

## **Working Group on the Legal Development of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs**

**Seventh Session**  
**Geneva, July 16 to 18, 2018**

### **PROPOSAL BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

1. In a communication dated June 1, 2018, the International Bureau received a proposal from the Delegation of the Russian Federation concerning the possible inclusion of Russian as an official language of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs for consideration by the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs, at its seventh session, to be held from July 16 to 18, 2018.
2. The aforementioned proposal is annexed to this document.

[Annex follows]

Proposal of the Russian Federation  
with regard to including Russian as an official  
language of the Hague System for International  
Registration of Designs

The Russian Federation's proposal is to include Russian as an official language of the Hague system for the International Registration of Designs.

Russian is one of the official languages of the United Nation system; more than 250 million people speak Russian. Russian is among the top ten most spoken languages in the world by the number of speakers.

Russian is a state language in the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Kazakhstan. It is an official language in the Kyrgyz Republic. The Russian language is widely used for communication in a number of countries throughout the Eurasian region.

Currently almost all Caucasian, Central Asian and Eastern European countries (CACEEC) are members of the Hague Union (the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine).

The Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs entered into force for the Russian Federation on February 28, 2018. Within a short period, WIPO received more than one hundred international applications designating the Russian Federation.

The states have a great potential in increasing the amount of international applications as designs registration is demanded by the applicants. Thus, since 2016 there is a trend for increasing the amount of design patent applications in the Russian Federation. In 2017, the number of national applications grew by 18.7 % compared with 2016.

Including the Russian language as an official language of the Hague system will stimulate growth of international applications from Russia and Caucasian, Central Asian and Eastern European countries (CACEEC).

Implementation of the initiative will ensure respect of Russian-speaking applicants' rights, facilitate their access to the Hague system as well as improve efficiency of Russian-speaking examiners' work and reduce time period for processing applications by regional IP offices that will make the system more attractive.

The Russian party expects the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Hague system for the International Registration of Marks to recommend the Assembly of the Hague Union to consider the proposal.