

## **Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)**

**Thirty-Second Session**  
**Geneva, April 29 to May 3, 2024**

### **DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

*prepared by the Secretariat*

1. The present document contains the Director General's report on the implementation of the Development Agenda (DA) for the year 2023. This is the fourteenth such report, which provides an overview of the activities undertaken by WIPO for the implementation of the DA and its mainstreaming across relevant programs of the Organization.
2. Following the new structure introduced at the twenty-eighth session of the CDIP, the report portrays the implementation and mainstreaming of the DA, clustered under main areas of work of each WIPO Sector: Regional and National Development; Patents and Technology; Brands and Designs; Copyright and Creative Industries; Infrastructure and Platforms; Global Challenges and Partnerships; IP and Innovation Ecosystems; and Administration, Finance and Management. Each part of the report provides a general overview of the Sector's work linked to IP and development, provides an update on the work of the relevant WIPO Bodies, as well as an overview of the ongoing and mainstreamed DA projects under those areas of work.
3. The report also responds to the Committee's request to link the DA Recommendations to Expected Results and present them in Annex I of the DG's annual report on the implementation of the DA, as reflected in paragraph 8.3 of the Summary by the Chair of the twenty-second session. Annex II presents a list of DA projects as of 2023.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

4. Intellectual Property (IP) is acknowledged as a positive tool for socio-economic development in all regions of the world, as evidenced by the results of the Global IP Perception

Survey (“WIPO Pulse”).<sup>1</sup> The profound connection between IP and development underpins the foundation of the Development Agenda (DA), which since its adoption, has triggered an ongoing process of mainstreaming the development dimension in the programs and activities of WIPO. The Organization’s current Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022 – 2026<sup>2</sup> further strengthened the DA by placing an even greater focus on development and creation of real impact through close collaboration with Member States.

5. During the reporting period, the Organization focused on strengthening the ways in which it delivers its program of work to ensure the most effective use of IP as a tool for growth and development. This included a reinforced internal coordination and adoption of a “whole of WIPO” approach that allowed building on the traditional areas of strengths and bringing the work of the Organization to the grassroots, with a particular focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), women, youth, indigenous peoples, and communities at large. In the context of emerging global challenges, the Organization continued to leverage synergies with key partners and stakeholders to provide targeted and customized support to Member States.

## I. REGIONAL AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

6. Serving as a gateway for all of the Organization’s Member States, the Regional and National Development Sector (RNDS) supported Member States in their endeavor to use IP for growth and development. Through the WIPO Academy, Regional Divisions<sup>3</sup> and External Offices,<sup>4</sup> the Sector maximized the development impact of WIPO’s initiatives on the ground. Additionally, the RNDS Projects team piloted new ways of implementing IP-related urgent strategic cooperation projects that enabled work with new communities, constituencies, and partners, as well as closer engagement with stakeholders, such as SMEs, women, and youth. Throughout the year, a particular emphasis was put on communicating impact stories and news from the ground,<sup>5</sup> showcasing how WIPO supports entrepreneurs, inventors, and creators around the world to use IP to add value to their products, support business growth, create employment and promote economic development.

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

7. The Sector’s technical assistance and capacity building responded to the DA Recommendations. Being demand-driven and development-oriented, these initiatives included the delivery of training and building of skills on IP, awareness-raising activities, facilitation of policy dialogues, development of national IP strategies, and legislative assistance, among others. They also covered a wide range of IP fields, providing focus on certain new areas of work. Examples of such activities are: (i) *Regional Workshop on IP and Traditional Medical Knowledge in Africa*;<sup>6</sup> (ii) *Pilot Project on IP and Think Tanks in the Arab Region*;<sup>7</sup> (iii) *WIPO-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) TikTok Competition for the youth on IP and Tourism: My land is my ultimate flex*;<sup>8</sup> (iv) *Regional Forum on IP for Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and Entrepreneurship in Latin America*; as

<sup>1</sup> The WIPO Pulse report is available at: [www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo-pub-rn2023-36-en-wipo-pulse.pdf](http://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo-pub-rn2023-36-en-wipo-pulse.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> The Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022 – 2026 is available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=541373](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=541373)

<sup>3</sup> Division for Africa, Division for Least-Developed Countries, Division for Arab Countries, Division for Asia and the Pacific, Division for Latin America and the Caribbean, Division for Transition and Developed Countries.

<sup>4</sup> WIPO has External Offices in Algeria, Brazil, China, Japan, Nigeria, the Russian Federation and Singapore.

<sup>5</sup> The Development Stories – IP for Impact webpage is available at: [www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/stories/](http://www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/stories/)

<sup>6</sup> Ten countries benefited from the workshop: Eswatini, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Liberia, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda.

<sup>7</sup> The project was implemented in Algeria, Kuwait, and Morocco. It was completed in 2023.

<sup>8</sup> Further information about the Competition and its winners is available at: [www.wipo.int/youth-engagement/en/news/2023/news\\_0008.html](http://www.wipo.int/youth-engagement/en/news/2023/news_0008.html)

well as (v) *WIPO – Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) Regional Meeting on Enhancing IP Commercialization Capacity of Techno-Parks in the region of EAPO Member States*.<sup>9</sup>

8. Through WIPO's COVID-19 Response Package,<sup>10</sup> the Organization provided tailored support measures to assist Member States in addressing the challenges faced as a result of the pandemic, including strengthening response and recovery efforts and building resilience. The Package benefitted over 25% of WIPO Member States in 2022 and 2023<sup>11</sup> and reached out to new and diverse stakeholders and communities, including those typically underserved by the IP system, such as SMEs, women, youth, local communities, and indigenous peoples. Following the success of the COVID-19 Response Package, WIPO's new Build Back Fund has been approved by Member States as part of WIPO's Program of Work and Budget 2024/25. The Build Back Fund will ensure seamless continuity of the projects and activities launched under the COVID-19 Response Package, and will continue to deliver customized, targeted and impact-driven support to address country-specific needs and priorities during the post-pandemic period.

9. To ensure that IP is truly a tool accessible to all, the Sector worked closely with Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in assisting their preparation for graduation through "WIPO's Graduation Support Package for LDCs" as a contribution to the Doha Programme of Action for 2022-2031. In 2023, WIPO developed and started implementing country-specific support programs for Angola, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Sao Tomé and Príncipe. In addition, WIPO received a request for IP-related technical assistance from Bangladesh. The areas of IP-related technical assistance for graduating LDCs include, among others, enhanced support for developing national IP and innovation eco-systems, modernization of national IP Offices, specialized trainings for various stakeholders, assisting technological capacity building, as well as a range of technical assistance activities on using IP for business competitiveness and economic diversification.

## SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

10. The number of people benefitting from the WIPO Academy's Distance Learning (DL) Program reached 108,292 in 2023, with a total of 580 courses in up to 20 languages. The DL course offerings were expanded to more practical and competency-oriented training for highly specialized stakeholders and users of the IP system. A *Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISC) Staff Certification Program* was developed to establish a standard framework for foundational training and upskilling of professionals and staff at WIPO TISCs. The new *IP Training Program for Diplomats and Trade Officials* offers Member States a specialized program to equip their diplomats with the necessary knowledge to navigate the landscape of IP in international diplomacy and trade. This includes a module on the WIPO DA. The new *Specialized Course on the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs (DL304)* aims to increase use of the Hague System by teaching about its benefits, legal framework, features and functions. The Academy responded to the continued demand for adaptation of its entry-level and youth-focused learning tools to national target audiences, building on new and existing agreements for customization with the IP Offices of 12 Member States.<sup>12</sup> It is worth mentioning that the first and second editions of the *WIPO-Harvard Patent Law and Global Public Health Course* (PatentX Course) were delivered free of charge to more than 1,000 students around the world.

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<sup>9</sup> More information about the Conference can be found at: [www.wipo.int/technology-transfer/en/news/2023/news\\_0003.html](http://www.wipo.int/technology-transfer/en/news/2023/news_0003.html)

<sup>10</sup> Further information on WIPO's COVID-19 Related Services and Support is available at: [www.wipo.int/covid-19/en/](http://www.wipo.int/covid-19/en/)

<sup>11</sup> Projects have been implemented across all IP areas, coordinated by the WIPO Academy upon the request of Member States.

<sup>12</sup> Albania, Cabo Verde, Cuba, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Antigua and Barbuda, and Trinidad and Tobago.

11. Furthermore, the WIPO Academy provided support to universities to improve IP higher education for youth, women, entrepreneurs and SMEs, including through the development of curricula, provision of IP academic resources, WIPO experts and international professors. Joint Master's programs represented another key strand of the Academy's work aimed particularly at participants from developing countries, LDCs and countries with economies in transition. In 2023, eleven Joint Master's programs were offered in university partners to 229 participants. Nineteen WIPO Academy Summer Schools on IP Law were organized in 16 different countries for 1334 participants. Additionally, the WIPO and the World Trade Organization (WTO) Colloquium, organized in Geneva, offered support to 27 IP teachers and researchers.

## IP AND DEVELOPMENT

12. On April 24, 2023, WIPO hosted an International Conference on IP and Development, with the theme "*IP and Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture*". The event took place, in a hybrid format, during the first day of the thirtieth session of the CDIP. More than 600 participants attended the event in-person and virtually. The Conference was organized along an introductory panel, three panels and a concluding dialogue. Fourteen speakers from diverse backgrounds (academics, private sector, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) exchanged views and insights about the importance of innovation for sustainable agriculture and discussed how IP tools can support it. The audience engaged actively by posing questions and raising comments *via* the online platform throughout the whole event. A factual report on the Conference was considered at the thirty-first session of the CDIP (document [CDIP/31/4](#)). The Committee commended the Secretariat on its efforts to organize the Conference and expressed appreciation for the substantive and logistical aspects. The Committee decided that the sub-topic for the International Conference on IP and Development, to be organized in 2025, should be "*The role of IP and innovation in addressing global public health challenges: fostering technological transfer and collaborations*".

13. The CDIP, under the agenda item on "*IP and Development*", continued to discuss topics proposed and agreed upon by Member States.<sup>13</sup> This agenda item serves as a platform for in-depth discussion on the selected topic, as well as WIPO's existing work and future direction in that area. It also provides an opportunity for Member States to share experiences and their expectations of the Organization's work and technical assistance in various fields of IP. During its thirtieth session, held from April 24 to 28, 2023, the Committee discussed the topic "*IP and youth: investing in the future*". Following the presentation by the Secretariat,<sup>14</sup> Member States shared their national educational programs, projects and other initiatives that are aimed at empowering youth to use IP to innovate and create. The Committee also revisited the topic "Women and IP"<sup>15</sup> and considered two reports on Women and IP: i) "*Internal and External Activities, Strategic Direction*";<sup>16</sup> and ii) "*Compilation and Sharing of Data*".<sup>17</sup> Member States encouraged the Secretariat to continue implementing activities in this domain. At its thirty-first session, held from November 27 to December 1, 2023, the Committee discussed the topic "*Addressing Climate Change: IP Helps Achieve the Goals of Carbon Peaking and Carbon Neutrality*". The Committee listened to the presentation by the Secretariat<sup>18</sup> on that topic, following which Member States presented their national experiences, programs, projects, and other initiatives aimed at using IP and innovation to address climate change. In addition, the Committee agreed to discuss under agenda item on "*IP and Development*" the topic "*Building*

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<sup>13</sup> In this regard, to facilitate discussions, a [Roster of Topics](#) with proposals from Member States has been established and is being periodically updated. Member States are invited to submit their proposals for IP and development-related topics at any time.

<sup>14</sup> The Secretariat's presentation is available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=607593](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=607593)

<sup>15</sup> Following a request by the Committee at its twenty-sixth session.

<sup>16</sup> See document CDIP/30/12, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=602624](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=602624)

<sup>17</sup> See document CDIP/30/13, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=602625](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=602625)

<sup>18</sup> The Secretariat's Presentation is available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=625143](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=625143)

*the Capacity of Universities to Manage and Commercialise IP: Transferring IP and Technology*” at its thirty-second session, the topic “*AI Impacts for IP and Development*” at its thirty-third session, and the topic “*IP and the Judiciary: Building Capacities and Expertise*” at its thirty-fourth session.

## FLEXIBILITIES IN THE IP SYSTEM

14. The information contained in the Database on Flexibilities<sup>19</sup> continued to be disseminated, as presented in the document CDIP/20/5,<sup>20</sup> which, *inter alia*, describes the measures for the dissemination of the information contained in this Database. The Database allows searching for implementation of the flexibilities in national IP laws in selected jurisdictions. As agreed by the Committee at its eighteenth session in 2016, the entry page of the Database includes information on its updating mechanism. The Mechanism requires Member States to provide the Secretariat, through an official communication, with the update(s) regarding national provisions related to the flexibilities included in the Database.<sup>21</sup> The notified update is immediately included in the Database in a new field named “Updates by Member States”. In 2023, no updates were submitted by Member States.

## WOMEN AND IP

15. WIPO promoted gender balance and empowered women to participate in the field of IP. Following a decision by the CDIP, a forum to raise awareness on the importance of empowering and increasing women’s participation in the IP ecosystem has been established through a series of sharing sessions on “*Closing the Gender Gap in IP*”. In 2023, one such session on “*Women in the Creative Industries*” took place on October 12, 2023.<sup>22</sup> Through practical examples from the fields of cartoons, filmmaking, authorship, and technology, women panelists from Pakistan, Kenya, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Hungary shared their professional experiences in the creative industries, highlighting what the role of IP was along the way. The session brought together some 180 participants<sup>23</sup> from more than 100 countries. This series of sessions will continue to explore gender gap in IP in other areas.

16. During the reporting period, the RNDS Projects Team completed *Projects for Women Entrepreneurs* in Namibia, Jordan, and Pakistan. In Namibia, the project provided a comprehensive IP training program for 50 women entrepreneurs in fashion, cosmetics, and agribusiness from diverse regions across Namibia. Subsequently, a mentoring initiative offered individualized guidance to 10 outstanding women entrepreneurs in June and July 2023. Some of the results of the project included the submission of trademark applications and development of customized IP strategies for 10 mentees. The project in Petra, Jordan, supported a selected group of 35 women entrepreneurs with different handicraft products to understand and use IP for product development. The project resulted in the development of a collective mark “Rose Hands”, which would support the entrepreneurs to improve their marketing and commercialization prospects. The project in Pakistan supported over 40 women entrepreneurs in the embroidery business to use IP for business growth. Twenty-one selected women entrepreneurs engaged in a two-month mentoring program focused on branding and marketing, and 10 business plans have been developed for these participants, which can be widely utilized for their business management, promotion, and marketing activities. The project resulted in the

<sup>19</sup> The Database was established in June 2013, as agreed by the Committee at its sixth session: [www.wipo.int/ip-development/en/agenda/flexibilities/database.html](http://www.wipo.int/ip-development/en/agenda/flexibilities/database.html)

<sup>20</sup> The document CDIP/20/5 is available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=387181](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=387181)

<sup>21</sup> The update(s) notified by Member States could refer to: (i) a modification of one or several articles already included in the Database; and/or (ii) a previously non-existing article(s), newly adopted in their national law pertaining to the flexibilities contained in the Database.

