



**ARIPO**

*African Regional Intellectual  
Property Organization*

# THE AFRICAN REGIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION [ARIPO] AND THE REGIONAL PATENT SYSTEM – AN OVERVIEW

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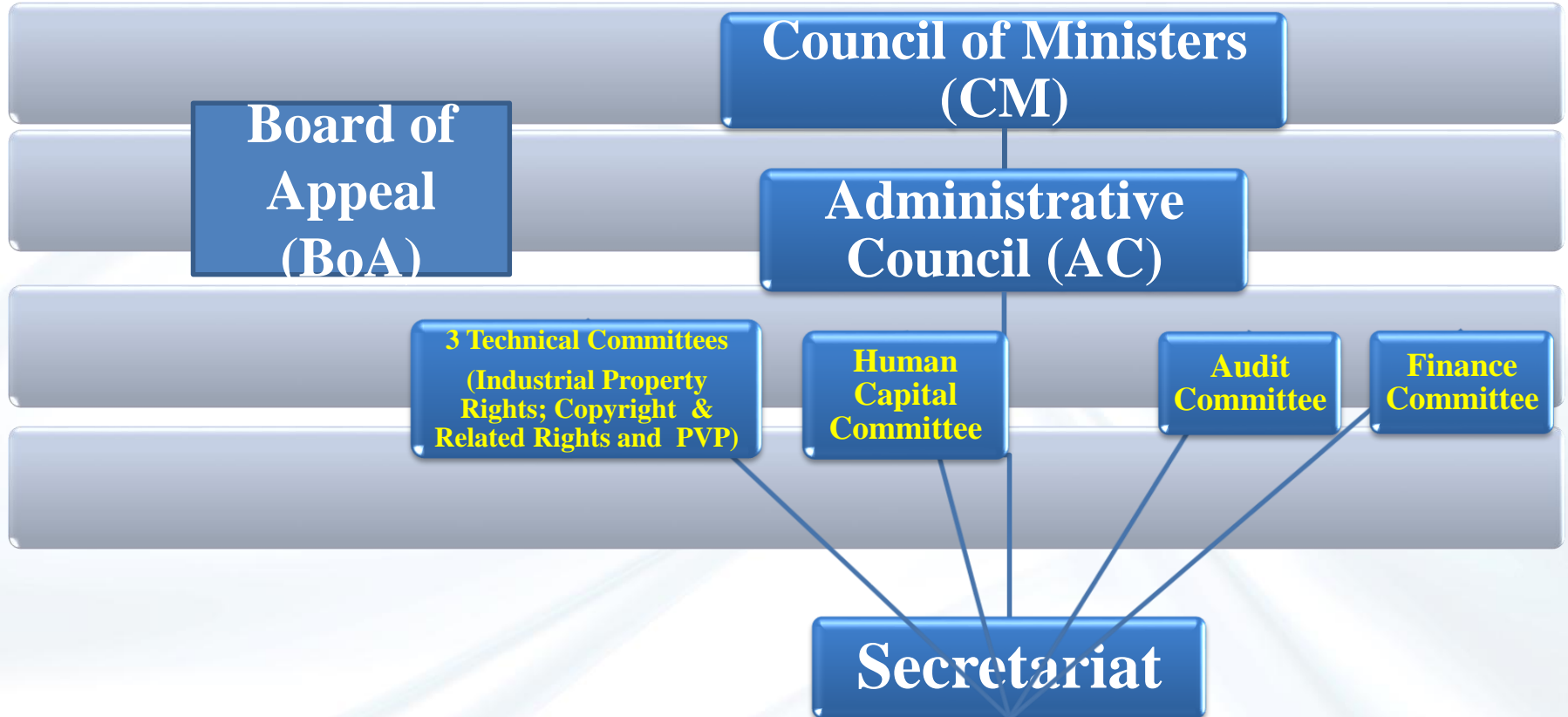
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# The Organization

