

## **Special Union for the International Classification for Industrial Designs (Locarno Union)**

### **Committee of Experts**

**Fifteenth Session**  
**Geneva, January 24 to 28, 2022**

#### **REPORT**

*adopted by the Committee of Experts*

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Committee of Experts of the Locarno Union (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) held its fifteenth session in Geneva from January 24 to 26, 2022. The following members of the Committee were represented at the session: Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan (33). The following States were represented by observers: Algeria, Bahrain, Bhutan, Cambodia, Honduras, Israel, Lithuania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Portugal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States of America and Viet Nam (15). Representatives of the following international intergovernmental organizations took part in the session in an observer capacity: African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) and European Union (EU). Representatives of the following non-governmental organization attended the session in an observer capacity: European Law Students’ Association (ELSA International). The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. Ken-Ichiro Natsume, Assistant Director General, Infrastructure and Platforms Sector of WIPO, who welcomed the participants.

## **OFFICERS**

3. The Committee unanimously elected Ms. Natalie Morgan (United Kingdom) as Chair.
4. Ms. Alison Züger (WIPO) acted as Secretary of the session.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

5. The Committee unanimously adopted the agenda, which appears as Annex II to this report.

## **DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS**

6. As decided by the Governing Bodies of WIPO at their tenth series of meetings held from September 24 to October 2, 1979 (see document AB/X/32, paragraphs 51 and 52), the report of this session reflects only the conclusions of the Committee (decisions, recommendations, opinions, etc.) and does not, in particular, reflect the statements made by any participant, except where a reservation in relation to any specific conclusion of the Committee was expressed or repeated after the conclusion was reached.

## **PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE THIRTEENTH EDITION OF THE LOCARNO CLASSIFICATION**

7. Discussions took place on the understanding that:
  - (i) for amendments and additions to the Locarno Classification (hereinafter referred to as the "Classification") not entailing a transfer of goods from one class to another, a simple majority of the countries of the Locarno Union was required under Article 3(4) of the Locarno Agreement;
  - (ii) for the transfer of goods from one class to another, unanimity among the countries of the Locarno Union was required under the same Article 3(4).
8. The Committee noted that countries of the Union not represented at the session or not having expressed their vote during the session or within the period prescribed by the Rules of Procedure of the Committee were considered to have accepted the decisions of the Committee, as set forth in Article 3(6) of the Locarno Agreement.

## **CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE THIRTEENTH EDITION OF THE LOCARNO CLASSIFICATION - VARIOUS PROPOSALS**

9. Discussions were based on project [LO152](#), [Annex 1](#), which contained a summary table of proposals for amendments and additions to the current (thirteenth) edition of the Classification.
10. The Committee adopted an important number of changes to the Classification. The decisions of the Committee are available on the electronic forum, project [LO150](#).

## **REVISION MANAGEMENT SOLUTION (RMS)**

11. Discussions were based on project [LO152](#), [Annex 2](#), submitted by the International Bureau. This project aims to facilitate the revision process of the Classification from the preparation and presentation of proposals for modifications to the publication of new editions.
12. The Committee was supportive of the project and welcomed every improvement.

## **NEXT SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS. ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE NEXT EDITION**

13. The Committee agreed that the next (sixteenth) session would be held in Geneva in November 2023, subject to the schedule of WIPO principal Committees.
14. The Committee noted that the IB would prepare and publish online the new (fourteenth) edition of the Classification, in English and in French, in June 2022 and that the notification of entry into force would be sent by the end of June 2022.
15. The Committee agreed that amendments and additions to the thirteenth edition of the Classification would enter into force on January 1, 2023.

## **CLOSING OF THE SESSION**

16. The Chair closed the session.

*17. The Committee of Experts unanimously adopted this report by electronic means on March 14, 2022.*

[Annexes follow]