

## Standing Committee on the Law of Patents

**Eighteenth Session**  
**Geneva, May 21 to 25, 2012**

### ACCREDITATION OF OBSERVERS

*prepared by the Secretariat*

1. The Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP), at its first session held in Geneva from June 15 to 19, 1998, approved certain organizational and procedural matters, including according observer status to a number of interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (see document SCP/1/2, paragraph 6).
2. The Annex to this document contains information on the Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DND), a non-governmental organization, which has requested to be granted *ad hoc* observer status in the sessions of the SCP.
3. *The SCP is invited to take a decision on the request for accreditation of the non-governmental organization referred to in the present document as an observer.*

[Annex follows]

## **DRUGS FOR NEGLECTED DISEASES *INITIATIVE* (DND*i*)**

The Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DND*i*) is a collaborative, patients' needs-driven, non-profit drug research and development (R&D) organization that is developing new treatments for neglected diseases.

DND*i* was founded in 2003 by five public sector institutions – the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation from Brazil, the Indian Council for Medical Research, the Kenya Medical Research Institute, the Ministry of Health of Malaysia and France's Pasteur Institute; one humanitarian organization, *Médicins sans Frontières* (MSF); and one international research organization, the UNDP/World Bank/WHO's Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR), which acts as a permanent observer to the initiative.

DND*i* is an independent, not-for-profit foundation in accordance with articles 80 of the Swiss Civil Code, with headquarters in Geneva.

Acting in the public interest, DND*i* bridges existing R&D gaps in essential drugs for these diseases by initiating and coordinating drug R&D projects in collaboration with the international research community, the public sector, the pharmaceutical industry, and other relevant partners. To date, DND*i* has delivered six new combination treatments against malaria, sleeping sickness, visceral leishmaniasis and one new pediatric formulation for Chagas diseases.

Soon after its launch in 2003, DND*i* adopted an intellectual property (IP) policy to guide its R&D activities and associated contractual agreements.

After several years of activities, DND*i* has accumulated significant experience in the management and negotiation of IP to support innovation and access of new treatments for neglected diseases, which could offer constructive and substantive contributions to the deliberations of WIPO Member States.

Of note, DND*i* joined WIPO Re:Search as a Provider in November 2011.

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