- ARIPO: The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization
- Establishment: Established under the Lusaka Agreement on December 9, 1976 as ESARIPO
- December 1985: Name changed from ESARIPO to African Regional Industrial Property Organization [ARIPO]
- August 2002: Name changed from African Regional **Industrial** Property Organization [ARIPO] to African Regional **Intellectual** Property Organization [ARIPO]



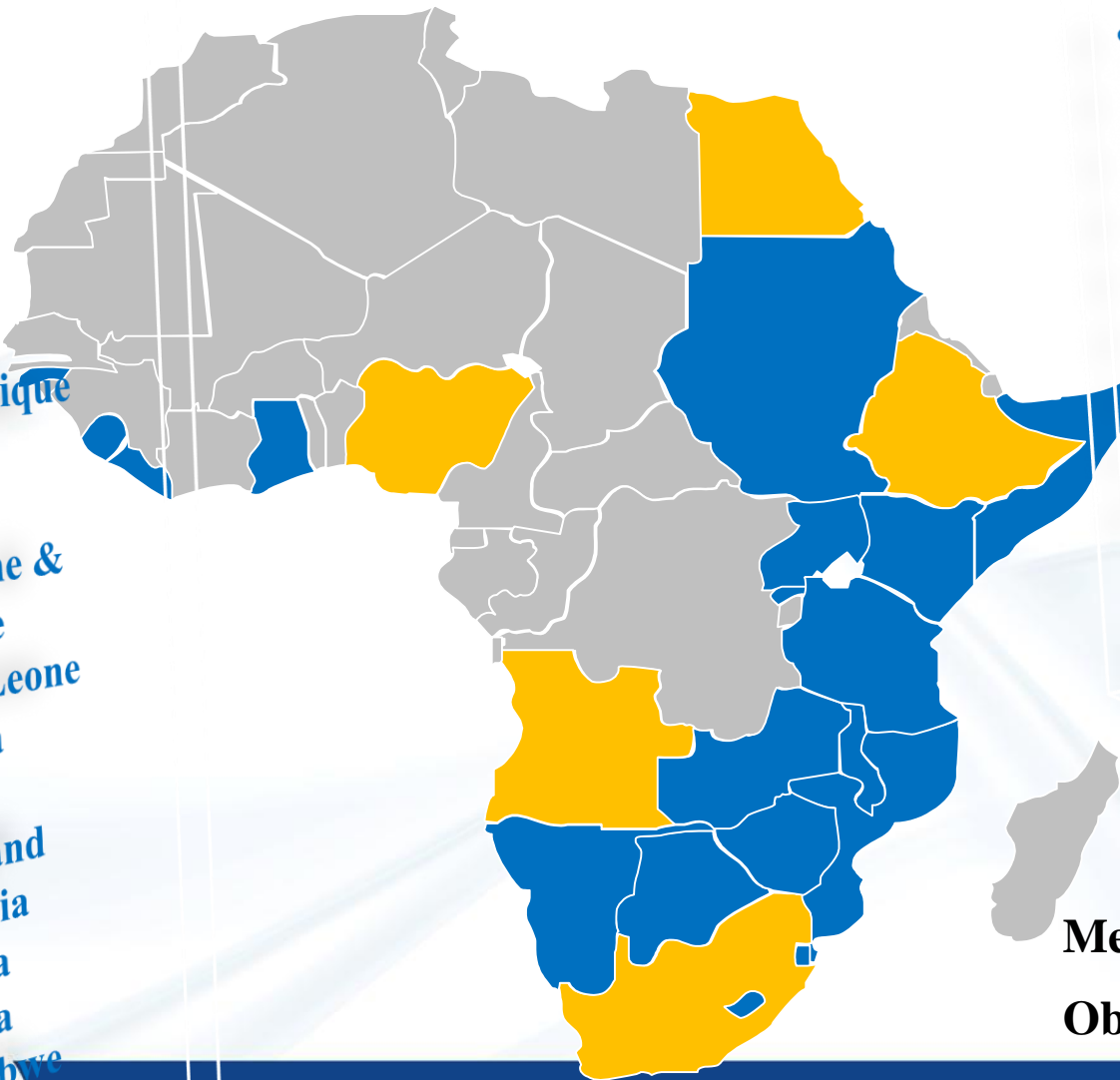
# Organs of ARIPO



# Membership of The Organization

- Botswana
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Rwanda
- Sao Tome & Principe
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

