

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

Ninth Session

Geneva, December 14 to 16, 2020

ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

prepared by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. The ninth session of the *Working Group on the Legal Development of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs* (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) will take place from December 14 to 16, 2020, in hybrid format, at the WIPO premises in the WIPO Conference Hall (hereinafter referred to as “the WCH”), and on the virtual conferencing system based on the Interprefy platform.
2. COVID-19 related guidance and restrictions by the Swiss Government including the Council of State of the Republic and Canton of Geneva guide the organizational arrangements for this session, which are set out in detail below. These arrangements are subject to change, depending on the evolution of the pandemic and any resulting change in guidance or restrictions.

ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NINTH SESSION

MEETING SCHEDULE AND DOCUMENTS

3. The Working Group will meet each day of the session from 12 noon to 2.30 p.m., Geneva time (GMT +1). Taking into account the progress of the discussions and preferences expressed by the delegations at the session, the Chair may propose changes to the time and length of those meetings, as appropriate.

4. For the convenience of all participants, the Secretariat has prepared a Proposed Timetable. The Proposed Timetable is merely indicative. If the Working Group does not conclude discussions on an item by the end of the day, discussions on that item would continue at the start of the next day, unless otherwise proposed by the Chair.

5. Documents of the session are available at the following address:
https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=58509.

6. For questions concerning the session, please, email the Secretariat at hague.registry@wipo.int and copy Ms. Nathalie St Leger (nathalie.stleger@wipo.int).

ATTENDANCE OF DELEGATES

ON-SITE DELEGATES

7. While physical attendance at WIPO intergovernmental meetings is still permitted, the latest guidance issued by the Council of State of the Republic and the Canton of Geneva imposes tight limits on the number of delegates who may be seated in any meeting room. For this reason, one seat in the WCH will be allocated to each Regional Group Coordinator, who may designate someone else to use the seat. Following the maximum occupancy guidance, any other delegates wishing to participate in the session on the WIPO premises will be seated in other WIPO conference rooms, and will use the Interprefy platform in order to request the floor and to make interventions.

8. Any delegates other than the Regional Coordinators (or their nominee from the regional group) who wish to attend on-site are requested to bring a laptop and headset in order to be able to connect on Interprefy. Delegates without a laptop will be seated by WIPO Conference Services in an ancillary area equipped with computers for individual use.

9. The WCH and other conference rooms will be cleaned every evening. Delegates must not leave personal belongings in the WCH and other conference rooms at the end of each day.

10. Each on-site delegate must proceed to the registration desk on the first day of on-site attendance for conference badge arrangements.

11. Each on-site delegate will receive a personalized badge to access WIPO premises. The registration desk is located in the WIPO Access Center at 34 Chemin des Colombettes (north side of the WIPO AB Building; Tel: +41 22 338 7942).

12. On-site delegates are requested to report any lost badges to the WIPO reception desk immediately.

13. All delegates, including Geneva-based delegates, are required to complete the online registration form, regardless of whether attending on-site or remotely.

14. WIPO has reinforced its Medical Unit, which is available to assist on-site delegates. On-site delegates will also find that all recommended health and safety measures are in place. The health and safety of delegates is a priority.

15. Following recommendations by the UN Medical Directors Network, delegates and WIPO staff present on the WIPO campus must wear masks at all times, except when seated in the New Building cafeteria or when taking the floor to make an intervention. They must also follow all other health and safety guidelines. Masks are available in the Access Center upon request.

16. The New Building cafeteria will be open to on-site delegates from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., with some distancing and capacity restrictions. Coffee and vending machines are available on the 13th floor of the WIPO AB Building.

17. The WCH document distribution counter is closed and there will be no paper distribution of documents. Delegations who wish to share written proposals with the Working Group must send them to the Secretariat at hague.registry@wipo.int and copy Ms. Nathalie St Leger (nathalie.stleger@wipo.int).

REMOTE DELEGATES

18. Interprefy is the online multilingual platform for remote participation in WIPO meetings. Interpretation will be available in all six UN languages on Interprefy. An Interprefy [user-guide](#) for WIPO delegates, together with additional information, is available on the [WIPO Virtual and Hybrid Meetings](#) webpage (in six languages).

19. Prior to the session, delegates who have registered for remote participation will receive additional guidance and an invitation to a pre-meeting mini-coaching and connectivity test session with an Interprefy technical assistant. All remote participants are strongly encouraged to attend this connectivity test session, which will help identify and address any potential technical issues in advance of the meeting.

20. Remote delegates who experience any technical issues during the session must contact the technical support team via the moderator-chat session (private chat) on the Interprefy platform. An Interprefy help-line telephone number will also be provided to remote participants with the joining instructions.

WEBCASTING

21. Delegates who do not plan to take the floor may follow the live [webcasting](#) of the session. This is the simplest way to follow the proceedings because it is easy to access and does not require a pre-meeting authentication, training or connectivity testing process. Webcasting is available in all six UN languages. The official List of Participants of the session will only include the names of delegates who have registered for the meeting.

CONDUCT OF THE MEETING

REQUESTS FOR THE FLOOR

22. The Chair will announce how they will manage proceedings and the order in which they will invite the different categories of speakers to request the floor. The speaking order will follow the usual practice, that is:

- (a) Contracting Party delegations
- (b) Member State observer delegations
- (c) Observer organization delegations

23. Those delegates who have registered for on-site participation and are present at the WCH must use the microphone system to request and take the floor. These delegates should not connect to the virtual platform or do so as passive participants.

24. Only those delegates who have registered for remote participation should connect to the virtual platform. Delegates participating via Interprefy must click the raise-hand icon in Interprefy to request the floor, as shown in the Interprefy [user-guide](#) for delegates.

INTERVENTIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS

25. After the introduction of each agenda item by the Secretariat, the Chair will open the floor for the delegations to make their interventions. The Secretariat will support the Chair in

managing both on-site and remote requests for the floor. Delegations will be invited to speak in the order indicated above and, as far as practicable, in the order in which on-site and remote requests are received.

26. Delegations participating both on-site and remotely should coordinate to avoid making parallel on-site and remote requests for the floor.

RAISING A POINT OF ORDER

27. Delegates connected via Interpretrefy must raise a “point of order” by writing a message in the “event-chat”, as indicated in the Interpretrefy [user-guide](#) for delegates. The raised-hand function alone would not allow the Chair to distinguish a “point of order” from a floor request.

USE OF THE CHAT FUNCTIONS

28. Delegates connected via Interpretrefy are able to access the private chat and event chat functions. However, as the Working Group session is a formal WIPO meeting, delegates cannot use the Interpretrefy event-chat in place of an oral intervention or for general comments or questions.

29. The Secretariat, the microphone operators or the interpreters may use the event-chat to communicate with all remote participants. Messages in the event-chat will generally be in English.

30. Delegates connected via Interpretrefy may use the private-chat function to send private messages to any other participant in the Interpretrefy participant list, to the Secretariat or to the technical support team (*via* the “moderator-chat”). Private-chat messages are neither visible to other participants nor saved by the system. Remote participants should not use the private-chat function to send messages to the Chair, who will be occupied managing the proceedings and unable to monitor the chat box.

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