<sup>22</sup> Further information can be found at: [www.wipo.int/women-and-ip/en/news/2023/news\\_0002.html](http://www.wipo.int/women-and-ip/en/news/2023/news_0002.html)

<sup>23</sup> This figure indicates the number of participants who joined the session via the platform. In addition, a wide number of participants followed the sessions via the live webcasting.



submission of 18 trademark applications and two design applications. 2023 also marked a launch of a project in Brazil to support 40 Quilombola “Afro-descendant” women entrepreneurs in selected communities to add value to their products and contribute to strengthening their traditional identities. Additionally, the RNDS Projects Team initiated projects to support a group of 25 women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh and over 50 women artisans engaged in Tally “embroidery” production in Sohag, Egypt, to leverage the IP system for their business growth.

17. The Sector continued the implementation of projects for *Women Entrepreneurs in the LDCs*, providing mentoring to more than 225 women entrepreneurs in Uganda, Cambodia, and United Republic of Tanzania. In Uganda, 70 trademark registration were granted to women entrepreneurs by the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), in collaboration with a local NGO, “Grooming a Successful Woman with Intellectual Mind (GSWIM)”.<sup>24</sup> The Project in Cambodia provided mentoring for 100 women entrepreneurs, and 51 trademark registration were granted by the Department of Intellectual Property (DIP) of Cambodia, in collaboration with the Cambodian Women Entrepreneurs Association (CWEA). In the United Republic of Tanzania, mentoring for 75 women entrepreneurs was provided, and 63 trademark registration are expected to be granted for their products early 2024 by the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA), in collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam, DEMO Limited and PALEI Limited. Other LDCs, such as Sao Tome and Principe, Togo, Nepal, and the Gambia also expressed interest in collaborating on similar activities for supporting women entrepreneurs.

18. As a follow up of the *Regional Conference on IP for Women in Agribusiness*,<sup>25</sup> 30 women entrepreneurs from 25<sup>26</sup> countries across Africa participated in a six-month tailor-made coaching and mentoring program to equip them with knowledge on the relevant IP tools and the key processes relating to acquisition and commercialization of IP rights. The *Asia-Pacific Women Innovators and Entrepreneurs* projects<sup>27</sup> were launched in Sri Lanka, Viet Nam, and Indonesia,<sup>28</sup> reaching 400 beneficiaries. Majority of women are actively using IP tools and applying the knowledge and solutions derived from the mentorship provided by the project. Two editions of the *IP for Women Entrepreneurs: Creating Value through IP* project were implemented<sup>29</sup> in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through training and hands-on IP mentoring of selected project beneficiaries, the participants gained a better understanding of IP strategy, licensing, and business plans. Some of them registered their IP rights nationally and internationally, and others reevaluated their IP licensing and strategy based on the knowledge they had acquired. In addition, the second edition of the project on *IP Management for Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Careers in Latin America* was implemented. As a result, participants acquired knowledge on IP protection, business, commercialization, licensing and collaboration strategies, funding scouting for patent filing and scale-up partnerships. A national edition of the project was implemented in Brazil. It is also worth mentioning that the inaugural *Leadership Course on IP, Science and Innovation* was organized in collaboration with the *L’Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science* program to offer blended online and offline IP training opportunities to accomplished female scientists.

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<sup>24</sup> For the project in Uganda, 10 videos of success stories are available at GSWIM’s webpage: [www.gswim.org/gswimwomensuccessstories](http://www.gswim.org/gswimwomensuccessstories)

<sup>25</sup> The details of the Conference are available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=76488](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=76488)

<sup>26</sup> Botswana, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

<sup>27</sup> Further information is available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=71368](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=71368)

<sup>28</sup> WIPO worked with the: i) National Innovation Agency (NIA) and the National IP Office of Sri Lanka (NIPO) in Sri Lanka; ii) Centre of Science & Technology Application and Start-up (COSTAS) of the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) in Viet Nam; and iii) “WeMean Business” in Indonesia.

<sup>29</sup> One for Latin America and one for the Caribbean.

## WIPO BODIES

19. The Sector served as the custodian of the WIPO DA. The cross-organizational coordination of the DA enables the implementation and mainstreaming of the DA Recommendations throughout WIPO, based on the guidance of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP). During the reporting period, the CDIP met twice, in a hybrid format, at its thirtieth session held from April 24 to 28, 2023, and at its thirty-first session held from November 27 to December 1, 2023. Member States expressed commitment to the work of the CDIP and to the implementation of the DA Recommendations and projects. The following seven new project proposals were approved by the CDIP, increasing the total number of DA projects approved by the end of the 2023 to 55:

- i) project proposal submitted by Kenya on *Development of Strategies and Tools to Address Online Copyright Piracy in the African Digital Market*. It was approved at the thirtieth CDIP session, and it aims at implementing the DA Recommendations 4, 10, 11 and 45.
- ii) pilot project proposal submitted by the African Group on *Text and Data Mining (TDM) to Support Research and Innovation in Universities and Other Research-Oriented Institutions in Africa*. It was approved at the thirtieth CDIP session, and it aims at implementing the DA Recommendations 4, 10, 16, 25 and 27.
- iii) project proposal submitted by the United States of America, the Republic of Korea and Canada on *Empowering Youth (K-12) to Innovate for a Better Future*. It was approved at the thirtieth CDIP session, and it aims at implementing the DA Recommendations 1, 3, 10, 19 and 30.
- iv) proposal for a phase II of the project on *IP and Gastronomic Tourism in Peru and Other Developing Countries: Promoting the Development of Gastronomic Tourism through IP*, submitted by Peru, Cameroon, Malaysia and Morocco. It was approved at the thirtieth CDIP session, and it aims at implementing the DA Recommendations 1, 10, 12 and 40.
- v) project proposal submitted by the Philippines on *IP and Innovation Collaboration as a Foundation for Technology Transfer and Bringing Research Output to Market*. It was approved at the thirty-first CDIP session, and it aims at implementing the DA Recommendations 10, 23, 31 and 36.
- vi) project proposal submitted by India on *IP and Unlocking the Potential of Non-Agricultural Geographical Indications for the Empowerment of Local Communities and Preservation or Revival of Local Arts and Traditions*. It was approved at the thirty-first CDIP session, and it aims at implementing the DA Recommendations 1, 4, 11, 34, 35 and 37.
- vii) proposal for a phase II of the project on *Copyright and the Distribution of Content in the Digital Environment*, submitted by Brazil, Peru and Argentina. It was approved at the thirty-first CDIP session, and it aims at implementing the DA Recommendations 1, 3, 4, 10, 11, 16, 25 and 35.

20. The process of carrying out independent evaluation of completed DA projects continued to be an essential tool for Member States to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of these projects and to provide guidance for future DA initiatives. The WIPO Secretariat continued to take into account recommendations emanating from the evaluations, ensuring that the agreed recommendations made by the evaluators were duly implemented. The Committee discussed and considered completion and final independent evaluation reports for three DA projects, namely, the projects on: i) *IP and Gastronomic Tourism in Peru and Other Developing Countries: Promoting the Development of Gastronomic Tourism Through IP*; ii) *Increasing the*

*Role of Women in Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Encouraging Women in Developing Countries to Use the IP System;* and iii) *Copyright and the Distribution of Content in the Digital Environment*. Furthermore, the Committee considered an external independent *Impact Evaluation Report of the project on IP and Socio-Economic Development*. The Committee commended the results achieved through the project and appreciated the usefulness of the report in assessing the project's long-term impact on beneficiaries and its sustainability.

21. Eight DA projects were ongoing in 2023, the implementation of which was presented to the Committee through a *Progress Report*.<sup>30</sup> The Committee also commended the revised structure of the *Progress Report on the Implementation of the 45 Development Agenda Recommendations*, which integrated the progress concerning the adopted recommendations of the independent review addressed to the Secretariat.<sup>31</sup> The Committee agreed upon the *Terms of Reference for an Independent External Review of WIPO's Technical Assistance in the Area of Cooperation for Development* and requested the Secretariat to start the implementation of the said review. In addition, the CDIP took note of the seventh *Report on WIPO's Contribution to the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and its Associated Targets*, and of some of the outputs (studies and guides) developed in the context of DA projects.

#### MAINSTREAMED DA PROJECTS

22. Below are highlights of the work related to the mainstreamed DA projects:

- (i) *Establishment of "Start-Up" National IP Academies*, currently, the *Intellectual Property Training Institutions (IPTIs) Project*: the WIPO Academy continued to support Member States in building their own IP training capacities through the establishment of self-sustaining IPTIs focused on specific national goals and priorities. By 2023, 19 national IPTIs have been established in 15 Member States,<sup>32</sup> and the first regional IPTI was established in the ASEAN. Fourteen other projects are underway and 11 requests for such assistance were received. By the end of the reporting period, established IPTIs have delivered around 9,000 training programs and activities for more than 520,000 participants. Twenty-five Training of Trainers modules for more than 650 participants from 30 countries were successfully delivered in 2023. In terms of the project implementation, the WIPO Academy partnered with established IPTIs to implement 29 joint projects,<sup>33</sup> which have impacted around 1300 people, including entrepreneurs, women, as well as youth and children from indigenous communities. The self-paced IP Training Strategies course, originally designed for IPTIs' trainers, has been extended to the wider public through inclusion in the WIPO Academy Catalogue. The first open edition attracted over 300 participants. Furthermore, the IPTIs network has expanded, welcoming eight new members,<sup>34</sup> increasing the total number of members to 28 from 54 countries.<sup>35</sup> Throughout 2023, the network organized four events that collectively drew over 500 participants. These gatherings served as platforms for IPTIs to exchange success strategies and share stories related to the implementation of skills-building programs targeting youth, women, and SMEs.

<sup>30</sup> See document CDIP/31/3, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=619966](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=619966)

<sup>31</sup> As requested by the CDIP at its twenty-ninth session. See document CDIP/31/2, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=620905](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=620905)

<sup>32</sup> Namely, in Azerbaijan, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine. In Colombia, Dominican Republic, and Türkiye two IPTIs per country have been established, one at the Industrial Property Office and one at the Copyright Office, respectively.

<sup>33</sup> Eleven of these projects were implemented in the framework of the COVID-19 Support Package.

<sup>34</sup> Algeria, Armenia, Chile, Ecuador, Indonesia, Pakistan, Arab Republic of Syria, Viet Nam.

<sup>35</sup> Members of the IPTI Network include both the 19 established IPTIs and nine of the ongoing projects. Among the 54 countries, ASEAN's 10 Member States and the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization's (ARIPO's) 22 are counted.



- (ii) *Capacity-Building in the Use of Appropriate Technology-specific Technical and Scientific Information as a Solution for Identified Development Challenges*: through facilitating the use of technical and scientific information from patent documents, the project aims at identifying appropriate technologies to address specific development needs in LDCs, and to enhance the national capacity in this area. Steps were taken to enhance the development impact of these projects in the beneficiary countries and communities by exploring partnerships with relevant partner institutions and stakeholders. In 2023, pilot projects were launched in Bhutan and Malawi to build capacity and facilitate the transfer of appropriate technology through universities and research institutes. These projects provide an opportunity for researchers, innovators and students of partner and beneficiary universities and research institutes to generate knowledge, learn, innovate and collaborate on the development of an appropriate technology for addressing socio-economic challenges for sustainable development. Other LDCs, such as Benin, Cambodia and Lesotho have also expressed interest in collaborating on similar projects. The national project in Uganda was completed in 2023. The business plans for the identified appropriate technologies for projects in Mozambique and Senegal were finalized and are expected to be handed over at national outreach workshops in order to generate support and partnerships for their implementation.
- (iii) *The IP Technical Assistance Database (IP-TAD)*<sup>36</sup> continued to accommodate the technical assistance activities that were conducted virtually and in a hybrid format. The Database presented information related to the Organization's technical assistance activities, capturing data from different WIPO Programs and Sectors, which perform development-oriented cooperation activities. The Database recorded 872 technical assistance activities undertaken by WIPO in 2023, with participants from developing countries, LDCs and countries in transition.
- (iv) *The WIPO Roster of Consultants Database (IP-ROC)* contains information of consultants engaged by WIPO to undertake specific IP Technical assistance activities.<sup>37</sup> A consultant can be an expert in more than one IP subject area and more than one language. The search function of the database allows identifying consultants by areas of specialization and performed assignments. In particular, consultants can be searched by various criteria, such as gender, nationality, language, name, expertise by IP field, beneficiary country, and year of assignment. There were 2,321 experts/consultants active in the IP-ROC in 2023.
- (v) *IP Development Matchmaking Database*, currently, the *WIPO Match*: following the consideration by the Committee of a document on the "Strategy for Future Enhancement of WIPO Match"<sup>38</sup> at its twenty-eighth session held in April 2022, the Secretariat initiated work to technically improve, restructure, and expand the WIPO Match platform in order to provide more tools, services and functionalities that would help deliver better results. The strategy also proposed to utilize the WIPO Match platform as the backbone platform to increase transparent exchange of information among the stakeholders in the IP ecosystem, encourage cooperation amongst them, and facilitate South-South, North-South and Triangular initiatives. In 2023, the Secretariat initiated the work to implement the said strategy. It created a new web entry, dedicated to South-South, North South and Triangular Cooperation activities, called WIPO Cooperation Hub.<sup>39</sup> The WIPO Cooperation Hub provides the space for knowledge, experience, and information exchange, aimed at supporting effective South-South and Triangular cooperation initiatives in various fields of IP and innovation. It provides links to multiple development

<sup>36</sup> IP-TAD provides information on technical assistance activities undertaken by WIPO where the beneficiary countries were either a developing country, LDC, or a country in transition.

<sup>37</sup> These consultants do not work in the headquarters or in WIPO External Offices.

<sup>38</sup> See document CDIP/28/5, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=570471](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=570471)

<sup>39</sup> WIPO Cooperation Hub can be accessed at: [www.wipo.int/cooperation/en/south\\_south/](http://www.wipo.int/cooperation/en/south_south/)

related resources and tools of WIPO, such as the DA Catalogue on Projects and Outputs, Stories on IP for impact, IP Advantage database, IP Roster of Consultants. The improved and restructured WIPO Match database, currently undergoing technical improvements, will also be integrated into that web entry.

