

## **WIPO General Assembly**

**Fifty-Sixth (26<sup>th</sup> Ordinary) Session**  
**Geneva, July 6 to 14, 2023**

### **APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR**

*Document prepared by the Selection Panel*

1. The present document contains the Report of the Selection Panel for the Appointment of the WIPO External Auditor, which provides an overview of the selection process conducted by the Panel, and the recommendation of the Selection Panel for the appointment of the next WIPO External Auditor.

2. *The WIPO General Assembly is invited to approve the recommendation of the Selection Panel for the Appointment of the WIPO External Auditor, as recorded in paragraph 16 of the Selection Panel's Report.*

[Report of the Selection Panel follows]

## REPORT OF THE SELECTION PANEL FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE WIPO EXTERNAL AUDITOR

### Background

1. The mandate of the current WIPO External Auditor – namely the Comptroller and Auditor General of the United Kingdom – will end on December 31, 2023. Under Regulation 6.3 of the WIPO Financial Regulations and Rules, the appointment as External Auditor of WIPO is limited to a term of office of six years non-renewable consecutively. As a result, it was necessary to launch a selection process in order to appoint a new External Auditor for another six-year period (covering the financial periods from 2024 to 2029), in accordance with the selection process approved by the General Assembly on October 1, 2009 (document WO/GA/38/20).

### Invitation to WIPO Member States to Nominate a Candidate

2. On February 10, 2022, the Director General of WIPO invited WIPO Member States to nominate a candidate for the appointment of WIPO External Auditor for the financial periods from 2024 to 2029. Pursuant to Financial Regulation 6.2, the nominated candidate should be the Auditor General (or official holding the equivalent title) of the Member State concerned.

### Establishment and Membership of the Selection Panel

3. On April 14, 2022, an invitation to serve as Members of the Selection Panel for the Appointment of the WIPO External Auditor was sent by the Director General to those WIPO Member States that were then acting as the Coordinator of each of the seven Groups of countries of WIPO Member States.

4. With respect to the Group of Central Asian, Caucasus, and Eastern European Countries (CACEEC), its Coordinator at the time – the Republic of Tajikistan – informed the WIPO Secretariat that it was unable to fulfill this role and that the CACEEC Group had agreed to nominate another country from this same Group to serve on the Selection Panel, namely the Russian Federation.

5. As a result, the seven WIPO Member States that served as Members of the Selection Panel were as follows:

- Algeria, Coordinator of the African Group, represented by Mr. Mohamed BAKIR;
- Dominican Republic, Coordinator of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, represented by Mr. Cesar HERRERA (until December 2022) and Ms. Nicole JACOBO (as from January 2023);
- Germany, Coordinator of Group B, represented by Mr. Jan TECHERT;
- India, Coordinator of the Asia and the Pacific Group, represented by Ms. Garima PAUL;
- People's Republic of China, represented by Mr. Xiang HE;
- Russian Federation, Group of Central Asian, Caucasus, and Eastern European Countries, represented by Mr. Ivan TARUTIN;
- Slovak Republic, Coordinator of the Group of Central European and Baltic States, represented by Mr. Jakub SLOVÁK (until December 2022) and Mr. Ján GALBAVÝ (as from January 2023).

6. The Director General of WIPO appointed Mr. Denis COHEN, Head, Contracts and General Legal Section, Office of the Legal Counsel, as Secretary to the Selection Panel.

7. The Selection Panel met initially on July 8, 2022. During this first meeting, the Panel adopted its Rules of Procedure and elected Mr. Jakub SLOVÁK as President and Mr. Mohamed BAKIR as Vice-President of the Panel. Following the departure of Mr. Jakub SLOVÁK from the Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic in Geneva at the end of 2022, Mr. Mohamed BAKIR, in his capacity as Vice President, served as Acting President of the Selection Panel as from January 2023.

