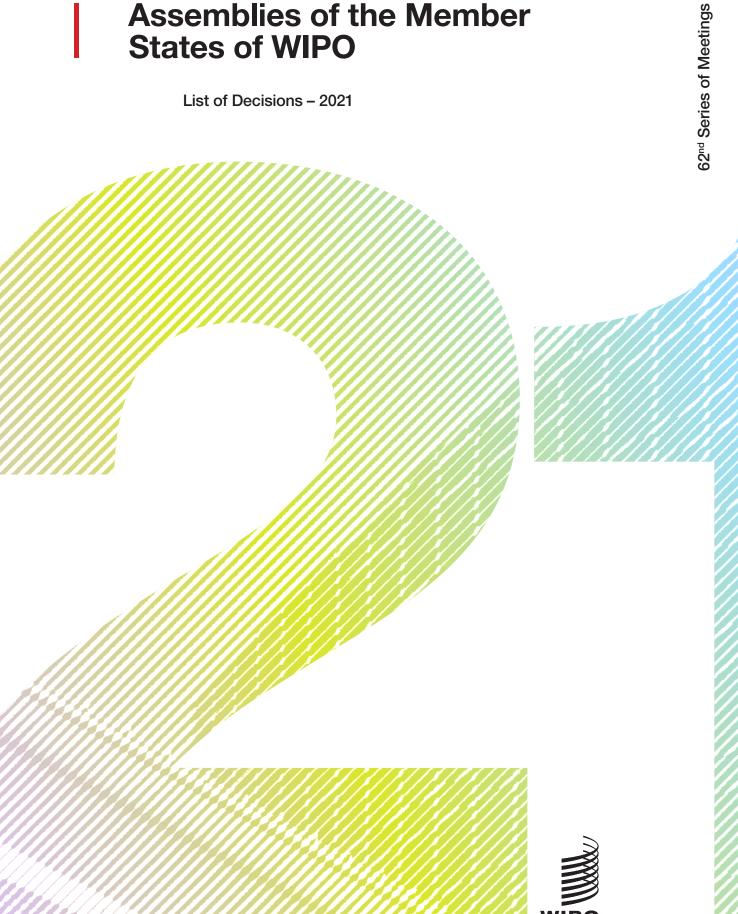
# **Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO**

List of Decisions - 2021



WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION

#### **PREFACE**

<u>The Sixty-Second Series of Meetings of the Assemblies</u> and other Bodies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and of the Unions administered by WIPO, hereinafter "the 62<sup>nd</sup> Assemblies", was held in Geneva from October 4 to 8, 2021<sup>1</sup>.

The present document<sup>2</sup> contains the list of the decisions<sup>3</sup> adopted at those meetings, together with additional information, as appropriate. Questions, comments or suggestions on this document can be addressed to assemblies@wipo.int

#### ABOUT THE WIPO ASSEMBLIES

WIPO is a United Nations (UN) specialized agency composed of 193 Member States, serving as the global forum for intellectual property (IP) services, policy, information and cooperation. WIPO's mandate is set out in the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization ("WIPO Convention").

As established by the WIPO Convention, the main policy and decision making bodies of WIPO are the WIPO General Assembly and the WIPO Coordination Committee.

In addition to the WIPO Convention, WIPO administers another 25 IP treaties<sup>4</sup>, most with their own decision making bodies, such as the Paris Union Assembly, the Berne Union Assembly and the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Union Assembly.

The decision making bodies of the WIPO Convention and of the treaties administered by WIPO traditionally meet in joint sessions in autumn on the basis of a consolidated agenda. These meetings bring together the Member States of WIPO, allowing them to take stock of the progress in the Organization's work and to discuss future policy directions.

Those are the "Meetings of the Assemblies and other Bodies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and of the Unions administered by WIPO", simply known as the "WIPO Assemblies".

At the 62<sup>nd</sup> WIPO Assemblies, 22 bodies met in joint sessions. The list of those bodies appears in document A/62/INF/1 Rev. (General Information).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Home page of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Assemblies: https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/2021/a 62/index.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The document is available in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish: https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/assemblies/2021/a 62/index.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Disclaimer: This is an informative document prepared by the Secretariat to facilitate the consultation of the decisions by delegations and interested parties. This document has no legal status. The formal reports of the Assemblies, as adopted by Member States, are the only authoritative source of the proceedings and of the decisions adopted. The references to these reports are listed in the Annex to this document.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The list of WIPO-administered treaties: https://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/

#### ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE SESSIONS

Ambassador Omar Zniber (Mr.) (Morocco), Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, opened the 62<sup>nd</sup> Assemblies on October 4, 2021.

<u>Document</u>: <u>A/62/INF/1 Rev.</u> (General Information).

#### ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

<u>Documents</u>: <u>A/62/1</u> (Consolidated Agenda) and <u>A/62/2</u> (List of Documents).

<u>Decision</u>: The Assemblies adopted the proposed agenda.

#### **ITEM 3: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

<u>Document</u>: <u>A/62/INF/2</u> (Officers).