- (vi) *Enhancing South-South Cooperation on IP and Development among Developing Countries and LDCs*: the DA Recommendations and the Sustainable Development Goals provide a focus on WIPO's role in facilitating and strengthening horizontal cooperation among its Member States, and in ramping up efforts leading to improved South-South and Triangular cooperation. To chart the Organization's future work in this area and identify priority thematic clusters, the Second Roundtable on Fostering South-South and Triangular Cooperation in IP and Innovation took place on May 16, 2023.<sup>40</sup> During the Roundtable, Ms. Dima Al-Khatib, Director of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) delivered a special address and moderated a session. Nine speakers shared their experiences in delivering development-oriented projects with successful results of the use of IP by different countries. Around 120 participants of Member States and relevant IGOs and NGOs joined the meeting in person and online. The priority thematic clusters around which future South-South and Triangular cooperation initiatives have been encouraged by most of the speakers and participants included: green innovation and technology transfer; agricultural innovation; IP and digitalization; IP management; and creative economies.
- (vii) *Tools for Successful DA Project Proposals* was completed and the new DA project methodology was mainstreamed into the regular work of WIPO, including the Online Catalogue on DA Projects,<sup>41</sup> the Guidebook on DA Project Management,<sup>42</sup> the Distance Learning Course on Successful DA Projects, which benefitted 114 participants in 2023, and customized trainings on project development and implementation for Member States and other relevant stakeholders.
- (viii) *IP and Product Branding for Business Development in Developing Countries and LDCs* project activities were mainstreamed into the regular work of the Sector and in its delivery of the technical assistance in the areas of product branding and business development. In Cambodia, WIPO partnered with the Ministry of Commerce to provide IP assistance to 13 export-ready small businesses in strengthening their brands.<sup>43</sup> At least three sessions were conducted per beneficiary or a total of 45 mentoring sessions held in four months from August to December 2023. As a result, all beneficiaries had new brand options, which were cleared through a trademark search and with guidance from the national IP Office.<sup>44</sup> In Niue, WIPO<sup>45</sup> provided assistance to create the brand name "Ocean Conversation Commitment" (OCC) and brand assets for an international financing mechanism for ocean conservation. OCC was launched on September 29, 2023, in New York during a side-event of the seventy-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) started the One District One Products (ODOP) initiative and supported the small businesses through improvements in their supply chain and business operations. WIPO is supporting ODOP's branding. Thirty businesses

<sup>40</sup> The First Roundtable was organized on October 14, 2022. Further information about the Second Roundtable can be found at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=76929](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=76929)

<sup>41</sup> The Catalogue DA Projects and Outputs can be accessed at: [dacatalogue.wipo.int/projects](http://dacatalogue.wipo.int/projects)

<sup>42</sup> The Guidebook can be downloaded at:

[dacatalogue.wipo.int/projectfiles/DA\\_01\\_05\\_01/Guidebook/EN/Development%20Agenda%20Guidebook\\_E.pdf](http://dacatalogue.wipo.int/projectfiles/DA_01_05_01/Guidebook/EN/Development%20Agenda%20Guidebook_E.pdf)

<sup>43</sup> The businesses are selling their goods in the Cambodia Trade online shopping platform that is accessible in the entire ASEAN region.

<sup>44</sup> The new IP assets, which will be adopted by beneficiaries, will be ready for trademark protection through registration in 2024 with further assistance from the national IP Office.

<sup>45</sup> WIPO worked with the organizers and proponents: the Ocean Wide (NOW) Trust, the Blue Nature Alliance, the Conservation International and McKinsey Consulting. The project is funded partly by the Funds in Trust (FIT) Korea.

were selected and given training. Twelve of them became interested in using brands and underwent one-on-one mentoring. Five businesses started using brands and filed for trademark registration. In Bangladesh, WIPO has been implementing two projects. The first project supported the top 20 tiger shrimp producers<sup>46</sup> to increase their competitiveness and exports through differentiated branding. The project has entered the phase of formulating the brand strategy and brand assets. The second project supports the top 20 women-led businesses producing Rangpur Shataranji carpets.<sup>47</sup> With the collective mark and individual trademarks, IP has begun to be used by the entrepreneurs as they expand their businesses by selling through new distribution channels and exporting. In Bhutan, WIPO assisted the top eight exporters of water industry to pivot to e-commerce and adapt their individual brands to the digital environment. As a result, three top players applied for new trademark registrations.<sup>48</sup>

## ONGOING DA PROJECTS

23. The Sector is in charge of implementing the project on *Reducing Work-Related Accidents and Occupational Diseases through Innovation and IP*, proposed by Tunisia. The project's objectives are: i) to explore the role of IP tools and innovation in providing a safer environment to workers; and (ii) to contribute to decreasing occupational accidents and diseases through the use of IP tools and promotion of innovation. The implementation of the project started in 2023. The four beneficiary countries of the project were selected: Tunisia, Cameroon, the Gambia, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

## II. PATENTS AND TECHNOLOGY SECTOR

24. The Patents and Technology Sector supported Member States in developing their legislative framework to protect valuable innovative assets in their territories. The Sector led the Member State-driven normative process, enabling a conducive environment for dialogue and collaboration. Additionally, the IP and Gender team within the Sector led the implementation of the IP and Gender Action Plan. During the reporting period, the Sector expanded its outreach through training and capacity building activities in LDCs, developing countries and countries in transition.

### PATENT AND TECHNOLOGY LAW AND PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

25. In the area of patents, utility models, trade secrets and layout designs of integrated circuits, the Sector provided legislative and policy advice to 19 developing countries, LDCs and countries in transition.<sup>49</sup> The Sector also provided support to prospective and current Contracting Parties to the Paris Convention, the Patent Law Treaty (PLT) and the Budapest Treaty through provision of information on legal, technical and institutional aspects of these treaties and facilitation of sharing of experiences among Member States on the national implementation of the treaties. With respect to the Budapest Treaty, WIPO's support was also provided to the International Depositary Authorities, and a Meeting of Member States and International Depositary Authorities under the Budapest Treaty was held on November 13 and 14, 2023.<sup>50</sup> Such assistance supported WIPO Member States to develop their own

<sup>46</sup> Notably, beneficiaries are small businesses situated in rural areas organized around natural and man-made waters to farm the shrimps. Helping the businesses has benefited the thousands under their employ. In some, the tiger shrimp business is the main employer in the area.

<sup>47</sup> The key partner for the project is the Korean Invention Promotions Association and it is funded by FIT Korea.

<sup>48</sup> "Paro Gangtey Spring Water" based at Paro Bhutan and "Aqua Bhutan" Spring Water based at Bumthang Bhutan have registered their trademarks used in online sales. This project is partially funded by FIT Korea.

<sup>49</sup> Two in Africa, three in the Arab region, five in Asia and the Pacific, six in Latin America and the Caribbean, and three in transition countries.

<sup>50</sup> Further information about the meeting can be found at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=76968](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=76968)

legislative framework to protect valuable innovative assets in their territory, taking into account their own level of development, policy priorities and international obligations.

26. As the provider of a global service for international protection of inventions through the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), the Sector supported the international dissemination of the technical information related to innovations *via* the WIPO's free-of-charge PATENTSCOPE database.<sup>51</sup> PATENTSCOPE has provided access to over 115 million searchable inventions, including 4.8 million published PCT applications. In 2023, more than 266,500 new PCT applications (containing the disclosure of the invention) became available on PATENTSCOPE. On average, 5,126 new PCT applications were published weekly.<sup>52</sup> Thanks to an exclusive collaboration between WIPO and the publisher IEEE, a vast collection of almost 5 million non-patent literature (NPL) documents from IEEE became searchable in PATENTSCOPE.<sup>53</sup> To facilitate access to and use of the database, 30 PATENTSCOPE-related free-of-charge webinars were delivered and attended by more than 4,800 participants.

27. The Sector continued to deliver user outreach programs and support, as well as training and capacity building, taking into account the needs and circumstances of beneficiary Member States. In 2023, the Sector delivered a total of 67 PCT and ePCT related technical assistance activities for the benefit of developing countries, LDCs, and countries with economies in transition.<sup>54</sup> Most of the events were held virtually and were attended by 5,200 participants from 99 countries, including IP Office staff, potential users of the system and other stakeholders.<sup>55</sup> Furthermore, international applications filed by natural persons from developing countries and all applicants from LDCs continued to receive discounts of 90% on their international filing fee and certain other fees.

## IP AND GENDER

28. The year 2023 marked the formal launch of the first *WIPO IP and Gender Action Plan* (IPGAP),<sup>56</sup> which represents the Organization's contribution to overarching and worldwide efforts toward achieving economic equality and empowerment for women and girls. It was designed to dovetail with the WIPO's 2022–2026 MTSP timeline, flowing from it and complementing its pillars of work. The vision of the IPGAP is a world where innovation and creativity by women anywhere are supported by IP for the good of everyone. The IPGAP's initiatives, contributing to the DA clusters A, B, C, and E, include: i) government support for incorporating a gender perspective into IP legislation, policies, programs, and projects; ii) research to identify the scope and nature of the gender gap in IP and ways to close it; and iii) piloting of new gender-oriented projects in the IP environment to effectively educate and enhance the IP skills of women and the institutions that support them. To promote effective internal and external strategic collaboration on all IP and gender initiatives and partnerships, an internal IP and Gender Working Group was launched in 2023. New and expanded collaborations with other international organizations, such as the International Trade Centre and the World Trade Organization's Gender Research Hub, were launched or are under development, particularly with economic and/or science-oriented organizations that share similar interest/focus on the economic empowerment of women and other underrepresented communities.

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<sup>51</sup> The PATENTSCOPE database can be accessed at: [patentscope.wipo.int/search/en/search.jsf](https://patentscope.wipo.int/search/en/search.jsf)

<sup>52</sup> The maximum number of applications was 9,075, while the minimum number was 3,176.

<sup>53</sup> More information can be found at: [www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/news/pctdb/2023/news\\_0007.html](https://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/news/pctdb/2023/news_0007.html)

<sup>54</sup> Fourteen in Africa, 16 in the Arab region, 11 in Asia and the Pacific, nine in Latin America and the Caribbean, 17 in the transition countries.

<sup>55</sup> Technical assistance activities included: (i) specific projects targeting the needs of underrepresented users groups (e.g. youth, Women); (ii) in-person PCT and/or ePCT workshops; (iii) PCT and ePCT (series) of webinars and trainings. See document PCT/WG/17/19, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=627444](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=627444)

<sup>56</sup> The IPGAP can be accessed at: [www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/women-and-ip/en/docs/rm2023-1\\_ipgap.pdf](https://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/women-and-ip/en/docs/rm2023-1_ipgap.pdf)

## WIPO BODIES

29. The Sector supported the work of a number of WIPO bodies, including the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) and the Patent Cooperation Treaty Working Group (PCT WG).

30. The SCP held its thirty-fifth session, in a hybrid format, from October 16 to 20, 2023. In accordance with the DA Recommendations, the activities of the SCP continued to be Member State-driven and inclusive, supporting an environment conducive to engagement and dialogue among Member States and taking into account their different levels of development. Member States continued to discuss, *inter alia*, the following issues: (i) exceptions and limitations to patent rights; (ii) quality of patents, including opposition systems; (iii) patents and health; (iv) confidentiality of communications between patent advisors and their clients; and (v) transfer of technology. In particular, Member States shared information on their laws, practices and experiences with respect to exhaustion of patent rights, patentability of inventions using artificial intelligence (AI) and by AI, expedited patent examination mechanisms, sufficiency of patent disclosure relating to chemistry and biotechnology, cross-border aspects of confidentiality of communication between clients and their patent advisors, as well as international cooperation in respect of technology transfer through the patent system.<sup>57</sup>

31. The PCT WG held its sixteenth session, in a virtual format, from February 6 to 8, 2023. The PCT WG agreed to submit several amendments of the PCT Regulations for approval by the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session in July 2023, regarding: i) the PCT Minimum documentation (Rules 34, 36 and 63) to extend the scope of such documentation; and ii) PCT Applications, which contents are in more than one language accepted by the receiving Office and International Searching Authority (Rules 26 and 29). The Assembly of the PCT Union, at its fifty-fifth session, approved those modifications to the PCT Regulations.<sup>58</sup> The PCT WG also considered three proposals to: i) allow the gradual extension of the languages used by the International Bureau to communicate with applicants to any of the ten languages of international publication, instead of currently English and French only; ii) allow receiving Offices to delegate the checking of formal requirements in international applications to the International Bureau; and iii) make use of the WIPO Fee Transfer Service mandatory for fees collected by one Office for the benefit of another. The PCT WG invited the International Bureau to bring further revised proposals to its future session. The Assembly of the PCT Union, at its fifty-fifth session, appointed the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) as an International Searching and International Preliminary Examining Authority, and approved the Agreement between the SAIP and the International Bureau. Additionally, the Assembly of the PCT Union approved the amendments to the agreement between the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine and the International Bureau.<sup>59</sup>

### III. BRANDS AND DESIGNS SECTOR

32. The Brands and Designs Sector supported Member States in developing their legislative and institutional frameworks in the areas of trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications. During 2023, the Sector supported the practical application of brands and designs by Member States, through provision of Member States-driven legislative and policy advice, tailored to their socio-economic objectives. In addition, steps were taken to expand the reach of training and capacity-building activities for LDCs, developing countries and countries in transition.

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<sup>57</sup> See document SCP/35/10, available at: **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

<sup>58</sup> See document PCT/A/55/2, available at: [www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/govbody/en/pct\\_a\\_55/pct\\_a\\_55\\_2.pdf](http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/govbody/en/pct_a_55/pct_a_55_2.pdf)

<sup>59</sup> See document PCT/A/55/3, available at: [www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/govbody/en/pct\\_a\\_55/pct\\_a\\_55\\_3.pdf](http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/govbody/en/pct_a_55/pct_a_55_3.pdf)



## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

33. The Sector's technical assistance and capacity building continued to be guided by the DA Recommendations. In 2023, the Sector responded to 18 requests of legislative advice from eight countries,<sup>60</sup> of which nine related to trademarks, four to industrial designs, three to geographical indications and two to IP strategy. Meanwhile, the Sector expanded its outreach further through capacity-building and awareness activities, of which 20 related to industrial designs, 28 to trademarks and 11 to geographical indications.<sup>61</sup> Two trademark manuals<sup>62</sup> were successfully developed: (i) the *Guidelines for the Examination of Trademark Applications for the Directorate of Foreign Trade and IP* were provided to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Kingdom of Bahrain on November 14, 2023; and (ii) the Updated *Andean Community Trademarks Manual* for the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru was presented at an event organized in Lima on August 21, 2023. The Andean Community Secretariat has requested WIPO to collaborate in a sub-regional training for senior trademark examiners, based on the updated Manual. Additionally, 17 Central European, Baltic States and Mediterranean countries<sup>63</sup> expressed interest in participating in a network and capacity building training for trademark examiners.

34. It is notable that the *Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) – WIPO Pilot Project on Designs* resulted in the creation of a pioneering mobile application called *AfricDeezayn*.<sup>64</sup> The application serves as a comprehensive knowledge center providing insights on design laws, the latest industry news, events, and relevant stakeholders. During the reporting period, the Sector also supported the Ivorian Office of IP to select ten SMEs that will participate in a coaching and support project to make optimal use of their industrial designs.<sup>65</sup> Another project that the Sector was involved in during the reporting period aimed at assisting countries in the ASEAN in harmonizing and further simplifying their national design registration systems to improve the competitiveness of the region. A report containing recommendations to ASEAN Member States was submitted to the ASEAN Industrial Designs Task Force (IDTF) in March 2023. The ASEAN Member States started consideration and implementation of those recommendations with the support of WIPO.<sup>66</sup>

35. The Sector continued to work closely with local communities to develop, protect and commercialize their geographical indications, such as the Cambodian producers of “*Kampot Sea Salt*”; Chilean producers of “*orégano de la Precordillera de Putre*”; Mexican producers of “*Seda de Cajonos*”;<sup>67</sup> Mongolian producers of “*Mongolian pine nuts tree*”; the Senegalese producers of “*Madd de Casamance*”;<sup>68</sup> Togolese producers of “*riz de Kovié*”. In addition, under the Resolution Supplementary to the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (STLT), WIPO continued to provide additional and adequate technical assistance for the implementation of the Treaty. In 2023, WIPO supported the implementation of the STLT in the laws and

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<sup>60</sup> Three from Africa; two from the Arab region; one from Asia and the Pacific; and two from the transition countries.

<sup>61</sup> Some activities related to two or three modes of IP.

<sup>62</sup> The Projects are implemented in cooperation with the WIPO Regional and National Development Sector.

<sup>63</sup> Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Türkiye, and Ukraine. The training is scheduled to take place in 2024.

