

WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF PATENTS

Seventh Session
Geneva, May 6 to 10, 2002

ACCREDITATION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Document prepared by the International Bureau

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. Since then, one additional intergovernmental organization, the South Centre, has expressed to the Secretariat the wish to obtain the same status for the future sessions of the SCP. Information concerning details of that organization requesting observer status in the SCP, received from the organization itself, is contained in the Annex of this document.

3. The SCP is invited to approve the accreditation of the intergovernmental organization referred to in the present document as an observer.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

INFORMATION ON THE SOUTH CENTRE, WHICH HAS REQUESTED
REPRESENTATION AS AN OBSERVER IN THE SESSIONS OF THE SCP

SOUTH CENTRE

The South Centre is a Geneva-based intergovernmental organisation of developing countries and as such, an instrument of South-South co-operation. From its inception, the Centre has been ascribed the functions of a think tank which focuses on the principal development challenges that developing countries face in the multilateral arena and in their national development. Presently, the Centre's membership consists of 46 developing countries, but the Centre works for the benefit of the South as a whole. Among its central objectives, the South Centre aims to contribute to South-wide collaboration in promoting common interests and coordinated participation by developing countries in international fora and multilateral discussions.

As part of the Centre's trade-related work programme, a "Sub-project to Improve Developing Country Participation in Intellectual Property Rights Negotiations" was launched in 1999. This project has thus far mainly focused on the negotiations related to the TRIPs agreement at the WTO. The South Centre, within the limits of its capacity and mandate, has aimed at responding to requests for policy advice and for technical and other support from collective entities of the South. This assistance has usually been provided in the form of publications, policy papers, organisation of workshops, as well as through facilitation of South-South interaction.

All these activities will continue as part of South Centre's work programme. In addition, the Centre is aware of the fact that IPR-related issues covered by WIPO represent also one of the main topics in the international agenda of interest to all developing countries. The Centre is therefore seeking to enhance its command of this subject matter and thus its ability to provide assistance on these issues to developing countries, supporting their capacity building for participation in relevant discussions in the WIPO, and elsewhere in the multilateral system.

Two main topics on WIPO agenda of particular interest to developing countries have been given priority for possible future South Centre work to build capacity of developing countries representatives, namely Patents and Traditional Knowledge. This prioritisation is based on consultations held with developing countries delegates in Geneva.

Therefore, being able to attend the meetings and participate in other activities of the *Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore* and of the *Standing Committee on the Law of Patents* is part of the Centre's endeavours to improve its own capacity for further and better assisting developing country negotiators in their efforts to promote a fairer and more participatory international intellectual property protection system.

[End of Annex and of document]