<u>Decision</u>: The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, elected their respective officers as contained in document A/62/INF/2, including Ambassador Tatiana Molcean (Ms.) (Republic of Moldova) as the next Chair of the WIPO General Assembly and Ambassador Kadra Ahmed Hassan (Ms.) (Djibouti) as Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee.

Additional Information: According to the relevant rules of procedure, the officers of the Assemblies (i.e. the Chair and the Vice-Chairs of each of the 22 bodies that meet in the framework of the WIPO Assemblies) are elected once every two years during ordinary sessions (and therefore serve a two-year mandate). This is with the exception of the officers of the WIPO Coordination Committee, as well as the officers of the Paris and Berne Union Executive Committees, respectively, whose mandates are limited to one year. Elections of officers for these three bodies therefore take place annually.

The term of all officers starts upon their election, except for the officers of the WIPO General Assembly, whose term starts immediately after the closing of the meeting at which they were elected. Accordingly, the incumbent Chair of the WIPO General Assembly presided over the meetings in 2021, and the newly elected Chair will preside over the meetings in 2022 and 2023.

# ITEM 4: REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO THE ASSEMBLIES OF WIPO

Document: Report of the Director General to the Assemblies of WIPO<sup>5</sup>.

Mr. Daren Tang, Director General, introduced his annual report to the Assemblies<sup>6</sup>.

#### **ITEM 5: GENERAL STATEMENTS**

General statements were made by delegations from 111 States (including 10 on behalf of groups of States), two intergovernmental organizations, and 10 non-governmental organizations. The statements are available in Annex I of document A/62/13 and on a dedicated <u>Assemblies web page</u><sup>7</sup>.

#### ITEM 6: ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

<u>Document</u>: <u>A/62/3 Rev.</u> (Admission of Observers).

<u>Decision</u>: The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, decided to grant observer status to the following:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The report is available at: https://www.wipo.int/dg-report/2021/en/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The address is available at: <a href="https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/dg">https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/dg</a> tang/speeches/a 62 dg speech.html

https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/statements.jsp?meeting\_id=62448

- (a) International non-governmental organizations:
  - (i) Cumulus, The International Association of Universities and Colleges of Art, Design and Media (CUMULUS);
  - (ii) Latin American Audiovisual Authors Societies Federation (FESAAL);
  - (iii) Union des Fabricants pour la Protection Internationale de la Propriété Intellectuelle (UNIFAB); and
  - (iv) World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry (WFSGI).
- (b) National non-governmental organizations:
  - (i) Brazilian Intellectual Property Association (ABPI);
  - (iii) Denver Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS);
  - (iii) Korea Intellectual Property Association (KINPA);
  - (iv) Korea Intellectual Property Strategy Agency (KISTA);
  - (v) Ordre Suprême des Ancêtres (OSA); and
  - (vi) Société des Auteurs dans les Arts Graphiques et Plastiques (ADAGP).

Additional Information: WIPO welcomes the participation of observers at the Assemblies and other formal meetings of Member States, effectively contributing to open, transparent and responsive interaction with the observer community<sup>8</sup>. Following this decision, WIPO currently has 194 international, and 85 national, NGOs admitted as observers. These observers are invited to attend the meetings of the Assemblies and, in the same capacity, relevant meetings of committees, working groups, and other bodies subsidiary to the Assemblies.

#### ITEM 7: APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS

Document: WO/CC/80/1 (Approval of Agreements).

<u>Decision</u>: The WIPO Coordination Committee approved the Memorandum of Understanding between WIPO and the European Patent Office (EPO); and the Memorandum of Understanding between WIPO and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), as set forth in Annexes I and II, respectively, of document WO/CC/80/1.

<u>Additional Information</u>: WIPO concludes MoUs and similar cooperation and partnership agreements with other organizations in order to strengthen collaboration, usually *via* the implementation of joint activities and programs within the framework of the mandates assigned to each organization and for the benefit of their respective Member States.

# ITEM 8: COMPOSITION OF THE WIPO COORDINATION COMMITTEE, AND OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES OF THE PARIS AND BERNE UNIONS

<u>Documents</u>: A/62/5 (Composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee, and of the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions) A/62/10 (Joint-Proposal on behalf of the Group of Central Asian Caucasian and Eastern European Countries, the Group of the Central European and Baltic States, Group B and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on the Allocation of the Vacant Seats for the Election of the Composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee) and A/62/11 (Joint Proposal of the Asia and the Pacific Group (APG) and the Africa Group on the Composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee)

Decision: "Following informal consultations among Member States,

"(i) The Paris Union Assembly unanimously elected the following States as *ordinary* members of the *Paris Union Executive Committee*: Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cambodia, China, Canada, Croatia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador (2022-2023), France, Gambia (the), Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malawi, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Paraguay (2021-2022)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> More information regarding observer status at WIPO is available at <a href="https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/observers/">https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/observers/</a>

Portugal, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, Viet Nam (41).

- "(ii) The Berne Union Assembly unanimously elected the following States as *ordinary* members of the *Berne Union Executive Committee*: Argentina, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Finland, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe (40).
- "(iii) The WIPO Conference unanimously designated the following State as *ad hoc* member of the WIPO Coordination Committee: Eritrea (1);
- "(iv) The WIPO Conference and the Assemblies of the Paris and Berne Unions noted that Switzerland will continue to be an ex officio member of the Paris Union Executive Committee and of the Berne Union Executive Committee.