<sup>64</sup> The project is funded by FIT Japan Industrial Property Global. It started with Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. It is expected to expand to cover other West African countries. Further information about the mobile application is available at: [www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/offices/nigeria/news/2024/news\\_0001.html](http://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/offices/nigeria/news/2024/news_0001.html)

<sup>65</sup> The project is funded by FIT Japan Industrial Property Global. The coaching of the selected SMEs will start in 2024.

<sup>66</sup> The project is funded by FIT Japan Industrial Property Global.

<sup>67</sup> The implementation of field projects are often carried out with the support of WIPO Member States, in particular with the financial support of the WIPO FIT China, and in collaboration with external partners, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

<sup>68</sup> A short article describing the Case of Madd de Casamance can be found at: [www.wipo.int/ipadvantage/en/details.jsp?id=11582](http://www.wipo.int/ipadvantage/en/details.jsp?id=11582)

regulations of seven Member States.<sup>69</sup> Additionally, one capacity-building and awareness-raising activity was undertaken with six Member States from Africa.

## WIPO BODIES

36. The Sector supported the work of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT). Further to the WIPO General Assembly decision to convene a Diplomatic Conference no later than 2024 to conclude and adopt a Design Law Treaty,<sup>70</sup> the SCT met in a special session from October 2 to 6, 2023. The purpose of the special session was to close any existing gaps to a sufficient level. Deliberations were conducted in an inclusive and Member States-driven manner, in line with the DA Recommendation 15.

## MAINSTREAMED DA PROJECTS

37. The project on *IP and Design Management for Business Development in Developing and Least Developed Countries* was completed in April 2016, and evaluated in March 2017. At its twentieth session in December 2017, the CDIP approved the follow-up to the project, subsequent to the review of the project evaluation. Accordingly, during the reporting period, the project activities continued to be mainstreamed into the regular awareness and capacity-building work of the Organization.

## ONGOING DA PROJECTS

38. The Sector has been in charge of the implementation of the following ongoing DA Projects:

- (i) *Empowering Small Businesses Through IP: Developing Strategies for Supporting Geographical Indications (GIs) or Collective Marks in the Post-registration Period*: the following activities were carried out in Algeria, Brazil, Pakistan and Uganda:
  - (i) organization of online project management trainings for the national coordinators and the members of the national steering committees;
  - (ii) approval of country-level project implementation plans;
  - (iii) selection of products: GI “*Deglet Nour de Tolga*” in Algeria; GI “*Mel do Norte de Minas Gerais*” in Brazil; GI “*Sindhri Mango*” in Pakistan; and GI “*Rwenzori Mountains of the Moon Coffee*” in Uganda;
  - (iv) national studies on challenges in the post-registration period were completed in Brazil, Pakistan and Uganda, and launched in Algeria in November 2023;
  - (v) organization of national events to present the results of the studies in Brazil, Pakistan and Uganda, and a kick-off meeting was organized in Algeria.
- (ii) *Registration of the Collective Marks of Local Enterprises as a Cross-Cutting Economic Development Issue*, managed by the Development Agenda Coordination Division. The implementation strategy focused on facilitating the development and registration of a pilot collective mark for a group of local producers in each beneficiary country, as well as delivering capacity-building activities and developing awareness-raising materials. At the end of 2023, a collective mark was developed and registered in all four participating countries: Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, the Philippines and Tunisia. Additionally, awareness-raising materials, including practical guides, leaflets, and videos, were developed in all four participating countries.<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>69</sup> One from Latin America and the Caribbean and six from Africa.

<sup>70</sup> The decision was taken at the fifty-fifth (30<sup>th</sup> extraordinary) session of WIPO General Assembly. See document WO/GA/55/12, paragraph 309.

<sup>71</sup> The webpage of the project is available at: [www.wipo.int/collective-marks/en/index.html](http://www.wipo.int/collective-marks/en/index.html)

#### IV. COPYRIGHT AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES SECTOR

39. Copyright and Creative Industries Sector assisted Member States in enhancing their institutional capacities, as well as updating knowledge and practical skills to use the copyright ecosystem as a tool for sustainable development. During the reporting period, the Sector supported the use of copyright and related rights by Member States, through provision of Member States-driven legislative, policy, infrastructure, and management advice. Steps were taken to expand the reach of training and capacity-building activities for LDCs, developing countries and countries in transition. In addition, the Sector led WIPO's efforts to raise global awareness on the potential of IP to improve the lives of everyone, everywhere, including through the WIPO website, publications, and a pioneering WIPO CLIP platform.<sup>72</sup> This outreach was also supported by the WIPO Global Awards Program, celebrating exceptional enterprises and individuals, who used IP to make a positive impact at home and abroad.

#### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

40. The Sector's technical assistance and capacity building continued to be guided by the DA Recommendations. Specifically, a tailored legislative advice was provided to 14 Member States, and others were advised on the copyright and related rights provisions of their national strategies. Meanwhile, a broad range of technical assistance and capacity-building programs reached 2,720 participants in 104 developing countries and LDCs, as well as four regional inter-governmental organizations, ranging from policy makers to professionals and managers of cultural and creative sectors. Examples included: i) development of national IP/copyright policies and strategies in support of creative economy; ii) Regional Conference for Arab Countries on "*Copyright: A Driver of the Creative Economy*"; iii) Performance Coaching Programs under the WIPO Publishers' Circle Initiative for various regions; iv) Coaching Programs on Copyright System in Support of Creative Start-up Companies in the Music and Visual Arts Sectors for Asian and Pacific Countries; and v) Mentorship Program on Supporting More Effective Use of IP/Copyright for Cultural Promotion Institutions and High-Level Meeting on Copyright System in Support of Creative SMEs and Start-Ups.

41. During the reporting period, a particular emphasis was put on the needs of SMEs. For example, as requested by the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), support was provided to the URSB to develop the *Licensing and Operations Manual for Collective Management Organizations (CMOs)* in Uganda. The objective is to empower the Ugandan CMOs by providing practical and up-to-date information on CMO operations, focusing on licensing negotiations and tariff-setting, including digital rights, and to promote a culture of transparency and good practices within CMOs, enabling them to design, implement and adapt an effective licensing strategy. Another example is the development of the *WIPO Copyright Policy Template and Guidelines for Customization for Universities and Public Research Institutions*.<sup>73</sup> The objective is to support universities and research institutions to develop institutional copyright policies to facilitate appropriate management of copyright asset and use of copyright works.

42. The WIPO Global Awards<sup>74</sup> experienced substantial growth in 2023. 548 SMEs from 58 countries applied for consideration for the award, more than double the previous year's entries. The program also welcomed a more diverse array of applicants compared to the previous year, including increased participation of women, African, Arab and Latin American entrepreneurs. This surge in global interest underscored the program's expanding reach and inclusivity.

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<sup>72</sup> Further information about the WIPO CLIP platform can be found at:

[www.wipo.int/wipoforcreators/en/news/2023/news\\_0006.html](http://www.wipo.int/wipoforcreators/en/news/2023/news_0006.html)

<sup>73</sup> In collaboration with the WIPO IP and Innovation Ecosystems, as well as the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sectors.

<sup>74</sup> More information is available at: [www.wipo.int/global-awards/en/](http://www.wipo.int/global-awards/en/)

Consequently, 25 were shortlisted and seven winners, showcasing outstanding IP commercialization success stories, were selected from different countries. It is also notable that the successful conclusion of the mentoring program for the Award winners in 2022 enabled them to forge new business partnerships, secure funding, and attain international recognition.

43. Throughout the reporting period, the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) offered a practical implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty, for the benefit of people who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled. The ABC Global Book Service offered an online catalogue of books in accessible formats available at no cost to authorized entities (AEs) serving people who are print disabled. The Service also provided AEs with the ability to exchange accessible books across borders. As of the end of 2023, the service had 900,000 titles in 80 languages available for cross-border exchange without the need for clearance formalities. Of the 133 AEs<sup>75</sup> that had agreed to join the ABC Global Book Service, 74 were located in developing countries or LDCs. Additionally, ABC implemented 12 new training and technical assistance projects in developing countries and LDCs. The primary purpose of these projects was the transfer of knowledge to partner organizations to ensure that they were able to independently produce educational titles in accessible formats for students who are print disabled. In 2023, ABC issued a “Call for Expressions of Interest”,<sup>76</sup> inviting qualified organizations located in developing countries and LDCs to apply for the next round of ABC training and technical assistance projects. Organizations will be selected to receive training and technical assistance in accessible book production and up to 20,000 USD each to produce accessible educational texts in 2024 - 2025. ABC’s online courses in accessible book production<sup>77</sup> were designed with navigable lesson content, accessible quizzes, described images and captioned videos. The courses teach participants how to make accessible books using production software that is also entirely accessible. The following three courses are currently available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish on the WIPO Academy platform: i) *ABC Online Course on Accessible Publishing Concepts*;<sup>78</sup> ii) *ABC Online Course in Accessible Book Production for NGOs*; and iii) *ABC Online Course on Accessible STEM Content for NGOs*.

## WIPO BODIES

44. The Sector supported the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), which met twice in 2023. The forty-third SCCR session was held from March 13 to 17, 2023, in a hybrid format.<sup>79</sup> As requested by the Committee at its forty-second session, the Secretariat organized a half-day information session on the topic of the Music Streaming Market. During that session, following presentations from professionals and experts, Members and Observers had the opportunity to exchange views and experiences. During the SCCR session, the Committee discussed the *Second Revised Draft Text for the WIPO Broadcasting Organizations Treaty*,<sup>80</sup> prepared by the Chair, Vice-Chairs and Facilitators. Comments were invited and the drafters were asked to prepare further revisions for the next SCCR session. Under the agenda items on limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives, educational and research institutions, and for persons with other disabilities, the authors presented the *Toolkit on Preservation*,<sup>81</sup> and a presentation was delivered on cross-border issues related to education. Additionally, an update was provided on preparation

<sup>75</sup> Includes BrailleNet (France) and SeeingEar (UK), which have since ceased operations.

<sup>76</sup> Further information can be found at: [www.accessiblebooksconsortium.org/w/news/2023/applications-now-open-for-abc-training-and-technical-assistance-projects](http://www.accessiblebooksconsortium.org/w/news/2023/applications-now-open-for-abc-training-and-technical-assistance-projects)

<sup>77</sup> The ABC online courses were developed by the DAISY Consortium and used in ABC’s training and technical assistance projects. The migration of three courses from the DAISY Consortium learning platform to the WIPO Academy eLearning Center was completed in 2023.

<sup>78</sup> This course is open to all and free of charge. Further information and the registration details are available at: [welc.wipo.int/atp/abc?lang=en\\_US](http://welc.wipo.int/atp/abc?lang=en_US)

<sup>79</sup> The Summary by the Chair is available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=603491](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=603491)

<sup>80</sup> See document SCCR/43/3, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=597061](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=597061)

<sup>81</sup> See document SCCR/43/4, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=597091](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=597091)



of the research scoping study for presentation at the next meeting. The African Group presented its *Proposal for a Draft Work Program on Exceptions and Limitations*, which was adopted with revisions agreed by the Committee.<sup>82</sup> Under the topic of Other Matters, the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean Countries presented the *Proposal for Analysis of Copyright Related to the Digital Environment*.<sup>83</sup> The Committee heard a presentation from the author on the *WIPO Toolkit on Artist's Resale Right*.<sup>84</sup> The *Proposal for a Study Focused on Public Lending Right in the Agenda and Future Work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights of the World Intellectual Property Organization* was accepted and the Secretariat was asked to prepare the requested study. It should also be mentioned that the Committee had five presentations, as well as one video presentation regarding the topic of Copyright in the Digital Environment.

45. The forty-fourth SCCR session was held from November from 6 to 8, 2023, in a hybrid format.<sup>85</sup> The Committee discussed the *Third Revised Draft Text for the WIPO Broadcasting Organizations Treaty*,<sup>86</sup> prepared by the Chair, Vice-Chairs and Facilitators. The Chair committed to addressing the technical issues raised in the discussions. Under the agenda items on limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives, educational and research institutions, and for persons with other disabilities, the author presented the *Study on the Challenges of Research Institutions and Research Purposes in Relation to Copyright*<sup>87</sup> and the Delegation of the United States of America presented the *Updated Version of the Document "Objectives and Principles for Exceptions and Limitations for Libraries and Archives"*.<sup>88</sup> The African Group presented the *Draft Proposal by the African Group for the Implementation of the Work Program on Exceptions and Limitations*.<sup>89</sup> Taking into account the proposal and subsequent discussion, the Secretariat was asked before the next session to: i) organize a virtual panel discussion on cross-border uses of copyrighted works in the educational and research sectors; and ii) prepare a detailed implementation plan for the Work Program on Exceptions and Limitations for presentation at the next SCCR session. Under the topic of Other Matters, the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean Countries presented the *Proposal for Analysis of Copyright Related to the Digital Environment*,<sup>90</sup> the Delegation of Cote d'Ivoire introduced the *Proposal for a Study on the Rights of Audiovisual Authors and their Remuneration for the Exploitation of their Works*,<sup>91</sup> and Group B presented a *Proposal for Information Session on Generative AI and Copyright*.<sup>92</sup> Based on the plenary discussion on copyright in the digital environment and the growing impact of AI, the Committee also requested an information session on the opportunities and challenges raised by generative AI as it relates to copyright at the next session of the SCCR.

## MAINSTREAMED DA PROJECTS

46. Below are highlights of the work related to the mainstreamed DA projects:

- (i) *IP and the Public Domain*: continuous emphasis was put on the copyright documentation systems. Specifically, legislative advice and awareness raising on voluntary registration systems continued to be a part of the day-to-day work of the Sector, in close coordination with other relevant units across WIPO.

<sup>82</sup> See document SCCR/43/8, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=603511](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=603511)

<sup>83</sup> See document SCCR/43/7, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=602785](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=602785)

<sup>84</sup> See document SCCR/43/INF/2, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=602473](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=602473)

<sup>85</sup> The Summary by the Chair is available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=622911](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=622911)

<sup>86</sup> See document SCCR/44/3, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=619971](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=619971)

<sup>87</sup> See document SCCR/44/4, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=621815](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=621815)

<sup>88</sup> See document SCCR/44/5, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=622473](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=622473)

<sup>89</sup> See document SCCR/44/6, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=622548](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=622548)

<sup>90</sup> See document SCCR/43/7, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=602785](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=602785)

<sup>91</sup> See document SCCR/44/7, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=622591](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=622591)

<sup>92</sup> See document SCCR/44/8, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=622771](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=622771)



- (ii) *IP, Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), the Digital Divide and Access to Knowledge*, and the approved *New WIPO Activities Related to Using Copyright to Promote Access to Information and Creative Content*.<sup>93</sup> technical assistance, capacity building and awareness-raising activities in relation to open licensing and open source continued to be undertaken. Presentations and interventions took place in different fora.