#### Evaluation Matrix and Evaluation Process

8. To establish the criteria on the basis of which the candidates' proposals would be evaluated, the Selection Panel reviewed the evaluation matrix prepared by the WIPO Secretariat and the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC), and agreed on the following selection criteria:

- (a) Independence: autonomy from other institutions or bodies of the government; integrity; objectivity in the discharge of duties and responsibilities; ability to self-determine scope of audit.
- (b) Qualifications and Training of Staff: conformity to the auditing standards of the United Nations Panel of External Auditors and the ethics governing their work; professional qualifications, skills, and size of work force; size of the proposed team and continuity of team members; membership in internationally recognized accounting or auditing bodies such as the International Organization of the Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI), the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), etc.; proficiency in English and preferably in one other official UN language; knowledge of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS); and existence of a program for continuing professional education for staff.
- (c) Experience and Capacity: experience in the audit of United Nations organizations or other national or international public sector or non-governmental organizations; experience of audits carried out in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)/IPSAS; experience in auditing Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems.
- (d) Audit Approach and Strategy: comprehensive work plans to ensure adequate audit coverage of all WIPO resources; performance of financial and compliance audits as well as economy, efficiency and value-for-money (performance) audits, collaboration with WIPO's Internal Oversight Division (IOD) to optimize the use of limited audit resources; and communication with management, Member States and IAOC on critical audit areas.
- (e) Proposed Audit Reports Structure/Timing: proposed structure and format of reports and management letters by which the results of audit work will be communicated to management and to WIPO's competent bodies. Proven ability to adhere to timelines established in coordination with audited entity.
- (f) Cost: the most competitive fees.

9. By the applicable deadline, five proposals for the position of WIPO External Auditor were received by the WIPO Secretariat. These proposals were opened according to the standard

procurement procedure on July 15, 2022, in the presence of WIPO officials and two Members of the Panel (including the President).

10. On the basis of the selection criteria approved by the Panel, a preliminary evaluation of the candidates' proposals was performed by the WIPO Secretariat (the Finance Division and IOD), reviewed by IAOC, and submitted to the Selection Panel for its consideration.

#### Shortlisted Candidates and Oral Presentations

11. The Selection Panel reviewed the preliminary evaluation carried out by the WIPO Secretariat and IAOC, and agreed upon the shortlist of the following candidates:

- (a) the Audit Board of Indonesia;
- (b) the Auditor General of Kenya; and
- (c) the Comptroller General of Chile.

12. The three shortlisted candidates were invited to Geneva to make an oral presentation to the Selection Panel, followed by a question and answer session. The purpose of the oral presentations was to enable Panel Members to have a better appreciation of the proposals and to provide an opportunity to seek additional information and clarification in order to facilitate the selection process.

13. The oral presentations made by the candidates from Chile, Kenya and Indonesia were held, respectively, on January 24, January 31, and February 10, 2023, at the headquarters of WIPO in Geneva.

#### Recommendation of the Selection Panel

14. Based on information resulting from the oral presentations and written submissions of the shortlisted candidates, the Selection Panel undertook a thorough review and assessment of each candidate's proposal and deliberated on its recommendation on February 17, 2023.

15. In this respect, the Panel considered that the three shortlisted candidates submitted thorough, serious and solid proposals, from which it appeared that they would all be fit to fulfill the position of External Auditor at WIPO and deliver high quality external audit services. In particular, the Panel considered that the three shortlisted candidates equally demonstrated strong independence, work objectivity and high professionalism in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities. They all displayed extensive relevant knowledge and professional qualifications, as well as an appropriate size of work force.

16. Following the deliberation process, a consensus was reached among Members of the Panel. In accordance with this consensus, the Selection Panel recommends to the WIPO General Assembly, as WIPO External Auditor for a period of six years to begin on January 1, 2024, the appointment of:

#### **the Audit Board of Indonesia**

17. The Selection Panel adopted the present Report on March 13, 2023.

[End of Annex and of document]