"As a consequence, the WIPO Coordination Committee for the period October 2021 to October 2023 is composed of the following States: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador (2022-2023), Eritrea (ad hoc), Finland, France, Gambia (the), Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay (2021-2022), Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland (ex officio), Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda; United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe (83).

"The Assemblies of WIPO, each in so far as it is concerned, decided that the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly will undertake consultations with Member States on the allocation of the vacant seats at the WIPO Assemblies in 2023, for the election of the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee, and of the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions, at the same WIPO Assemblies."

Additional information: The membership of the WIPO Coordination Committee is established every two years in accordance with Article 8 of the WIPO Convention. On the basis of the last paragraph of the above-referred decision, further consultations will take place on the allocation of the six seats that remained vacant in 2021.

### ITEM 9: COMPOSITION OF THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE (PBC)

<u>Document</u>: <u>WO/GA/54/1</u> (Composition of the Program and Budget Committee).

<u>Decision</u>: "Following informal consultations among Member States, the following States were unanimously elected by the General Assembly as members of the Program and Budget Committee for the period October 2021 to October 2023: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia (2021-2022), Azerbaijan (2021-2022), Bangladesh (2021-2022), Belarus (2022-2023), Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia (2022-2023), Iraq (2022-2023), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2021-2022), Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan (2021-2022), Kenya,

Kyrgyzstan (2022-2023), Malaysia (2021-2022), Mexico, Mongolia (2022-2023), Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Oman (2022-2023), Pakistan (2021-2022), Panama, Poland, Qatar (2021-2022), Republic of Korea (2021-2022), Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore (2022-2023), Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland (*ex officio*), Syrian Arab Republic (2022-2023), Tajikistan (2022-2023), Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan (2022-2023), Uganda, United Arab Emirates (2022-2023), United Kingdom, United States of America, Uzbekistan (2021-2022), Viet Nam (2021-2022) (53).

"The WIPO General Assembly decided to consider the composition of the Program and Budget Committee; in this context, the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly will undertake consultations on an inclusive, transparent, and effective PBC, taking into account, among other considerations, geographical representation, with a view to making a decision at the WIPO General Assembly at its session in 2023."

<u>Additional information</u>: At the Assemblies, 53 members were elected for a two-year term (see list above). On the basis of the last paragraph of the above-referred decision, further consultations will take place on the composition of the PBC ahead of the 2023 Assemblies.

# ITEM 10: REPORTS ON AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT

# (i) Report by the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC)

<u>Documents</u>: <u>WO/GA/54/2</u> (Report by the WIPO IAOC) and <u>A/62/7</u> (List of Decisions Adopted by the PBC).

Decision: "The Assemblies did not take a decision."

Additional Information: The IAOC reported on the quarterly sessions it held during the past year. Specific matters addressed relate, amongst other, to the Internal Oversight plan and the work plan results; the review of the Audited Financial Statements for 2020 and the Report of the External Auditor; Risk Management and Internal Controls; monitoring the Implementation of Oversight Recommendations; the review of, and provision of advice on, the workplan of the Ethics Office; discussions with the Ombudsperson; and assistance to Governance Bodies.

#### (ii) Report by the External Auditor

<u>Documents</u>: A/62/6 (Report by the External Auditor) and A/62/7 (List of Decisions Adopted by the PBC).

<u>Decision</u>: "The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, took note of the "Report by the External Auditor" (document A/62/6)."

<u>Additional Information</u>: WIPO received an unqualified audit opinion on its financial statements from the External Auditor. Furthermore, the External Auditor provided a long form Report on the audit of WIPO, in accordance with WIPO's Financial Regulations and Rules.

# (iii) Report by the Director of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD)

<u>Documents</u>: <u>WO/GA/54/3</u> (Annual Report by the Director of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD)) and <u>A/62/7</u> (List of Decisions Adopted by the PBC).

<u>Decision</u>: "The WIPO General Assembly took note of the "Annual Report by the Director of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD)" (document WO/GA/54/3)."

<u>Additional Information</u>: The Report contains information on, amongst other, significant issues and high priority oversight recommendations, investigative activities, status of implementation of

oversight recommendations, consultative and advisory oversight work, as well as IOD's cooperation with the Ombudsman, the Ethics Office and with external oversight bodies.

# ITEM 11: REPORT ON THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE (PBC)

<u>Document</u>: A/62/7 (List of Decisions Adopted by the Program and Budget Committee).

Decision: "The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned,

- "(i) took note of the "List of Decisions Adopted by the Program and Budget Committee" (document A/62/7); and
- "(ii) approved the recommendations made by the Program and Budget Committee as contained in the same document."

<u>Additional Information</u>: This item covered all matters under the PBC's supervision except for the Reports on Audit and Oversight (covered under item 10). The PBC is tentatively scheduled to meet from June 27 to July 1, 2022.

### **ITEM 12: RECORDS OF WIPO MEETINGS**

<u>Document</u>: <u>A/62/9</u> (Records of WIPO Meetings).