- Angola
  - Burundi
  - Egypt
  - Eritrea
  - Ethiopia
  - Mauritius
  - Nigeria
  - Seychelles
  - South Africa
- = 9



**Member States**

**Observer States**



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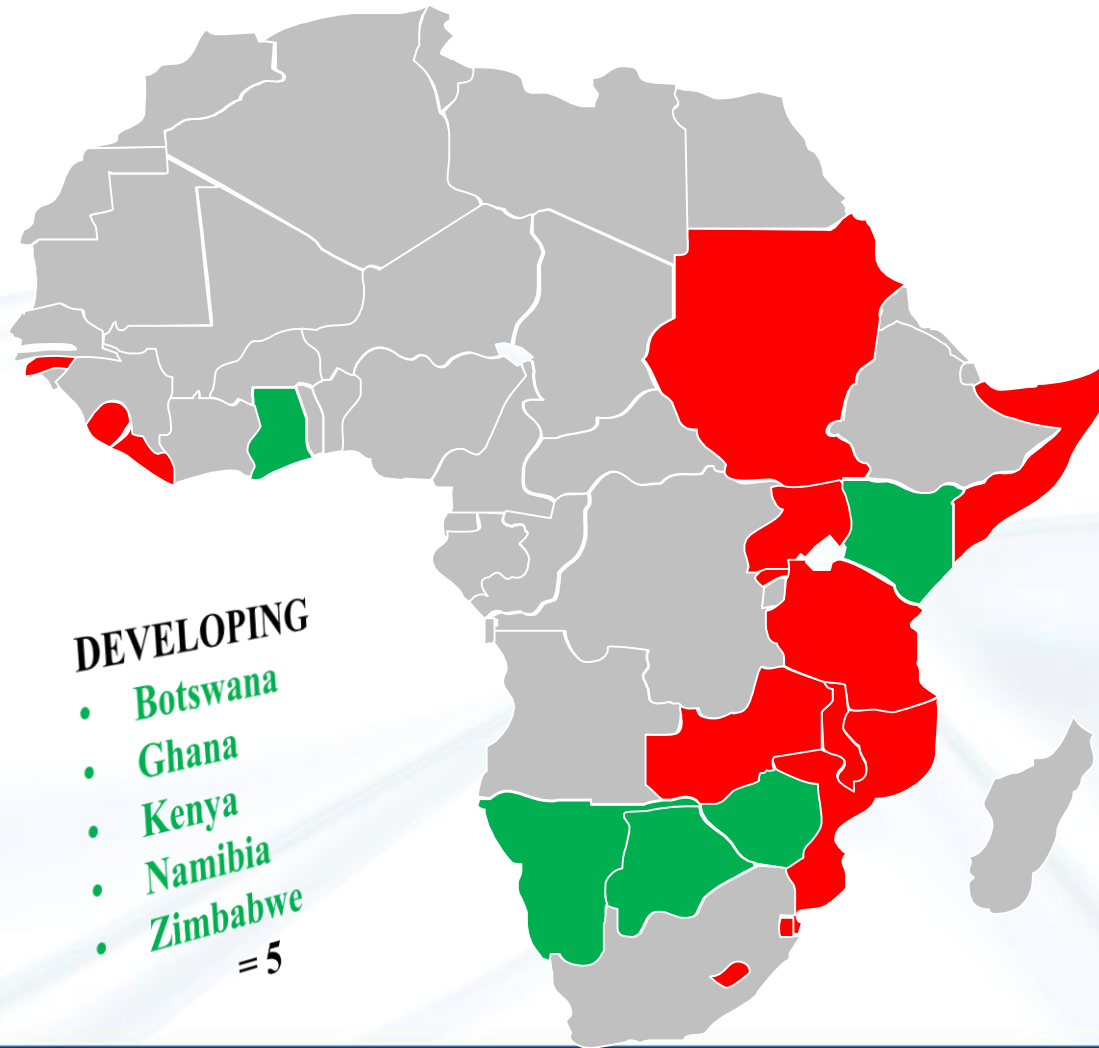
# ARIPO Member States Position In The Global Market