## ONGOING DA PROJECTS

47. The Sector has been in charge of the implementation of the following ongoing DA Projects:

- (i) *Copyright and the Distribution of Content in the Digital Environment*.<sup>94</sup> the Phase II of the project was approved at the thirty-first CDIP session. It aims at gaining a better understanding of the use of IP to commercialize the audiovisual content in the era of streaming in the beneficiary countries, while building on the achievements of the initial project and addressing post-COVID-19 challenges. It should be mentioned that the Phase I of the project was successfully completed<sup>95</sup> in July 2023, and was evaluated<sup>96</sup> in October 2023.
- (ii) *Development of the Music Sector and New Economic Models of Music in Burkina Faso and in All Other Countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)*: the first national workshop on *Licensing and Contractual Practices/Inter-Sectoral Dialogue of the Music Industry* was organized in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in June 2023. The two-day workshop brought together 100 participants representing the Ivorian music industry in the country. Immediately after the first national workshop, a two-days meeting for all heads of CMOs, as well as the project focal points of the 8 WAEMU beneficiary countries was organized and co-financed by WIPO and WAEMU. The first coordination meeting played a key role in clarifying the project priorities as defined by the beneficiary countries and in facilitating the communication with and among the focal points. It should be mentioned that at the thirty-first CDIP session, while considering the progress report of the project, the Committee decided, among others, to change the official name of the project in order to include all the WAEMU countries as beneficiary countries, in addition to Burkina Faso.<sup>97</sup>
- (iii) *Promoting the Use of IP in Developing Countries in Creative Industries in the Digital Era*.<sup>98</sup> all the tools envisaged in the project were developed. Capacity building workshops were held in participating countries on: i) *IP and Mobile Applications: Business and Legal Issues*, held from March 9 to 10, 2023, in Montevideo, Uruguay; ii) *Mastering IP in the Video Games Industry: Business and Legal Aspects*, held from May 19 to 20, 2023, in Jakarta, Indonesia; iii) *The Role of IP in the Fashion Industry*, held on April 26, 2023, in Montevideo, Uruguay; iv) *The Importance of Copyright in the Music Industry in the Digital Environment*, held on March 9, 2023, in Jakarta, Indonesia; v) *IP and Mobile Applications: Business and Legal Issues*, held from October 24 to 25, 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates; and vi) *Making a Living from Music*, held from December 5 to 7, 2023, in Valparaíso, Chile.

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<sup>93</sup> See document CDIP 13/11, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=272841](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=272841)

<sup>94</sup> The project is focused on the audiovisual market in Latin America. The beneficiary countries are Brazil, Costa Rica, Argentina, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay.

<sup>95</sup> See document CDIP/31/6, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=620344](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=620344)

<sup>96</sup> See document CDIP/31/7, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=621224](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=621224)

<sup>97</sup> See paragraph 4.2 ii of the Summary by the Chair, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=625139](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=625139)

<sup>98</sup> The beneficiary countries are Chile, Indonesia, United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay. All the materials are available on the project's webpage at: [www.wipo.int/cooperation/en/technical\\_assistance/developing-countries.html](http://www.wipo.int/cooperation/en/technical_assistance/developing-countries.html)

- (iv) *Enhancing the Use of IP for Mobile Applications in the Software Sector – Phase II*: the project aims at ensuring the long-term sustainability of the outputs developed under the Phase I of the project, by incorporating them in a comprehensive training course material, which was completed in 2023. The project also focused on enhancing the use of IP protection to support the mobile application industry in relation to specific creative sectors. Tools were finalized during the year in the fields of applications in music, videogames, and publishing.

## V. INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLATFORMS SECTOR

48. The work of the Infrastructure and Platforms Sector focused on the provision of tailored and high-quality IP services, knowledge and data to IP Offices, IP professionals, researchers and other specialized users in IP and innovation ecosystems. During the reporting period, the Sector led WIPO's efforts in enhancing and promoting WIPO's public global databases, namely, PATENTSCOPE, the Global Brand Database and the Global Design Database, the coverage of which continued to grow in 2023. Four new national collections were added to the PATENTSCOPE, two to the Global Brand Database and one to the Global Design Database. In addition, 5 million scientific articles from publisher IEEE, classified with IPC codes, were included and made searchable for free in PATENTSCOPE. The PATENTSCOPE functionality was extended to consolidate Markush search functionality and a free-of-charge webinar on how to perform effective Markush searches using the features of PATENTSCOPE was hosted on June 22, 2023. The year 2023 also marked the digitization of partial patent collections with high full text quality for the Philippines, Argentina and Mexico, as well as their uploading to the PATENTSCOPE.<sup>99</sup> Meanwhile, a new AI tool for trademarks – the Global Goods and Services Terms Explorer – was launched to assist users in choosing appropriate terms and Nice classifications when filing new trademarks in multiple jurisdictions.

49. The research on AI was driven by the Advanced Technology Applications Center (ATAC), which worked towards enhancing functions and processes at the Organization. WIPO Translate, which had already supported an impressive array of languages,<sup>100</sup> expanded its linguistic capabilities to include Polish. This enhancement further empowered users to effortlessly translate the PATENTSCOPE results list, bibliographic data, the description and claims of patent documents, as well as patent text using the stand-alone tool.

### MAINSTREAMED DA PROJECTS

50. The *DA Smart IP Institutions Project*: the deployment of components and business solutions customized for modernizing IP infrastructure of national and regional IP institutions had aimed at assisting Member States to develop and improve national IP institutional capacity through further development of infrastructure and other facilities. The project has been mainstreamed through the WIPO's program of IP Office Business Solutions, in line with the DA Recommendation 10. The program aimed to enhance business systems and technical infrastructure of national and regional IP Offices in order to help them to provide more cost-effective and higher-quality services to their stakeholders. In this context, the following services were provided: (i) technical consultancy; (ii) business needs assessment; (iii) project scoping and planning; (iv) business process analysis; (v) ongoing development and deployment of customized business system solutions for the administration of IP rights, for the exchange of priority documents and search of examination results; (vi) establishment of IP databases; (vii) assistance with digitization of IP records and preparation of data for online publications and electronic data exchange; and (viii) training and knowledge transfer to staff of IP institutions and support for the systems provided by WIPO. The assistance took into account

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<sup>99</sup> It was funded by FIT Japan Industrial Property Global.

<sup>100</sup> Arabic, Chinese, English, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

WIPO Standards on IP data and information, where appropriate. On-site or virtual training, mentoring and regional training workshops accounted for a significant portion of the activities and were critical in achieving the desired results. At the end of 2023, 91 IP Offices from developing countries in all regions, including 22 LDCs, were actively using WIPO Business Solutions for the administration of their IP rights. Sixty-one IP Offices were participating in one of the online exchange platforms, offered by WIPO, namely, the Centralized Access to Search and Examination and the Digital Access Service. A key focus was to upgrade the service level of IP Offices, by assisting them to move to online services for filing and for IP information dissemination.<sup>101</sup>

## VI. GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND PARTNERSHIPS SECTOR

51. The Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector led WIPO's efforts in bringing the international community together to address emerging issues and policy challenges at the global level in the areas of IP, innovation and creativity. The Sector also covered facilitation of the normative work in the areas of genetic resources (GRs), traditional knowledge (TK), and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs). During the reporting period, the Sector built on and expanded partnerships with stakeholders, including those from international, business and civil society sectors. Additionally, the Sector was in charge of preparing the Global IP Perception Survey (called "WIPO Pulse"),<sup>102</sup> offering a range of unique insights on IP and its impact on economies and societies based on responses from 25,000 people in 50 countries.

### ENGAGING WITH THE UNITED NATIONS, OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL STAKEHOLDERS

52. The Sector led WIPO's engagement in the work of the UN system and relevant Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs). Particularly notable is the trilateral cooperation on public health, IP and trade with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). In June 2023, a joint capacity-building webinar on "*Technology Transfer from the Perspective of Practitioners*" was organized. It was the fourth in the series of trilateral workshops which the Directors-General of WHO, WIPO, and WTO had agreed to organize within the existing collaboration framework. The information note on an *Integrated Health, Trade and IP Approach to Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic* was updated in May 2023,<sup>103</sup> providing an overview of the challenges encountered during the pandemic, as well as the responses and initiatives taken to deal with the it. The three Organizations held a Joint Technical Symposium on "*Facing the Future: Human health and climate change*" in November 2023, broadening the scope of their activities to include the relationship between climate change and health. In December 2023, WIPO delivered sessions and participated in the *Trade and Public Health Workshop for Arab and Middle Eastern Members and Observers* in Kuwait, organized in close collaboration with WTO and WHO and hosted by the International Monetary Fund's Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF). The year 2023 also marked the review of the WHO-WIPO-WTO COVID-19 Technical Assistance Platform,<sup>104</sup> expanding it beyond the pandemic to support Member States on a wide range of issues at the intersection of public health, IP, and trade. It is also notable that WIPO continued to monitor and contribute, as requested, to WTO and WHO processes on trade and health, including the Trade-Related Aspects of IP Rights (TRIPS) Council and the WHO Intergovernmental Negotiating Body, to draft and negotiate a WHO Convention, Agreement or Other Instrument on Pandemic Preparedness and Response. WIPO's involvement in this process has supported a

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<sup>101</sup> More information is available at: [www.wipo.int/global\\_ip/en/activities/ip\\_office\\_business\\_solutions/](http://www.wipo.int/global_ip/en/activities/ip_office_business_solutions/)

<sup>102</sup> WIPO Pulse: Global IP perception survey 2023 is available at: [www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4681](http://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4681)

<sup>103</sup> The update is available at: [www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4590](http://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4590)

<sup>104</sup> The platform is available at: [www.who-wipo-wto-trilateral.org/](http://www.who-wipo-wto-trilateral.org/)

holistic understanding of IP as a tool to enable innovation and access to the outcome of that innovation, particularly, in the context of access to medicines.

53. In 2023, the Organization deepened its cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and contributed to the UNCTAD eWeek. Through practical examples, WIPO presented the role of IP in encouraging innovation, protecting digital assets and ensuring a fair balance between creators, consumers and other stakeholders in the digital economy. Additionally, WIPO provided UNCTAD with a contribution to its report on “*Progress made in 2023 in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the Regional and International Levels*”. On the international digital agenda, WIPO participated in the eighteenth Internet Governance Forum (IGF), held in Kyoto, Japan, in October 2023.

54. Engagement with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) remained important for the Organization. The annual WIPO-NGO Stakeholder Dialogue took place in July 2023. During the event, the Director General met directly with over 50 accredited NGO representatives,<sup>105</sup> underscoring the importance WIPO affords NGOs as critical partners in building a more inclusive global IP ecosystem. Another example is the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM) - WIPO International Knowledge and Technology Transfer Leadership Summit, organized in partnership with the Chilean organizations HubTec, INAPI and Red GT that took place in Santiago, Chile, in November 2023. The event drew knowledge and technology transfer (K/TT) leaders from associations around the world to identify and address the requirements, challenges and potential solutions associated the K/TT fields. Additionally, eight bilateral visits were organized to WIPO by delegations from leading industry associations, the majority of which included sharing of information and awareness raising about the Organization’s programs and initiatives related to the implementation of the Development Agenda.

55. The Sector continued to lead WIPO’s efforts in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by supporting its Member States to promote innovation, creativity and the effective use of the IP system for their economic, technological, social and cultural development. The wide range of projects and activities implemented sought to improve the lives of everyone, everywhere. While WIPO’s work relates mainly to SDG 9, it also contributes to many other goals and targets due to the importance that innovation and creativity have in achieving them. The development cooperation work of the Organization and its contribution to the 2030 Agenda were guided by the Development Agenda.

## IP AND YOUTH

56. The Organization expanded and deepened its engagement with youth. The initiatives of the Organization were increasingly focused on project-based approaches, actively involving young people in practical, real-world IP scenarios. A highlight of the year was the *WIPO-ASEAN TikTok Competition for Young Content Creators*,<sup>106</sup> which became a resounding success, evidenced by the competition’s hashtag garnering over 20 million views. The competition’s culmination was marked by a Branding Bootcamp in Singapore, which provided a multistakeholder engagement with the seven winners, along with representatives from ASEAN IP Offices, experts from TikTok’s headquarter in Singapore and from Meta. The year 2023 also marked the launch of the first IP Moot Court Competition.<sup>107</sup> It offers young aspiring lawyers, university students, and IP law enthusiasts the chance to put into practice their knowledge of national and international IP law through an interactive simulation of IP dispute adjudication.

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<sup>105</sup> Including eight representing previously underserved groups in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

<sup>106</sup> Implemented in cooperation with the Regional and National Development Sector. Further information about the competition can be found at: [www.wipo.int/youth-engagement/en/news/2023/news\\_0001.html](http://www.wipo.int/youth-engagement/en/news/2023/news_0001.html)

<sup>107</sup> Further information can be found at: [www.wipo.int/youth-engagement/en/news/2023/news\\_0007.html](http://www.wipo.int/youth-engagement/en/news/2023/news_0007.html)

Another significant moment was WIPO's participation and technical IP support to the ninth Annual CAM-Tech Uganda Med-tech Hackathon<sup>108</sup> at Mbarara University. Not only did the hackathon foster interdisciplinary collaboration among students in engineering, medicine, and pharmacy, but it also highlighted the importance of IP in transforming innovative ideas into tangible health solutions. The top three winning teams were given support to prototyping, commercialization, and patenting stages. A major milestone in the Organization's commitment to inclusivity was the hosting of the "*From Bullying to Building: Hand Solo's Innovation Journey towards Inclusion and Empowerment*"<sup>109</sup> event. Centering around a young innovator named David Aguilar, this special event focused on youth innovation in the disability realm, underscoring the importance of inclusive design and accessible technology. It showcased how innovative solutions can empower individuals with disabilities, highlighting the crucial role of IP in supporting these endeavors.

## WIPO GREEN

57. In 2023, two private and public institutions joined WIPO GREEN, bringing the total number of partners<sup>110</sup> to 152. The growing global team of partners, including Fortune 500 companies, SMEs, and IP offices, worked together in facilitating green technology exchanges, Acceleration Projects, and collaborations with other stakeholders, with the ultimate goal of increasing deployment of environmentally friendly solutions to combat climate change. The number of registered database users grew to 2,500.<sup>111</sup> The year 2023 saw the launch of the second edition of the *Green Technology Book*<sup>112</sup> at the twenty-eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in the United Arab Emirates. Focused on solutions for climate change mitigation, the second edition presents technology trends and practical solutions to combat greenhouse gas emissions from cities, agriculture and land use, and the high-emitting steel and cement sectors. Over 600 climate mitigation and adaptation technologies – and growing – have been identified for the Green Technology Book collection in the WIPO GREEN Database of needs and technologies.<sup>113</sup>

58. Acceleration projects<sup>114</sup> constituted the platform's core means of engagement. An acceleration project in Latin America on climate smart agriculture<sup>115</sup> continued to uncover sustainable technology solutions and find further connections between technology seekers and providers. The third phase of the project ended in 2023, with subsequent startup of the fourth phase with an increased focus on matchmaking. There are currently 250 technology solutions and 136 needs uploaded to the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Climate Smart Agriculture Collection (cumulative) on the WIPO GREEN database. Nineteen matches and 15 connections were established as a result. An ongoing Acceleration Project in China sought solutions to environmental needs in cities.<sup>116</sup> The project's objective was to support China in achieving its commitment of reducing carbon emissions by 2030 and reaching carbon neutrality by 2060. The project had an initial focus on Beijing with expected expansion into other large

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<sup>108</sup> Further information can be found at: [eyitnews.com/technology-and-innovation/innovating-for-equitable-and-sustainable-healthcare-the-9th-camtech-uganda-annual-medtech-hack-a-thon/](https://eyitnews.com/technology-and-innovation/innovating-for-equitable-and-sustainable-healthcare-the-9th-camtech-uganda-annual-medtech-hack-a-thon/)

<sup>109</sup> Further information can be found at: [www.linkedin.com/posts/wipo\\_wipo-wipolife-diffability-activity-7144265382604767232-huZ?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/wipo_wipo-wipolife-diffability-activity-7144265382604767232-huZ?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)

<sup>110</sup> Further information about WIPO GREEN Partners is available at: [www3.wipo.int/wipogreen/en/partners/](http://www3.wipo.int/wipogreen/en/partners/)

<sup>111</sup> Since its launch in 2013, the platform has facilitated more than 1,000 connections among network members.