<u>Decision</u>: "The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, decided on the replacement of verbatim reports of WIPO meetings by automated speech-to-text transcripts and translations, except for WIPO meetings taking place in the framework of the Assemblies, meetings of WIPO Governing Bodies, the Program and Budget Committee (PBC) and of Diplomatic Conferences, as of October 2021."

Additional Information: In the light of the experience gained in the trial phase (Phase One), Member States decided in October 2021 to extend the system to other WIPO meetings (Phase Two), except for the Governing Bodies, the PBC and Diplomatic Conferences."

# ITEM 13: REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS (SCCR)

Document: WO/GA/54/4 (Report on the SCCR). .

Decision: "The WIPO General Assembly:

- "(i) took note of the "Report on the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights" (document WO/GA/54/4); and
- "(ii) directed the SCCR to continue its work regarding all issues reported on in document WO/GA/54/4."

Additional Information: According to the Report, the SCCR addressed the following matters over the past year: (i) protection of broadcasting organizations; (ii) limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives; (iii) limitations and exceptions for educational and research institutions and persons with other disabilities; (iv) analysis of copyright related to the digital environment, (v) resale right; (vi) protection of theatre directors' rights and (vii) public lending right. The next SCCR session will include a half-day information session on the topic of the impact of COVID-19 on the cultural, creative and educational ecosystem, including copyright, related rights, and limitations and exceptions. The SCCR is tentatively scheduled to meet from May 9 to 13, 2022.

# ITEM 14: REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF PATENTS (SCP)

Document: WO/GA/54/5 (Report on the SCP).

<u>Decision</u>: "The WIPO General Assembly took note of the "Report on the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP)" (document WO/GA/54/5)."

Additional Information: According to the Report, the SCP addressed the following matters over the past year: (i) exceptions and limitations to patent rights; (ii) quality of patents, including opposition systems; (iii) patents and health; (iv) the confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors; and (v) transfer of technology. The SCP is tentatively scheduled to meet from September 26 to 30, 2022.

# ITEM 15: REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF TRADEMARKS, INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (SCT)

Document: WO/GA/51/7 (Report on the SCT).

<u>Decision</u>: "The WIPO General Assembly took note of the "Report on the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)" (document WO/GA/54/7)."

<u>Additional Information</u>: The SCT is tentatively scheduled to meet from March 28 to 30, 2022 and from November 21 to 23, 2022.

# ITEM 16: MATTERS CONCERNING THE CONVENING OF A DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE FOR THE ADOPTION OF A DESIGN LAW TREATY (DLT)

<u>Document</u>: <u>WO/GA/54/8</u> (Matters Concerning the Convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a DLT).

<u>Decision</u>: "The WIPO General Assembly decided that, at its next session, it will continue considering the convening of a diplomatic conference on the Design Law Treaty, to take place no sooner than 2023."

<u>Additional Information</u>: In principle, the same wording was adopted as in the 2019 Assemblies, except the change of the timing for a possible diplomatic conference to no sooner than 2023..

# ITEM 17: REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (CDIP) AND REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>Document</u>: <u>WO/GA/54/9</u> (Report on the CDIP and Review of the Implementation of the Development Agenda Recommendations).

<u>Decision</u>: "The WIPO General Assembly took note of the "Report on the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) and Review of the Implementation of the Development Agenda Recommendations" (document WO/GA/54/9)."

Additional Information: Document WO/GA/54/9 contains the Summaries by the Chair of the last three CDIP sessions, held between November 2019 and July 2021. These Summaries reflect the main decisions taken by the CDIP on all documents and issues it considered. In addition, document WO/GA/54/9 contains the Director General's Report on Implementation of the Development Agenda, presented at the November 2020 CDIP session. The CDIP is tentatively scheduled to meet from May 16 to 20, 2022 and from October 17 to 21, 2022.

# ITEM 18: REPORT ON THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE (IGC)

Document: WO/GA/54/10 (Report on the IGC).

**Decision**: "The WIPO General Assembly

(i) took note of the information contained in document WO/GA/54/10;

- "(iii) agreed to renew the mandate of the IGC for the biennium 2022/2023 as below: "Bearing in mind the Development Agenda recommendations, reaffirming the importance of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (Committee), noting the different nature of these issues and acknowledging the progress made, the WIPO General Assembly agrees that the mandate of the Committee be renewed, without prejudice to the work pursued in other fora, as follows:
  - "(a) The Committee will, during the next budgetary biennium 2022/2023, continue to expedite its work, with the objective of finalizing an agreement on an international legal instrument(s), without prejudging the nature of outcome(s), relating to intellectual property, which will ensure the balanced and effective protection of genetic resources (GRs), traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs).
  - "(b) The Committee's work in the 2022/2023 biennium will build on the existing work carried out by the Committee, including text-based negotiations, with a primary focus on narrowing existing gaps and reaching a common understanding on core issues<sup>9</sup>.
  - "(c) The Committee will follow, as set out in the table below, a work program based on open and inclusive working methods for the 2022/2023 biennium, including an evidence-based approach as set out in paragraph (d). This work program will make provision for 6 sessions of the Committee in 2022/2023, including thematic, cross-cutting, and stocktaking sessions. The Committee may establish *ad hoc* expert group(s) to address a specific legal, policy, or technical issue <sup>10</sup>. The results of the work of such group(s) will be submitted to the Committee for consideration.
  - "(d) The Committee will use all WIPO working documents, including WIPO/GRTKF/IC/40/6, WIPO/GRTKF/IC/40/18, WIPO/GRTKF/IC/40/19 and the Chair's Text on a Draft International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources, as well as any other contributions of Member States, such as conducting/updating studies covering, inter alia. examples of national experiences, including domestic legislation, impact assessments, databases, and examples of protectable subject matter and subject matter that is not intended to be protected; and outputs of any expert group(s) established by the Committee and related activities conducted under Program 4. The Secretariat is requested to continue to update studies and other materials relating to tools and activities on databases and on existing disclosure regimes relating to GRs and associated TK, with a view to identifying any gaps and continuing to collect, compile and make available online information on national and regional *sui generis* regimes for the intellectual property protection of TK