## LEAST DEV'D

- Liberia
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Rwanda
- Sao Tome & Principe
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia = 14

## DEVELOPING

- Botswana
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Namibia
- Zimbabwe = 5



LDCs

DCs



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# Main Objectives of ARIPO

- Promotion, harmonization and development of IP
- **Establish common services and organs for IP coordination, development and harmonization**
- Establish IP Capacity Building schemes
- **Organize conferences, seminars and meetings on IP**
- Promote exchange of ideas and research on IP
- Promote a common view and approach in dealing with IP matters
- Support members in acquisition of IP based technologies
- Development of IP systems for the economic benefit of its member states.



# ARIPO Mandate

**Patents**

**Harare Protocol (1982)**

**Industrial Designs**

**Harare Protocol (1982)**

**Marks**

**Banjul Protocol (1993)**

**Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Expressions Folklore (EoF)**

**Swakopmund Protocol (2010)**

**Copyright & Related Rights**

**VIII Session Council Min – 2002, Malawi**

**Access and Benefit Sharing**

**Guidelines for ABS**

**Geographical Indications**

**Regional Framework?**

**Plant Variety Protection**

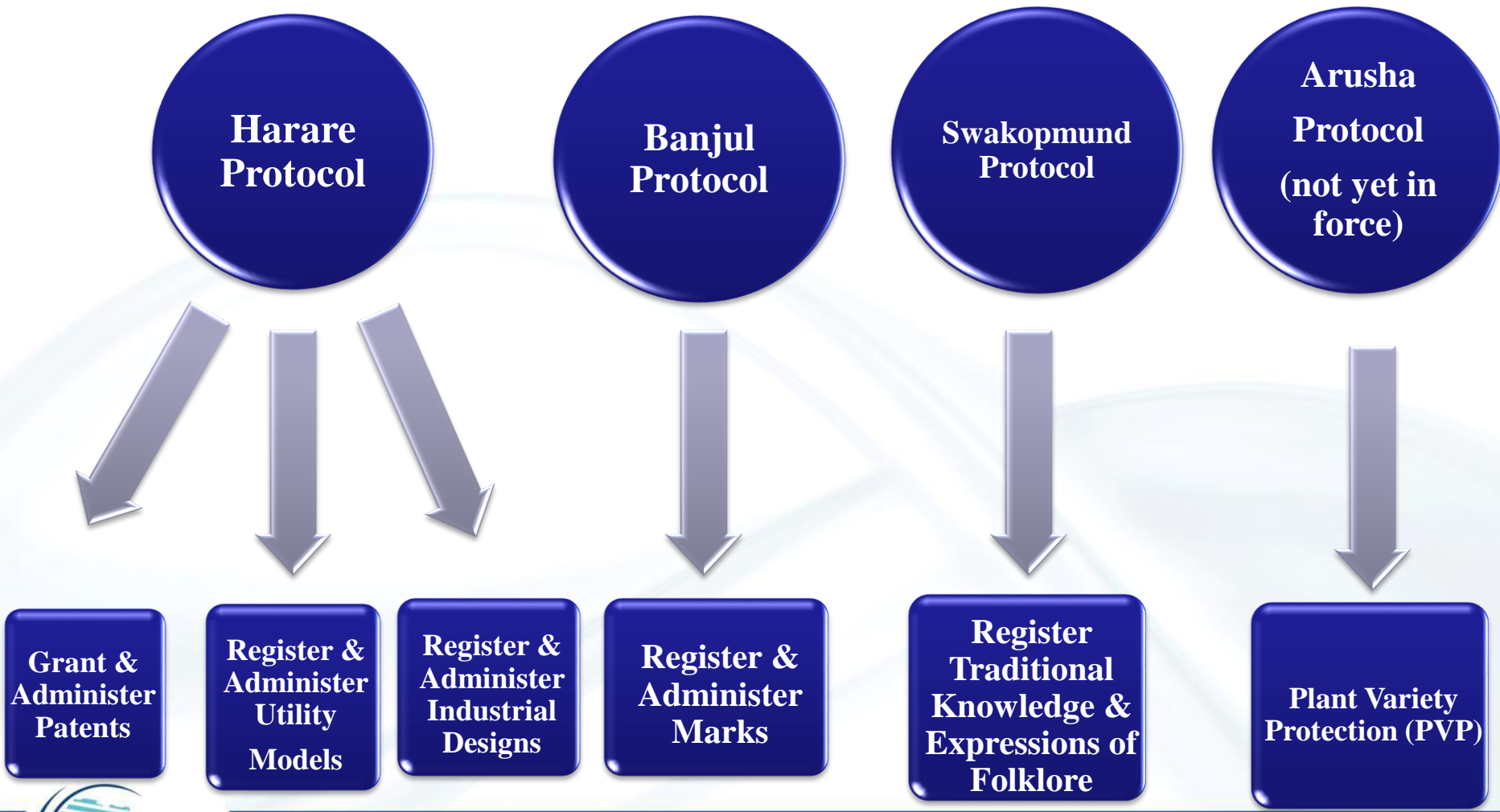
**Arusha Protocol (2015)**



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# Substantive Activities



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# Other Activities

- Promotion, harmonization and development of IP
- Organizing conferences, seminars, workshops and other meetings on IP matters
- Awareness creation
- Training and capacity building
- Information dissemination



# ARIPO ICT Environment

- Automated business processing of applications
- Electronic Filing System:
  - Online filing
  - Online file inspection
  - Online payment
  - Online journal publication
  - Online communication with member states