<sup>112</sup> The Green Technology Book was created in cooperation with the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) and the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASTR). It is available at: [www.wipo.int/web/green-technology-book](http://www.wipo.int/web/green-technology-book)

<sup>113</sup> The Database is available at: <https://wipogreen.wipo.int/wipogreen-database/collection-collections/146441>

<sup>114</sup> The WIPO GREEN Acceleration projects can be accessed at: [www3.wipo.int/wipogreen/en/projects/](http://www3.wipo.int/wipogreen/en/projects/)

<sup>115</sup> The national IP Offices and other government entities in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Peru are partners in the project.

<sup>116</sup> These climate change needs include energy, water, pollution and waste challenges and can be found in the China Cities collection in the WIPO Green platform.



cities. Two agreements have resulted from this project: i) a composting technology to deal with kitchen waste in a hotel complex; and ii) a charging station for electric vehicles. In 2023, two matches related to a carbon management system and the management of photovoltaic systems, as well as five connections were established. At the same time, the Acceleration Project in Indonesia developed a new catalogue of technological solutions for the treatment of Palm Oil Mill Effluents (POME). A pilot implementation of one of the solutions identified was prepared in 2023. A new acceleration project was initiated in Uruguay with the private sector partner Field Intelligence Energy (FEI). The focus of the project is on reducing emissions from the large cattle sector in the country. In December 2023, WIPO GREEN's Acceleration Projects expanded to Central Asia. The project "*Access to Water in Tajikistan*" is aimed at creating resilient access to clear water, improved sanitary conditions, improved quality of life and additional employment opportunities in the rural mountainous areas of Tajikistan. In the framework of the IPO GREEN<sup>117</sup> initiative, a series of webinars<sup>118</sup> were organized where IP Offices from across the globe shared their experience and best practices of implementing IP-related initiatives. In addition, the WIPO GREEN hosted an IP Management Clinic on *Agriculture*,<sup>119</sup> providing expert IP management advice to nine SMEs. It is also notable that WIPO GREEN developed a work stream to decrease the barriers for green technology adoption and deployment entitled WIPO GREEN Finance Initiative. It aims to build an ecosystem to support green technology companies - particularly Micro and Small-Medium Size Enterprises (MSMEs) – to have more knowledge on climate financing opportunities, and to support connections between climate finance actors and entrepreneurs.

## BUILDING RESPECT FOR IP

59. The Sector assisted Member States in establishing a sustainable environment of respect for IP. In accordance with the DA Recommendation 45, broader societal interests and development-oriented concerns were taken into account along the process. During the reporting period, legislative assistance was provided to six Member States in the process of amending and/or adopting relevant legal frameworks towards effective IP enforcement in line with Part III of the TRIPS Agreement. Eleven<sup>120</sup> capacity-building and training activities, either online or in a hybrid format, were organized to address issues related to IP enforcement and building respect for IP at either the national, sub-regional or the regional level.<sup>121</sup> A continuous emphasis was put on the close collaboration with IGOs, NGOs and Member States to strengthen international efforts to increase IP enforcement capacities and build respect for IP. The annual *IGO Coordination Meeting* took place on March 7, 2023, and was attended by ten IGOs working in the area of IP enforcement and building respect for IP. Moreover, the second annual *Private Sector Associations (PSA) Meeting* was held on July 5, 2023, which brought together 24 private sector associations that are active in IP enforcement and building respect for IP to exchange views and share ideas for possible joint activities. To raise awareness amongst a wider audience, outreach and awareness activities were further expanded and new tools were developed for the use of Member States. Examples of such activities included: (i) a new online game *IP Challenge* for children aged 11 years and above;<sup>122</sup> ii) in collaboration with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP), the first *IP and Citizen Journalism* project in Asia was conducted, in Manila, the Philippines, involving a total of 48 students aged from 14 to 17; iii) WIPO - African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) IP Clubs,

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<sup>117</sup> The initiative was launched in 2022 with funding from the Japan Patent Office. Further information can be found at: [www3.wipo.int/wipogreen/en/ipo-green/](http://www3.wipo.int/wipogreen/en/ipo-green/)

<sup>118</sup> <https://c.connectedviews.com/01/Search/WIPOwebinars?search=ipogreen>

<sup>119</sup> The IP Management Clinic was organized in collaboration with the WIPO IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector.

<sup>120</sup> One in Africa, two in the Arab region, three in Asia and Pacific, two in Latin America and the Caribbean and three in countries with economies in transition.

<sup>121</sup> See Training and Awareness-raising Activities are available at: [www.wipo.int/respect-for-ip/en/activities/current.html](http://www.wipo.int/respect-for-ip/en/activities/current.html)

<sup>122</sup> The online game is available in English, Portuguese and Spanish at: [respectforip.org/game/](http://respectforip.org/game/) Further language versions are in progress.

piloted in 2022, reached a wider audience of 312 students aged from 12 to 18 in 19 secondary schools in Malawi and Zimbabwe; iv) the simplified version of the WIPO Consumer Survey Toolkit was launched in March 2023;<sup>123</sup> and iv) the second phase of the trial deployment of the *WIPO Consumer Survey Toolkit* was launched in the Philippines to address copyright piracy. In addition, WIPO supported Member States in launching new national awareness-raising activities, such as the production of a video campaign by the National Copyright Office of the Dominican Republic, featuring well-known singer-songwriter Manny Cruz.<sup>124</sup>

## TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

60. In 2023, the Sector's work on genetic resources (GRs), traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs) featured: (i) provision of demand-driven and neutral information to assist in developing and implementing national and regional policies and legislation; (ii) as part of WIPO's COVID-19 response, supporting capacity building and awareness-raising of indigenous peoples, local communities and key government agencies, as well as reinforcing national policy dialogues and processes; and (iii) organization of a *WIPO Photography Prize*<sup>125</sup> with the theme "*How We Wear Our Culture Is How We Tell Our Stories*" for indigenous peoples and local community youth. Furthermore, the *WIPO Training, Mentoring and Matchmaking Program on IP for Women Entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities* (the WEP)<sup>126</sup> provided training and IP mentoring to women entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The year 2023 marked the launch of the Central European and Baltic States Region WEP (CEBS WEP)<sup>127</sup> and the launch of the third global WEP (WEP 3). The mentoring and matchmaking phase of the Andean Countries WEP continued throughout the year. Meanwhile, the *WIPO Training, Mentoring and Match-Making Program on IP and Traditional Medical Knowledge* was first launched in 12 Member States in Africa in September 2023. It aims to build the capacity of traditional healers, research institutions and other stakeholders about IP and traditional medical knowledge. It is also notable that WIPO organized a *High-Level Dialogue on Indigenous Peoples, Traditional Cultural Expressions and Fashion*<sup>128</sup> in November 2023, providing an opportunity for deepening dialogue and exploring forward-looking ways for fashion companies, Indigenous Peoples and ethnic groups to work together.

## WIPO BODIES

61. The Sector supported the work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC). During the reporting period, the IGC met twice, at its forty-sixth session held from February 27 to March 3, 2023, and its forty-seventh session held from June 5 to 9, 2023. Additionally, an *Ad Hoc* Expert Group on Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs) was organized on February 26, 2023, prior to the forty-sixth session of the IGC to address specific legal, policy or technical issues. Following the Committee's request,<sup>129</sup> the Secretariat organized *ad hoc* virtual meetings of experts on possible disclosure requirements, and virtual technical meetings on information systems, registers and databases of Genetic Resources (GRs), TK and TCEs. In July 2023, the WIPO General Assembly agreed to renew the mandate of the IGC for the 2024/2025 biennium. An agreement was also reached on a work program for

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<sup>123</sup> The Toolkit is available at: [find.wipo.int/record/46999?ln=en](https://www.wipo.int/record/46999?ln=en)

<sup>124</sup> The video is available at: [multimedia.wipo.int/wipo/en/enforcement/raising-awareness-dominican-republic-720p.mp4](https://multimedia.wipo.int/wipo/en/enforcement/raising-awareness-dominican-republic-720p.mp4)

<sup>125</sup> More information can be found at: [www.wipo.int/tk/en/news/tk/2023/news\\_0014.html](https://www.wipo.int/tk/en/news/tk/2023/news_0014.html)

<sup>126</sup> More information can be found at: [www.wipo.int/tk/en/women\\_entrepreneurs/](https://www.wipo.int/tk/en/women_entrepreneurs/)

<sup>127</sup> More information can be found at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=76108](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=76108)

<sup>128</sup> [https://www.wipo.int/tk/en/news/tk/2023/news\\_0015.html](https://www.wipo.int/tk/en/news/tk/2023/news_0015.html)

<sup>129</sup> The forty-third session of the IGC requested the Secretariat to organize three virtual activities.

the IGC in 2024 and 2025. As decided by WIPO Member States,<sup>130</sup> the Secretariat started the preparation for the Diplomatic Conference. Two meetings were held in the second half of 2023. The IGC met in a Special Session and agreed on a number of revisions to the substantive articles of the text. The Preparatory Committee of the Diplomatic Conference approved the necessary modalities of the Diplomatic Conference, including the draft rules of procedure, administrative provisions and final clauses for the instrument, the dates (May 13 to 24, 2024) and the venue (Geneva, WIPO Headquarters).

## MAINSTREAMED DA PROJECTS

62. *IP and competition policy*:<sup>131</sup> the focus continued to be on monitoring the case law on IP and Competition in developing and emerging economies. WIPO strengthened its connection with the International Competition Network, in particular the Unilateral Conduct Working Group, by contributing to the discussions on IP-related competition issues and bringing the pro-competitive perspective on IP. WIPO also increased its collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and participated in a regional workshop for competition agencies of countries in transition. WIPO continued the work on *Intellectual Property, Competition and Sustainability* and on the unfair competition toolkit to support national agencies to better deal with IP-related conducts. Additionally, national programs or presentations were organized on competition, including unfair competition and IP for a several countries.

## VII. IP AND INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS SECTOR

63. The IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector provided tailored assistance throughout the national IP strategy development process in support of the goals, needs and priorities of Member States. Based on its unique global expertise, the Sector offered policy advice, data and analysis, best practices and other customized guidance.

## IP FOR BUSINESS AND INNOVATORS

64. A continuous emphasis was put on the needs of MSMEs. Within the project on the *Promotion of the use of IP system as a source of financing for entrepreneurs and MSMEs in Central America and Dominican Republic*, specialized IP-support services were in the process of development in 15 SMEs' Support Institutions in six Member States.<sup>132</sup> Fifty-four staff members of Institutions were trained on IP as a source of financing.<sup>133</sup> Over 113 participants, including from intermediary institutions, government officials and entrepreneurs, attended the workshops on IP and e-commerce. Forty-nine MSMEs were trained and provided with more than 160 bilateral mentoring sessions by local experts. It is worth mentioning that the WIPO IP Diagnostics<sup>134</sup> continued to support businesses to self-assess their IP assets. To make it more accessible to a wider audience, the WIPO IP Diagnostics was translated into Albanian, Bulgarian, Portuguese and Kiswahili. The tool was also adapted to the legal, regulatory and procedural context of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) Member States (in French) and India (in English). In addition, four IP for Business guides were adapted into the national legal, regulatory and procedural context of interested Member States.<sup>135</sup> Also notable

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<sup>130</sup> In July 2022, WIPO Member States decided to convene, no later than in 2024, a diplomatic conference to conclude an *International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources*.

<sup>131</sup> The WIPO's IP and Competition Policy webpage can be accessed at: [www.wipo.int/ip-competition/en/](http://www.wipo.int/ip-competition/en/)

<sup>132</sup> Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama.

<sup>133</sup> Ten hours course, designed by the WIPO Academy, and workshops on IP and e-commerce designed by local experts.

<sup>134</sup> Further information about the WIPO IP Diagnostics can be found at: [www.wipo.int/ipdiagnostics/en](http://www.wipo.int/ipdiagnostics/en)

<sup>135</sup> Namely, *Inventing the Future*, *Looking Good*, *Making a Mark*, *Enterprising Ideas* were adapted for OAPI Member States, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Viet Nam, Indonesia, and Morocco, while *Enterprising Ideas: A Guide to IP for Startups* was adapted for Serbia and Bulgaria.

is that IP Management Clinic's program was organized and completed for 170 SMEs from 28 Member States working in various industry sectors, such as green technologies, agritech food and beverage, craft, e-commerce, franchising, manufacturing, healthtech, biotech and medtech, education, agriculture, AI and business and agrifood.

65. The Inventor Assistance Program (IAP) empowered under-resourced inventors and small businesses to transform their ideas into assets. In 2023, the IAP operated in nine Member States,<sup>136</sup> where 30 additional beneficiaries received support in navigating the patent procurement process in their own country and selected jurisdictions by experienced patent professionals at no cost. Since its inception, the IAP has supported 197 inventors and SMEs, including 52 granted patents. In the area of patenting assistance, the Patent Drafting Program focused on the development of practical patent drafting skills of practitioners. Since 2016, more than 1,300 participants have been trained through the Program. Furthermore, the second edition of the International Patent Drafting Training Program took place in 2023, in collaboration with the International Federation of IP Attorneys (FICPI). The training program aims at developing skills of emerging patent drafters, while building a supportive community to help these professionals to grow over eight months. The training included 30 participants from more than 20 countries. Additionally, two regional and two national workshops were organized.<sup>137</sup> During the reporting period, the Entrepreneurs Online Network (EON)<sup>138</sup> acted as a platform to provide IP content tailored to SMEs engaged in the videogame development. The project included a podcast series, featuring international and small studios, IP actionable tips and toolkit to commercialize videogames, as well as IP clinics delivered by legal experts in Latin America and the Caribbean, Central European and Baltic States and Asia and the Pacific. The EON videogame assets reached 110 Member States, with 871 members joining the WIPO LinkedIn network community, and more than 1400 downloads of the podcast episodes and materials. The year 2023 was also notable for the Organization's work to move IP finance from the margins to the mainstream. An *"IP Finance Dialogue: Expanding Horizons on IP Finance and Valuation"* was organized in November 2023,<sup>139</sup> bringing together over 2,200 people from more than 120 countries. Another example is the WIPO report series called *Unlocking IP-backed financing Country Perspectives*, which tracks experiences with IP Finance in Member States. In 2023, a report on Jamaica<sup>140</sup> was published.

66. The Sector assisted Member States to develop local innovation support and technology transfer services through the establishment of the Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs). The TISC program supports access to technological information found in patent documents, scientific and technical publications, as well as provides assistance and advice on IP management and commercialization. By the end of 2023, there were 93 TISC national networks, of which 33 were in LDCs, with 1,530 individual TISCs listed in the TISC Directory.<sup>141</sup> There were also four regional TISC networks for Member States of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), countries in Central America and the Dominican Republic (CATI-CARD) and Arab countries. The capacity development continued to reinforce TISC impact and sustainability through online training with 15 national TISC workshops and five regional<sup>142</sup> meetings.

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<sup>136</sup> Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Kenya, Morocco, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore and South Africa.

<sup>137</sup> Regional workshops in Latin-America and Africa: national workshops in Chile and Mexico.