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Core issues include, as applicable, inter alia, definitions, beneficiaries, subject matter, objectives, scope of protection, and what TK/TCEs are entitled to protection at an international level, including consideration of exceptions and limitations and the relationship with the public domain.

 $<sup>^{10}</sup>$  The expert group(s) will have a balanced regional representation and use an efficient working methodology. The expert group(s) will work during the weeks of the sessions of the IGC.

- and TCEs. Studies or additional activities are not to delay progress or establish any preconditions for the negotiations.
- "(e) In 2022, the Committee is requested to provide to the General Assembly a factual report along with the most recent texts available of its work up to that time with recommendations, and in 2023, submit to the General Assembly the results of its work in accordance with the objective reflected in paragraph (a). The General Assembly in 2023 will take stock of progress made, and based on the maturity of the texts, including levels of agreement on objectives, scope, and nature of the instrument(s), decide on whether to convene a diplomatic conference and/or continue negotiations.
- "(f) The General Assembly requests the Secretariat to continue to assist the Committee by providing Member States with necessary expertise and funding, in the most efficient manner, of the participation of experts from developing countries and LDCs, taking into account the usual formula for the IGC.

### WORK PROGRAM - 6 SESSIONS

| Indicative Dates          | Activity   |
|---------------------------|--|
| February/March 2022       | (IGC 42) Undertake negotiations on GRs with a focus on addressing unresolved issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument Duration 5 days.  |
| May/June 2022             | (IGC 43) Undertake negotiations on GRs with a focus on addressing unresolved issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument. Duration 5 days, plus, if so decided, a one day meeting of an ad hoc expert group.                                 |
| September 2022            | (IGC 44) Undertake negotiations on TK and/or TCEs with a focus on addressing unresolved and cross-cutting issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument(s) Possible recommendations as mentioned in paragraph (e) Duration 5 days.             |
| October 2022              | WIPO General Assembly Factual report and consider recommendations  |
| November/December<br>2022 | (IGC 45) Undertake negotiations on TK and/or TCEs with a focus on addressing unresolved and cross-cutting issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument(s). Duration 5 days, plus, if so decided, a one day meeting of an ad hoc expert group. |

| March/April 2023 | (IGC 46) Undertake negotiations on TK and/or TCEs with a focus on addressing unresolved and cross-cutting issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument(s) Duration 5 days, plus, if so decided, a one day meeting of an ad hoc expert group. |
|------------------|---|
| June/July 2023   | (IGC 47) Undertake negotiations on TK and/or TCEs with a focus on addressing unresolved and cross-cutting issues and considering options for a draft legal instrument(s). Stocktaking on GRs/TK/TCEs and making a recommendation Duration 5 days.           |
| October 2023     | WIPO General Assembly will take stock of the progress made, consider the text(s) and make the necessary decision(s)."   |

and

"(iii) recognized the importance of the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Committee, noted that the WIPO Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities was depleted, encouraged Member States to consider contributing to the Fund, and invited Member States to consider other alternate funding arrangements."

<u>Additional information</u>: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IGC met once (IGC 41). The IGC is tentatively scheduled to meet in 2022 from February 28 to March 4, 2022, from May 30 to June 3, 2022, from September 12 to 16, 2022, and from December 5 to 9, 2022.

# ITEM 19: REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON WIPO STANDARDS (CWS) AND RELATED ISSUES

# (i) Report on the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

<u>Document</u>: <u>WO/GA/54/11</u> (Report on the CWS).

<u>Decision</u>: "The WIPO General Assembly took note of the "Report on the Committee on WIPO Standards" (document WO/GA/54/11)."

# (ii) Matters Concerning the Implementation Date of WIPO Standard ST.26

<u>Document</u>: <u>WO/GA/54/14</u> (Matters Concerning the Implementation Date of WIPO Standard ST.26)

Decision: "The WIPO General Assembly took note of "WO/GA/54/14 Matters Concerning the Implementation Date of WIPO Standard ST.26" and approved the new big-bang implementation date of WIPO Standard ST.26, July 1, 2022, at national, regional and international levels."