- ARIPO encourages member states to introduce automated business processing and online filing



# Board of Appeal

- Board consists of 5 members experienced in industrial property matters (two of whom shall be patent examiners)
- 3 members form a quorum
- At all sittings, at least one examiner shall be present
- Members of the Board are appointed by the Administrative Council for a period of two years
- Board members must be citizens of the member states of the Organization



# The ARIPO Patent System (1)

- Based on the Harare Protocol (HP) and the Regulations for Implementing the HP as well the Administrative Instructions thereto
- HP adopted in 1982 and entered into force in 1984
- HP empowers ARIPO to grant and administer patents; register & administer utility models as well industrial designs on behalf of Member States
- Filing of applications – either directly with ARIPO or member state as receiving office (first filing or Paris Convention); PCT national phase entry
- ARIPO undertakes formality and substantive examination; grants and administers patents on behalf of member states

**36 years of  
the ARIPO  
patent  
system!**



# The ARIPO Patent System (2)- Member States Party to the Harare Protocol

- Botswana
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Rwanda
- Sao Tome & Principe
- Sierra Leone
- Sudan
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- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe



= 18



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# The ARIPO System (3) - link between the HP and the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

- HP linked to the PCT in 1994
- 18 member States of ARIPO (AP) are PCT contracting states
- Any applicant filing a PCT application automatically designates AP (18 member States)
- AP acts as a receiving office under the PCT
- AP may be elected in any PCT application

97% of ARIPO  
patent  
applications  
come through  
PCT!





# African Regional Intellectual Property Organization

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