<sup>138</sup> Entrepreneurs Online Network is a joint initiative with the WIPO Regional and National Development Sector. Further information can be found at: [www.wipo.int/sme/en/videogames.html](http://www.wipo.int/sme/en/videogames.html)

<sup>139</sup> Further information can be found at: [www.wipo.int/sme/en/events/ip-finance-dialogue.html](http://www.wipo.int/sme/en/events/ip-finance-dialogue.html)

<sup>140</sup> The Report is available at: [www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4700&plang=EN](http://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4700&plang=EN)

<sup>141</sup> The Directory is available at: [www.wipo.int/tisc/en/search/](http://www.wipo.int/tisc/en/search/)

<sup>142</sup> ARIPO, ASEAN, Arab countries, certain Asian countries meeting in China, and for a potentially new regional network of OAPI Member States.



## ECONOMICS AND DATA ANALYTICS

67. The Sector prepared development-related studies on the IP gender gap and innovation hotspots and provided high-quality IP data to help policy-makers to make informed decisions. Specific accomplishment in relation to the IP gender gap work in 2023 included: (i) publication of a *Development Study* on “*The Global Gender Gap in Innovation and Creativity*”,<sup>143</sup> (ii) further technical improvements to WIPO’s World Gender Name Dictionary,<sup>144</sup> and iii) completion of a series of regional online seminars on the IP Gender and Diversity Gaps,<sup>145</sup> organized jointly with Invent Together. In addition, a demand-driven and development-oriented technical advice in relation to the Global Innovation Index was provided with the aim of: i) improving the availability of innovation data; and ii) assessing the innovation performance of economies in order to inform innovation and IP strategies, and develop innovation and IP policies. In total, more than 50 online or physical meetings were held to this effect in 2023.

## WIPO JUDICIAL INSTITUTE

68. The WIPO Judicial Institute led WIPO’s efforts in providing support to judiciaries from developing countries and LDC to fulfill their vital role in the effective adjudication of IP disputes. The exchange of experiences and good practices between judges was facilitated through: i) WIPO IP Judges Forum,<sup>146</sup> it brought together, in a hybrid format, over 360 judges from 101 countries and four regional courts; ii) Master Class on IP Adjudication that promoted peer-to-peer judicial exchange of patent-related experiences and jurisprudential developments, among 31 experienced patent judges from 21 jurisdictions; and iii) an edition of the Webinars for Judges series that provided an exchange on landmark cases and new developments on compulsory licenses. More than two-thirds of the participating judges in these three events joined from developing countries and LDCs. Tailored capacity building support to increase IP knowledge and relevant skills of judges was provided, in close collaboration with judicial and other relevant authorities, and in line with the DA Recommendations. In response to the requests received, WIPO supported judicial education programs in four Member States.<sup>147</sup> In addition, regional and sub-regional judicial trainings were provided in the French-speaking African countries, the Baltic region, and in Lusophone countries. During the reporting period, the Sector developed the following judicial resources: i) *An International Guide to Patent Case Management for Judges*,<sup>148</sup> ii) *The IP Benchbook Series*,<sup>149</sup> and iii) the latest volume of the *WIPO Collection of Leading Judgments on IP Rights*.<sup>150</sup> Meanwhile, steps were taken to enhance WIPO Lex.<sup>151</sup> The WIPO Lex Laws, Treaties and Judgments collections continued to provide the most comprehensive, authoritative and reliable source of IP legal information available on the web. In 2023, WIPO Lex added 406 new laws from 66 countries. As of the end of 2023, the database contained over 17,000 laws, covering national IP and IP-related legislation of 201 jurisdictions, as well as 236 IP treaties, including the 26 WIPO-administered treaties. The WIPO Lex Judgments collection expanded to include leading IP decisions from the European Union and five additional Member States,<sup>152</sup> increasing its coverage to 35 jurisdictions.

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<sup>143</sup> The Study is available at: <https://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4653>

<sup>144</sup> Further information is available at: [www.wipo.int/about-ip/en/ip\\_innovation\\_economics/gender\\_innovation\\_gap/gender\\_dictionary.html](http://www.wipo.int/about-ip/en/ip_innovation_economics/gender_innovation_gap/gender_dictionary.html)

<sup>145</sup> Further information is available at: [www.wipo.int/econ\\_stat/en/economics/news/2023/news\\_0012.html](http://www.wipo.int/econ_stat/en/economics/news/2023/news_0012.html)

<sup>146</sup> Further information about the Forum can be found at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/2022/judgesforum2022.html](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/2022/judgesforum2022.html)

<sup>147</sup> Albania, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

<sup>148</sup> The Guide is available at: [www.wipo.int/about-patent-judicial-guide/en/](http://www.wipo.int/about-patent-judicial-guide/en/)

<sup>149</sup> The Series includes volumes for the Philippines and Viet Nam and is available at: [www.wipo.int/publications/en/series/index.jsp?id=240](http://www.wipo.int/publications/en/series/index.jsp?id=240)

<sup>150</sup> The Collection covers judgments issued by courts of the OAPI members, providing unprecedented global access to IP jurisprudence from the region. It is available at: [www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4635](http://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4635)

<sup>151</sup> The website of WIPO Lex is available at: [www.wipo.int/wipolex](http://www.wipo.int/wipolex)

<sup>152</sup> India, Mongolia, Nigeria, Singapore, and Ukraine.



## WIPO ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTER

69. The WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center offered time- and cost-efficient alternative dispute resolution (ADR) options, such as mediation, arbitration, expedited arbitration, and expert determination to enable private parties to settle their domestic or cross-border commercial disputes. During the reporting period, the Center was involved in the resolution of nearly 680 disputes, with 51% of the parties representing SMEs, including startups, creators, and innovators, many of whom were from developing countries and LDCs. To raise awareness of ADR for IP disputes, over 20 online training sessions were organized, engaging more than 4,300 participants from developing countries and LDCs. The Center also provided IT support for the online conduct of ADR meetings for Copyright Offices and Courts in developing countries and LDCs, particularly in Africa and Latin America. Additionally, online one-on-one orientation sessions were held for potential users of ADR services. Over 120 sessions were booked by users from 45 Member States. It is also notable that the WIPO ADR Young group, which offers a networking and training forum for young professionals in the IP and dispute resolution communities, expanded to over 1,300 members from around 100 countries.<sup>153</sup>

## MAINSTREAMED DA PROJECTS

70. Below are highlights of the work related to the mainstreamed DA projects:

- (i) *Specialized Databases' Access and Support*: training and awareness-raising activities on IP rights, patent information, patent search strategies and techniques, as well as technology databases have been mainstreamed into regular activities provided to TISCs and their stakeholders. Exchange of experiences and best practices among TISCs were promoted through five<sup>154</sup> regional conferences, as well as through the eTISC knowledge-sharing platform,<sup>155</sup> which had nearly 1,300 members registered by the end of 2023. The patent database reports,<sup>156</sup> within the WIPO INSPIRE platform,<sup>157</sup> increased to 46, contributing further to the fulfillment of the DA Recommendations 19, 30, and 31. At the end of 2023, the TISC Directory included contact information and information on services provided by 1,536 TISCs. TISC webpage<sup>158</sup> was visited by 81,595 unique users, providing access to information on various resources that support knowledge and skills development. The TISC Project and Performance Management (TPPM) platform<sup>159</sup> was rolled out to additional TISC countries. In addition, WIPO's *Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI)* and *Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI)* programs contributed to the achievement of the DA Recommendation 8. In 2023, ARDI provided free or low-cost access to over 55,000 academic and professional peer-reviewed content, including peer-reviewed journals, books and other resources. The program continued to be a member of the Research4Life (R4L) partnership together with programs administered by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the United National Environment Programme (UNEP), which offered content in their respective specialized fields. R4L offered access to over 200,000 resources in the five associated UN agency programs to over 11,500 registered institutions, which had access to all R4L programs. The ASPI program provided free or low-cost access to commercial patent database services with nine

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<sup>153</sup> Further information can be found at: [www.wipo.int/amc/en/center/wipoadryoung/index.html](http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/center/wipoadryoung/index.html)

<sup>154</sup> Comprising networks of Member States of ARIPO, ASEAN, OAPI, certain countries in the Arab region and certain countries in Asia (all having national TISC networks).

<sup>155</sup> The eTISC platform is available at: [etisc.wipo.int/](http://etisc.wipo.int/)

<sup>156</sup> The Database Reports portal is available at: [inspire.wipo.int/wipo-inspire](http://inspire.wipo.int/wipo-inspire)

<sup>157</sup> The WIPO INSPIRE can be accessed at: [inspire.wipo.int](http://inspire.wipo.int)

<sup>158</sup> The TISC webpage is available at: [www.wipo.int/tisc/en/](http://www.wipo.int/tisc/en/)

<sup>159</sup> Launched in 2022 to facilitate TISC data and performance monitoring. Further information can be found at: [tppm.wipo.int](http://tppm.wipo.int)

leading patent database providers that offered advanced and sophisticated tools to search and analyze technical information contained in patent documents. In 2023, there were 81 institutions actively using ASPI.

- (ii) *Developing Tools for Access to Patent Information*: the development of patent analytics and drafting of patent landscape reports was initiated under this project, which responds to the DA Recommendations 19, 30 and 31. In this context, 18 patent landscape reports on technologies were commissioned, particularly, in the areas of health, climate change and environment.<sup>160</sup> Patent landscape reports on COVID-19 related vaccines and therapeutics<sup>161</sup> and on graphite and ilmenite, with their respective applications, were published in 2023. Moreover, a compendium listed over 250 patent landscape reports on various technologies from other organizations. Methodological guidelines for preparing such reports were formalized in the *WIPO publication Guidelines for Preparing Patent Landscape Reports*, the *WIPO Manual on Open Source Tools for Patent Analytics* and the *Handbook on Patent Analytics*. In this vein, the e-tutorial on using patent information was made available as a WIPO Academy distance learning course (DL-177).<sup>162</sup> Furthermore, the Patent Register Portal<sup>163</sup> provided information on online patent registers, gazettes and legal status-related information from over 200 jurisdictions and patent information collections. The Portal had 11,184 unique visitors and 728 pdf downloads of its jurisdiction files.
- (iii) *Use of Information in the Public Domain for Economic Development*: the practical guides on the identifying<sup>164</sup> and using<sup>165</sup> inventions in the public domain were complemented with tools to help collect and analyze data to: i) evaluate a new product development initiative; and ii) support decision-making in the development of new products and services based on inventions in the public domain. These tools form part of a toolkit used in a “stage-gate” process in new product development. The development of the toolkit and of a modular blended learning approach with associated training materials are part of the ongoing DA project on *Identifying and Using Inventions in the Public Domain*.
- (iv) *IP Management and Transfer of Technology: Promoting the Effective Use of IP in Developing Countries, LDCs and Countries with Economies in Transition*: a manual and toolkit<sup>166</sup> for assessing training needs in areas related to technology transfer were developed. They assisted in mapping innovation value chains, including funders, developers, managers, and users of IP and associated support institutions, such as TISCs, as well as the relationships between them, in order: i) to identify gaps in skills and competencies; and ii) to design effective training programs for individuals and institutions at a national level.
- (v) *IP and Technology Transfer: Common Challenges-Building Solutions*: the National Template IP Policy for Universities and Research Institutions in Panama and its Guidelines for Customization were concluded and delivered to the General Directorate of Industrial Property Registration (DIGERPI) of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MICI) of Panama. The launch within the Panamanian ecosystem of IP and Technology

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<sup>160</sup> WIPO's patent landscape reports can be found at: [www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/programs/patent\\_landscapes/](http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/programs/patent_landscapes/)

<sup>161</sup> The report on COVID-19 related vaccines and therapeutics is a follow-up report building on the preliminary insights first published in 2022. The two COVID-19 patent landscape reports were downloaded over 19,000 times in total, while the ilmenite report over 6,000 times and the graphite report over 3,000 times in 2023.

<sup>162</sup> It offers learners the opportunity to track their progress and certify their completion of the e-tutorial.

<sup>163</sup> The portal is available at: [inspire.wipo.int/patent-register-portal](http://inspire.wipo.int/patent-register-portal)

<sup>164</sup> The Guide can be found at: [www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4501](http://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4501)

<sup>165</sup> The Guide can be found at: [www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4502](http://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4502)

<sup>166</sup> The manual and toolkit were developed in 2022 and can be found at: [www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4586](http://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4586)

Transfer managers was organized in a hybrid format in October 2023. The WIPO Database of IP Policies showcased more than 692 instances of IP policies, guidelines, templates, and agreements from academic and research institutions worldwide. Some of these examples included guidelines or references to North-South cooperation and/or responsible commercialization and knowledge transfer. In addition, the WIPO technology transfer webpages experienced substantial growth in 2023, witnessing a 52% increase in unique visitors, rising from 53,262 in 2022 to 80,885. Furthermore, there was a remarkable surge in page views, increasing by approximately 104%, from 71,567 to 146,269.

- (vi) *Improvement of National, Sub-Regional and Regional IP Institutional and User Capacity:* WIPO implemented a renewed approach in 2023 for the support of the formulation of National IP Strategies. The key goals of the renewed approach are to: i) better align National IP Strategies within the context of Member States' economic development goals and innovation and creative ecosystems; ii) ensure that WIPO's strategic and substantive advice to Member States produces high-quality Strategies that meet national circumstances, priorities and needs; and iii) enhance knowledge about the value and impact of National IP Strategies among Member States and policymakers, including through analysis of trends, best practices and effectiveness. In 2023, the National IP Strategies team worked in close collaboration and coordination with the Regional Divisions in the Regional and National Development Sector, as well as other WIPO Sectors to provide enhanced support and advice to Member States on more than 20 National IP Strategies. The *WIPO Methodology for the Development of National IP Strategies*,<sup>167</sup> created under the DA project on *Improvement of National, Sub-Regional and Regional IP Institutional and User Capacity*, continued to offer a flexible and easily customizable approach to support the national IP strategy formulation process.
- (vii) *IP and the Informal Economy*, and the corresponding book volume *The Informal Economy in Developing Nations - Hidden Engine of Innovation?*,<sup>168</sup> published by Cambridge University Press, continued to receive significant attention from policymakers and academics. The informal economy represents a significant share of output and employment in many developing countries. Yet, little is known about this hidden engine of innovation. This study addressed some crucial questions, including: *how does innovation occur in the informal economy?; how does it spread, who are the key actors and what impacts does it have?; what stops informal sector innovation from scaling up?; how can informal sector innovation in developing countries be measured?; and what policies might support informal sector innovation and improve its impacts?* This DA project and the book continued to stimulate further work on this crucial but under-researched subject, including in policy circles, such as the African Union, and national innovation plans in Africa, South-East Asia and Latin America. In 2023, this work was featured in *the Handbook of Innovation and Regulation* (Edward Elgar publishing) and was a key contribution of a chapter on this topic in the *Handbook of Innovation Indicators and Measurement*, edited by Fred Gault, Anthony Arundel and Erika Kraemer-Mbula (Edward Elgar publishing).
- (viii) *Cooperation on Development and IP Rights Education and Professional Training with Judicial Training Institutions in Developing and Least Developed Countries*.<sup>169</sup> the WIPO Judicial Institute, in collaboration with WIPO Academy and other relevant WIPO areas of work, continued to develop its range of offerings to support national and regional

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<sup>167</sup> The Methodology is available at: [www.wipo.int/ipstrategies/en/](http://www.wipo.int/ipstrategies/en/)

<sup>168</sup> The Publication is available at: [www.cambridge.org/core/books/informal-economy-in-developing-nations/C7494C6FD7EE4DC86BBADB4A7B87BCE3](http://www.cambridge.org/core/books/informal-economy-in-developing-nations/C7494C6FD7EE4DC86BBADB4A7B87BCE3)

<sup>169</sup> The project was implemented by the WIPO Academy in four pilot countries from 2016 to 2018. It was mainstreamed into a Continuing Judicial Education (CJE) program, coordinated by the WIPO Judicial Institute, after the Project's completion in December 2018.

judiciaries in fulfilling their role in ensuring a balanced and effective IP ecosystem, including in the context of developing countries and LDCs. Specifically, the project was mainstreamed into a Continuing Judicial Education (CJE) program,<sup>170</sup> coordinated by the WIPO Judicial Institute. During 2023, WIPO entered into collaborations with Mongolia, Poland, and Ukraine to establish CJE programs.