<u>Additional Information</u>: The CWS is tentatively scheduled to meet from November 21 to 25, 2022.

# ITEM 20: REPORT ON THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENFORCEMENT (ACE)

Document: WO/GA/54/12 (Report on the ACE).

<u>Decision</u>: "The WIPO General Assembly took note of the "Report on the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE)" (document WO/GA/54/12)."

<u>Additional Information</u>: The ACE is tentatively scheduled to meet from August 31 to September 2, 2022.

#### ITEM 21: PCT SYSTEM

# (i) Appointment of the Eurasian Patent Office as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority under the PCT

<u>Document</u>: <u>PCT/A/53/1</u> (Appointment of the Eurasian Patent Office as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority under the PCT).

<u>Decision</u>: "The Assembly of the PCT Union, in accordance with Articles 16(3) and 32(3) of the PCT:

- "(i) approved the text of the draft Agreement between the Eurasian Patent Organization and the International Bureau set out in the Annex to document PCT/A/53/1; and
- "(ii) appointed the Eurasian Patent Office as an International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority with effect from the entry into force of the Agreement until December 31, 2027."

Additional Information: The Agreement between the Eurasian Patent Organization and the International Bureau agreed by the Assembly of the PCT Union was subsequently signed on November 22, 2021 and will enter into force on a date that the Eurasian Patent Office will notify to the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

# (ii) Review of the Supplementary International Search System

<u>Document</u>: <u>PCT/A/53/2</u> (Review of the Supplementary International Search System).

<u>Decision</u>: "The Assembly of the PCT Union:

- "(i) noted the review of the supplementary international search system (document PCT/A/53/2); and
- "(ii) adopted the proposed decision set out in paragraph 7 of that document."

Additional information: The Assembly of the PCT Union invited the International Bureau to continue to monitor the supplementary international search system and report to the PCT Meeting of International Authorities and PCT Working Group on significant developments. The decision also requires the Assembly of the PCT Union to review the supplementary international search system again at a time recommended by the International Bureau, or on request by a PCT Contracting State, but no later than 2027.

# (iii) Proposed Amendments to the PCT Regulations

<u>Document</u>: <u>PCT/A/53/3</u> (Proposed Amendments to the PCT Regulations).

<u>Decision</u>: "The Assembly of the PCT Union adopted the proposed amendments to the Regulations under the PCT set out in Annexes I and II of document PCT/A/53/3, and the entry into force and transitional arrangements set out in paragraph 5 of the same document, noting that the date decided by the WIPO General Assembly relating to the entry into force of the amendments in Annex I of the document was July 1, 2022."

Additional information: The Assembly of the PCT Union adopted amendments to the PCT Regulations to implement WIPO Standard ST.26 "Recommended Standard for the Presentation of Nucleotide and Amino Acid Sequence Listings using XML (eXtensible Markup Language) in the PCT and to strengthen safeguards for applicants and third parties in the case of general disruption that affect meeting time limits under the Regulations. These amendments will enter into force on July 1, 2022. The PCT Working Group is tentatively scheduled to meet from October 3 to 7, 2022

#### ITEM 22: MADRID SYSTEM

<u>Document</u>: <u>MM/A/55/1</u> (Proposed Amendments to the Regulations under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks).

<u>Decision</u>: "The Madrid Union Assembly adopted the amendments to Rules 3, 5, 5*bis*, 9, 15, 17, 21, 22, 24, 32, 39 and 40 of the Regulations Under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, as well as the amendments to the Schedule of Fees, as set out in the Annexes to document MM/A/55/1."

Additional information: The Assembly agreed to expand possible relief measures for applicants and holders where they have failed to meet time limits, including establishing a general provision providing relief where the failure was due to *force majeure* events. The Assembly also agreed to modernize the way marks may be represented and to do away with the requirement of graphical reproduction of marks, by allowing for marks to be represented by other means, such as, by sound or multimedia digital recordings. The Working Group is tentatively scheduled to meet from November 7 to 11, 2022.

#### **ITEM 23: HAGUE SYSTEM**

<u>Document</u>: <u>H/A/41/1</u> (Proposed Amendments to the Common Regulations under the 1999 Act and the 1960 Act of the Hague Agreement).

Decision: "The Assembly of the Hague Union adopted the amendments:

- "(i) to Rules 5, 17, 21 and 37 of the Common Regulations, as set out in Annexes I and III of document H/A/41/1, with a date of entry into force of January 1, 2022; and "(ii) to Rule 15. Rule 22 his of the Common Regulations and the Schodule of Food as set out
- "(ii) to Rule 15, Rule 22*bis* of the Common Regulations and the Schedule of Fees, as set out in Annexes II and IV of document H/A/41/1, with a date of entry into force to be decided by the International Bureau."

Additional information: The adopted amendments will enhance the user-friendliness of the Hague System by (i) providing an interested party (*i.e.*, applicants, holders, their representatives and Offices) with adequate relief if they failed to meet a time limit due to a *force majeure* event, (ii) extending the standard publication period from six to 12 months while introducing the possibility to request an earlier publication at any time before the publication of the international registration, (iii) relaxing the requirements for the recording of a change in ownership where the request is presented by the new owner, and (iv) providing for the possibility to add a priority claim after filing. The Working Group is tentatively scheduled to meet from December 12 to 14, 2022.

