will allow for a progressive renewal of members.

There will be two different types of mandate:

- Three two-year mandates
- Four three-year mandates

Each member of the Audit Committee will draw lots for the seven possible mandates in order to determine the duration of their mandate.

In the case where existing Audit Committee members are elected, there could be three different types of mandate:

- one-year mandate(s)
- two-year mandate(s)
- three-year mandate(s)

The Program and Budget Committee will elect new members based on applications received by external experts, specifying the importance of geographical representation and gender balance.

[End of Annex and of document]