### **ITEM 24: LISBON SYSTEM**

# (i) Development of the Lisbon System

<u>Document</u>: <u>LI/A/38/1</u> (Development of the Lisbon System).

<u>Decision</u>: "The Assembly of the Lisbon Union took note of the document "Development of the Lisbon System" (document LI/A/38/1)."

Additional Information: The Working Group is tentatively scheduled to meet from June 14 to 17, 2022.

# (ii) Proposed Amendments to the Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement

<u>Document</u>: <u>LI/A/38/2</u> (Proposed Amendments to the Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement).

<u>Decision</u>: "The Assembly of the Lisbon Union adopted the amendments to the Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, as set out in the Annex to document Ll/A/38/2."

<u>Additional Information</u>: The adopted amendments will provide users of the Lisbon System with adequate relief if they failed to meet a time limit due to a *force majeure* event. These amendments will enter into force on December 8, 2021.

# ITEM 25: WIPO ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTER, INCLUDING DOMAIN NAMES

<u>Document</u>: <u>WO/GA/54/13</u> (WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, Including Domain Names).

<u>Decision</u>: "The WIPO General Assembly took note of the document "WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, Including Domain Names" (document WO/GA/54/13)."

Additional Information: The document contains an activity report of the Center as an international resource for efficient alternatives to court litigation of IP disputes, including collaboration with certain IP Offices in promoting and administering alternative dispute resolution (ADR) options. In the area of domain name dispute resolution, the document notes that in 2020 the Center administered a record 4,204 cases on the basis of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP); in total, the Center has administered filings of some 53,000 such cases covering over 96,000 domain names.

# ITEM 26: PATENT LAW TREATY (PLT)

<u>Document</u>: <u>WO/GA/54/6</u> (Technical Assistance and Cooperation Regarding the Patent Law Treaty (PLT)).

<u>Decision</u>: "The WIPO General Assembly took note of the information on "Technical Assistance and Cooperation regarding the Patent Law Treaty (PLT)" (document WO/GA/54/6)."

Additional Information: The Report outlines the WIPO activities which facilitated the filing of communications in electronic form in developing and least developed countries (LDCs) and countries in transition over the past two years. In particular, it related to: (i) technical infrastructure of national and regional IP offices; and (ii) electronic communications under the PCT. In accordance with PLT provisions, the WIPO General Assembly monitors and evaluates, at each ordinary session (i.e. normally every two years), relevant technical assistance and cooperation activities in favor of developing countries, LDCs and countries in transition, which facilitates the filing of communications in electronic form in those countries.

# ITEM 27: SINGAPORE TREATY ON THE LAW OF TRADEMARKS (STLT)

<u>Document</u>: <u>STLT/A/14/1</u> (Technical Assistance and Cooperation Regarding the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (STLT)).

<u>Decision</u>: "The Assembly of the Singapore Treaty took note of the information on "Technical Assistance and Cooperation Regarding the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (STLT)" (document STLT/A/14/1)."

Additional Information: The Report contains information on: (i) assistance in establishing the legal framework for the implementation of the Treaty, and (ii) activities relating to information, education, awareness raising and assistance in revising administrative practices and procedures. In accordance with STLT provisions, the Assembly monitors and evaluates, at each ordinary session (i.e. normally every two years), technical assistance and cooperation relevant to the STLT implementation.

# ITEM 28: MARRAKESH TREATY TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO PUBLISHED WORKS FOR PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND, VISUALLY IMPAIRED OR OTHERWISE PRINT DISABLED (MVT)

<u>Documents</u>: <u>MVT/A/6/1 Rev.</u> (Status of the Marrakesh Treaty). Reference was made to document <u>MVT/A/6/INF/1</u> (Report on the Accessible Books Consortium).

<u>Decision</u>: "The Assembly of the Marrakesh Treaty took note of the "Status of the Marrakesh Treaty" (document MVT/A/6/1 Rev.)."

Additional Information: By September 22, 2021, 80 Member States and an international organization had ratified or acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty, covering 107 countries. The seventh annual Report on the Accessible Books Consortium, a public-private alliance led by WIPO, highlighted the activities undertaken to support the practical implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty.

### ITEM 29: BEIJING TREATY ON AUDIOVISUAL PERFORMANCES (BTAP)

<u>Document</u>: <u>BTAP/A/2/1 Rev.</u> (Status of the Beijing Treaty).

<u>Decision</u>: The Assembly of the Beijing Treaty took note of the "Status of the Beijing Treaty" (document BTAP/A/2/1 Rev.).

<u>Additional Information</u>: By September 22, 2021, 43 Member States had ratified or acceded to the Beijing Treaty.

# ITEM 30: REPORTS ON STAFF MATTERS

### (i) Report on Human Resources

<u>Documents</u>: <u>WO/CC/80/INF/1</u> (Annual Report on Human Resources), <u>WO/CC/80/2</u> (Human Resources (HR) Strategy 2022-2026) and <u>WO/CC/80/4</u> (WIPO Staff Pension Committee (WSPC)).

Decision: "The WIPO Coordination Committee elected:

- "(i) Mr. Vladimir Yossifov as member of the WIPO Staff Pension Committee for the period up to the end of the ordinary session of the WIPO Coordination Committee in 2022.
- "(ii) Mr. Jean-Luc Perrin as alternate member of the WIPO Staff Pension Committee for the period up to the end of the ordinary session of the WIPO Coordination Committee in 2023."

Additional Information: The HR Report covers matters concerning WIPO's human resources that have to be reported to the WIPO Coordination Committee as well as other staff matters of interest. It includes information on progress made in achieving goals relating to some of these staff matters and a brief description of relevant policies, initiatives and activities which are aligned with the Organization's HR Strategy 2022-2026. The information in the report is complemented by a separate HR brochure containing HR data and infographics.

# (ii) Report by the Ethics Office

<u>Document</u>: <u>WO/CC/80/INF/2</u> (Annual Report by the Ethics Office).

Additional Information: The Report outlines the activities of the Ethics Office which are related to: (i) awareness raising and training activities; (ii) confidential advice to staff members; (iii) standard-setting and policy development; (iv) implementation of policies assigned to the Ethics Office; and (v) harmonization with best practices of the United Nations common system.

### ITEM 31: AMENDMENTS TO STAFF REGULATIONS AND RULES

<u>Document</u>: <u>WO/CC/80/3</u> (Amendments to Staff Regulations and Rules).

<u>Decision</u>: "The WIPO Coordination Committee:

- "(i) approved the amendments to the Staff Regulations as provided in Annex I, document WO/CC/80/3; and
- "(ii) noted the amendments to the Staff Rules as provided in Annexes II and III, document WO/CC/80/3."

Additional Information: Every year, amendments to the Staff Regulations and to the Staff Rules are presented to the WIPO Coordination Committee for approval and for notification, respectively. The ongoing review of the Staff Regulations and Rules allows WIPO to maintain a sound regulatory framework that adapts to, and supports, the changing needs and priorities of the Organization, while ensuring alignment with best practices in the United Nations common system.

#### ITEM 32: ADOPTION OF THE REPORTS

<u>Documents</u>: See Annex to the present document.

Decision: "The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned,

- "(i) adopted the present Summary Report (document A/62/12; and
- "(ii) requested the Secretariat to finalize the Extensive Reports, post them on the WIPO website and communicate them to Member States by November 5, 2021. Comments should be submitted to the Secretariat by December 3, 2021, after which the final reports will be deemed adopted by December 17, 2021."

<u>Additional Information</u>: The Summary Report, incorporated the decisions adopted by the Assemblies on October 8, 2021. The Extensive Reports, adopted on December 17, 2021, supersede the Summary Report with the addition of all statements made during the Assemblies.

### ITEM 33: CLOSING OF THE SESSIONS

The Sixty-Second Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO was closed by the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly. The 63<sup>rd</sup> session will take place at WIPO headquarters from July 15 to 22, 2022.

[Annex follows]

### LIST OF REPORTS OF THE 62ND ASSEMBLIES

A/62/13 General Report of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Assemblies (106 pg.)

WO/GA/54/15 Report of the 54th WIPO General Assembly (58 pg.)

WO/CC/80/5 Report of the 80<sup>th</sup> WIPO Coordination Committee (17 pg.)

MM/A/55/2 Report of the 55<sup>th</sup> Madrid Union Assembly (4 pg.)

H/A/41/2 Report of the 41st Hague Union Assembly (3 pg.)

LI/A/38/3 Report of the 38th Lisbon Union Assembly (7 pg.)

PCT/A/53/4 Report of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Union Assembly (6 pg.)

STLT/A/14/2 Report of the 14th Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks Assembly

(2 pg.)

MVT/A/6/2 Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> Marrakesh Treaty Assembly (5 pg.)

BTA/P/A/2/2 Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Beijing Treaty Assembly (3 pg.)

# JOINT REPORTS<sup>1</sup> (2 PG)

WO/CF/42/1 Report of the 42<sup>nd</sup> WIPO Conference

P/A/57/1 Report of the 57<sup>th</sup> Paris Union Assembly

P/EC/61/1 Report of the 61st Paris Union Executive Committee

B/A/51/1 Report of the 51st Berne Union Assembly

B/EC/67/1 Report of the 67th Berne Union Executive Committee

N/A/41/1 Report of the 41st Nice Union Assembly

LO/A/41/1 Report of the 41st Locarno Union Assembly

IPC/A/42/1 Report of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Special Union for the International Patent Classification

BP/A/38/1 Report of the 38th Budapest Union Assembly

VA/A/34/1 Report of the 34<sup>th</sup> Vienna Union Assembly

WCT/A/21/1 Report of the 21st WIPO Copyright Treaty Assembly

WPPT/A/21/1 Report of the 21st WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty

PLT/A/20/1 Report of the 20<sup>th</sup> Patent Law Treaty Assembly

Total: 22 Reports containing 213 pages

[End of Annex and of document]

<sup>1</sup> A separate document which records that the following WIPO bodies were statutorily convened in the framework of the Assemblies but did not have individual matters to discuss.