- (ix) *Increasing the Role of Women in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Encouraging Women in Developing Countries to Use the Intellectual Property System* was successfully completed in Mexico, Uganda, Oman and Pakistan in December 2022. The outputs of the project, including information about the *WIPO IP Mentorship Program for Women Inventors* and set of stories of women inventors, are available on the project's webpage<sup>171</sup>. At its thirtieth session, the Committee considered the completion<sup>172</sup> and evaluation<sup>173</sup> reports of the project and requested the Secretariat to further mainstream the work done under the project, in particular the mentorship program, into its regular work. The Committee also requested the Secretariat to assess further work to be undertaken in this area and to report back to the Committee in due course. Accordingly, at the current session, the Committee will consider the *Report on Women and IP: Internal and External Activities, Strategic Direction*.

## ONGOING DA PROJECTS

71. The Sector has been in charge of the implementation of the following ongoing DA Projects:

- (i) *Systematization of Statistical Data and the Design and Implementation of a Methodology for Developing Impact Assessments on the Use of the IP System*: Notable achievements in 2023 included: i) the recruitment of a project Fellow; ii) the consolidation of required input data from beneficiary WIPO Member States: El Salvador and Bhutan; and iii) the completion of the draft project methodology.
- (ii) *Identifying and Using Inventions in the Public Domain*: the implementation of the project concluded in December 2023. The objective of the project was to equip TISC staff, researchers and entrepreneurs in general with practical tools to collect and analyze data to evaluate a new product development initiative and support decision-making in the development of new products and services based on inventions in the public domain. These practical tools form part of a toolkit, which complements the concepts and processes introduced in two guides previously developed within a mainstreamed DA project: i) *Identifying Inventions in the Public Domain: A Guide for Inventors and Entrepreneurs* (2020)<sup>174</sup>; and ii) *Using Inventions in the Public Domain: A Guide for Inventors and Entrepreneurs* (2020).<sup>175</sup> During the reporting period, an associated training materials package was developed, providing the foundation for a new modular blended-learning training approach.<sup>176</sup> Pilot training seminars using the new training materials were implemented in the TISC networks of Malaysia and the Philippines, over a seven-week period in an online format. The feedback gathered during the pilot training will support in identifying potential improvements to this training and to future similar

<sup>170</sup> Further information can be found at: [welc.wipo.int/jtip/?lang=en](http://welc.wipo.int/jtip/?lang=en)

<sup>171</sup> The website of the project can be accessed at: [www.wipo.int/women-inventors/en/index.html](http://www.wipo.int/women-inventors/en/index.html)

<sup>172</sup> See document CDIP/30/6, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=600731](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=600731)

<sup>173</sup> See document CDIP/30/11, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=601651](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=601651)

<sup>174</sup> The Guide can be found at: [www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4501](http://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4501)

<sup>175</sup> The Guide can be found at: [www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4502](http://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4502)

<sup>176</sup> The Toolkit is available at: [www.wipo.int/tisc/en/inventions-public-domain.html](http://www.wipo.int/tisc/en/inventions-public-domain.html)



training activities for TISCs. At the current session, the Committee will consider the completion report of the project.<sup>177</sup>

## VIII. ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT SECTOR

72. The Administration, Finance and Management Sector provided the foundation for the effective delivery of results across WIPO. In 2022/23, development as a cross-cutting topic continued to be mainstreamed across all WIPO Strategic Pillars in line with the Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23, with clear linkages between the work of the Organization and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Throughout the biennium, the Organization expanded its range of impact-driven technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives and projects on the ground, including through an increased number of partnerships, to assist its Member States to harness the power of innovation and creativity. Up-scaling approaches were also explored to maximize the reach and developmental impact of these initiatives on the ground and with a greater emphasis on accountability for results. The implementation of the COVID-19 response package accelerated in 2023, benefitting over 25% of WIPO Member States throughout the biennium.

### MAINSTREAMED DA PROJECTS

73. *Enhancement of WIPO's Results-Based Management (RBM) Framework*: the project led to a series of discussions on WIPO's technical assistance in the context of the CDIP. This, in turn, culminated with the adoption of the so-called *Spanish Proposal or Six-Point Proposal on Technical Assistance*, at the eighteenth session of the Committee. That proposal requested the Secretariat to take a series of actions, which were carried out as detailed in a report presented to the twenty-fourth session of the CDIP. In that session, the Committee decided that future discussions related to WIPO's technical assistance would continue under the sub-agenda item "*WIPO Technical Assistance in the Area of Cooperation for Development*". At its twenty-ninth session, under that sub-agenda item, the CDIP considered the *Proposal by the African Group to conduct a new Independent External Review of WIPO Technical Assistance in the Area of Cooperation for Development*.<sup>178</sup> The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for such review,<sup>179</sup> which was adopted at the thirtieth CDIP session. At the same session, the Committee approved a revised version of the document on Future Webinars,<sup>180</sup> outlining the Secretariat's strategy for the organization of webinars on technical assistance starting from 2024. At its thirty-first session, the Committee discussed the *Compilation of Topics Proposed by the Secretariat for Future Webinars on Technical Assistance* and welcomed the two proposed topics for convening the webinars: i) *Impact-oriented Technical Assistance and Capacity Building: Factors for Success and Lessons Learned*; and ii) *Virtual Technical Assistance and Capacity Building: A Critical Look at the Advantages and Limitations*.<sup>181</sup>

## IX. OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

74. The Office of the Director General focused on providing overall strategic direction and coordination of the work of the Organization. In so doing, it introduced policies nurturing a dynamic and inclusive corporate culture, empowering WIPO Staff to work effectively, collaboratively and innovatively. During the reporting period, a specific emphasis was put on regular and targeted communications with Member States to disseminate information and garner feedback on activities of the Organization to reinforce transparency. Additionally, a new

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<sup>177</sup> See document CDIP/32/5, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=627738](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=627738)

<sup>178</sup> See document CDIP/29/9, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=582427](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=582427)

<sup>179</sup> See document CDIP/30/3, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=600012](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=600012)

<sup>180</sup> See document CDIP/30/8 REV., available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=607672](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=607672)

<sup>181</sup> See document CDIP/31/INF/5, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=621667](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=621667)



Policy on Gender Equality was developed to enable the Organization to incorporate gender aspects in all areas of its work.

## NEWS AND MEDIA

75. Throughout 2023, a series of activities were undertaken to raise awareness on the importance of IP to growth and development. A story-telling “show, don’t tell” approach was used to illustrate how IP supports development. In 2023, the focus was on highlighting the positive human impact of WIPO’s development activities, including many approved through the CDIP. This resulted in the “*IP for Impact*” web page where readers can find videos and articles of WIPO beneficiaries across the globe. Over 260 videos were produced, with roughly half featuring people in developing countries using IP to transform lives and communities. Social media content was also tailored to highlight the importance of IP in supporting innovation in developing countries and communities through a people-centric approach. WIPO’s social-media and global press presences grew rapidly during the year and reached 500,000 followers on social media, indicating an increasing global interest in WIPO and the use of IP for national economic and cultural growth.

## ETHICS AND INTEGRITY

76. The WIPO Ethics Office assisted the Director General in ensuring the design, development and implementation of WIPO’s ethics strategy to enhance integrity, compliance with ethics rules, and ethical conduct in the Organization’s business. To help WIPO personnel to understand their ethical responsibilities and to promote an organization-wide ethical culture, a mandatory course on Ethics and Integrity continued to be provided to the WIPO personnel. Additionally, the Ethics Office reviewed and reformed the *Financial Disclosure and Declaration of Interests process* (FDDI). FDDI is the principal tool for helping staff, particularly senior staff and those engaged in procurement, to understand where they might have a conflict of interest. If a conflict is identified, the staff member is advised how to eliminate it or mitigate it in the interests of the Organization.<sup>182</sup> At the end of 2023, the Ethics Office circulated a survey questionnaire to find out the reaction of the filers to the process. The respondents found the internal online platform easy to use, appreciated both the automation and the helpfulness of the Ethics Office when preparing their declarations. The Ethics Office, with assistance from the Office of the Legal Counsel (OLC), and the approval of the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC), updated *WIPO’s Policy on Prevention against Retaliation* (commonly known as its “whistleblower policy”). Meanwhile, confidential advice and guidance to managers, staff and other personnel on ethics-related matters continued to be provided. Finally, the Ethics Office continued its active engagement with the Ethics Network of Multilateral Organizations (ENMO).<sup>183</sup>

## INTERNAL OVERSIGHT

77. Internal oversight initiatives supported the Organization in achieving its objectives by strengthening accountability, compliance, value for money, stewardship, internal control and corporate governance. In 2023, following a request by the CDIP,<sup>184</sup> WIPO Internal Oversight Division provided technical and quality assurance for conducting the impact evaluation of the DA project on “*Intellectual Property and Socio-Economic Development*”. The evaluation comprised two complementary phases of the project’s implementation between 2012 and 2018,

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<sup>182</sup> Up until 2022, FDDI was effected by an outside provider. But in 2023 the Ethics Office brought the process in-house to make it more cost-effective and better designed for WIPO’s use.

<sup>183</sup> ENMO serves as a broad forum of ethics functions from UN system entities, affiliated international organizations and international financial institutions and aims to promote system-wide collaboration on ethics-related issues.

<sup>184</sup> At its twenty-ninth session, the CDIP requested the Secretariat to start the implementation of the adopted strategies of the Adopted Recommendations of the Independent Review, which included an undertaking of an impact evaluation of a completed DA project every year.

with due consideration to the effective completion date of the project and the context of each beneficiary country. The overall objective of evaluation was to measure the intended and unintended impacts of the project in beneficiary countries with a specific focus on providing lessons learned on the conditions that enabled or hindered the achievement of intended impacts. The CDIP considered the Impact Evaluation Report<sup>185</sup> at its thirty-first session and commended the results achieved through the project and appreciated the usefulness of the report in assessing the project's long-term impact on beneficiaries and its sustainability.

## GENDER MAINSTREAMING

78. In 2023, through an extensive consultation process, WIPO developed a new Policy on Gender Equality.<sup>186</sup> This Policy succeeds WIPO's first Policy on Gender Equality, which was issued in 2014, and it supports the implementation of the IP and Gender Action Plan (IPGAP 2022-2026). The Policy frames WIPO's work on gender equality at large. It focuses on two main objectives: i) strengthening institutional gender mainstreaming and enabling WIPO to incorporate gender aspects in all areas of its work; and ii) fostering an inclusive and diverse organizational culture and advance equal representation at all grades and levels. The first objective will be achieved by knowledge building and knowledge sharing on gender equality and the empowerment of women, while continuing to mainstream gender equality considerations in all functions. The second objective will be achieved by actively attracting a diverse, gender-balanced workforce and by providing an enabling work environment supported by inclusive, gender-responsive policies. Through both targeted and mainstreamed actions, WIPO will build inclusive structures, processes and initiatives, while addressing gender gaps in access to rights and opportunities.

## YOUNG EXPERTS PROGRAM

79. The WIPO's Young Experts Program (YEPs),<sup>187</sup> launched in 2022, aimed to train the next generation of global IP leaders to help to build innovation ecosystems around the world. The two-year program hosted at WIPO is designed to expose young people with high potential, particularly, from developing countries, LDCs and countries with economies in transition, to the technical and policy aspects of IP. It also includes a structured program of mentoring for each Young Expert, as well as regular networking opportunities with top and senior leadership at WIPO. After a successful first year, a second cohort of Young Experts from a diverse group of developing countries joined the two-year program in 2023. The selected Young Experts under both cohorts were allocated to assignments, in accordance with organizational needs and priorities and based on the profile and expressed interest of the candidates. Throughout the year, the YEP selectees were exposed to a wide ranging and cohesive WIPO working experience, focused on on-the-job learning across different WIPO Sectors. WIPO expects the Young Experts to bring fresh ideas and experiences to WIPO and, for them to share the values, passion and dedication towards attaining the Organization's mission – to lead the development of a balanced and effective international IP system. A call for applications for a third cohort of Young Experts was launched in September 2023.

## CONCLUSION

80. In its quest to spur innovation and creativity for a better future, WIPO took up the strategic imperatives contained in the MTSP, while ensuring that the imperatives contained in the DA continue to be mainstreamed across WIPO Sectors. Throughout 2023, the Organization supported Member States in their endeavor to use IP as a tool that helps innovators, creators,

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<sup>185</sup> The external independent impact evaluation was managed by the Development Agenda Coordination Division, in collaboration with the Evaluation Section of the Internal Oversight Division.

See document CDIP/31/8, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=620128](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=620128)

<sup>186</sup> The Policy was officially launched in early January 2024.

<sup>187</sup> Further information can be found at: [www.wipo.int/jobs/en/young-experts-program.html](http://www.wipo.int/jobs/en/young-experts-program.html)

businesses and communities from anywhere to transform their ideas into tradeable products and services. Additionally, through adoption of seven new DA projects, the Organization successfully responded to the current development-related needs and circumstances of Member States.

[Annexes follow]

**THE LINKAGES BETWEEN THE 45 DA RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WIPO'S EXPECTED RESULTS FOR 2022/26**

| <b>Recommendation 1<sup>*188</sup></b>  | <b>Link to Expected Results<sup>189</sup></b>  |
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| <p>WIPO technical assistance shall be, <i>inter alia</i>, development-oriented, demand-driven and transparent, taking into account the priorities and the special needs of developing countries, especially LDCs, as well as the different levels of development of Member States and activities should include time frames for completion. In this regard, design, delivery mechanisms and evaluation processes of technical assistance programs should be country specific.</p> | <p>2.1 Development of balanced and effective international normative frameworks for IP.</p> <p>2.4 Effective interaction and partnerships with the UN, IGOs and NGOs in support of global goals to which IP can contribute.</p> <p>4.1 More effective use of IP to support growth and development of all Member States and their relevant regions and sub-regions, including through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda recommendations.</p> <p>4.2 Development of balanced and effective IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States.</p> <p>4.3 Increased IP knowledge and skills in all Member States.</p> <p>4.5 Enhanced IP infrastructure for IP Offices.</p> |
| <b>Recommendation 2</b>   | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>  |
| <p>Provide additional assistance to WIPO through donor funding, and establish Trust-Funds or other voluntary funds within WIPO specifically for LDCs, while continuing to accord high priority to finance activities in Africa through budgetary and extra-budgetary resources, to promote, <i>inter alia</i>, the legal, commercial, cultural, and economic exploitation of intellectual property (IP) in these countries.</p>   | <p>4.1 More effective use of IP to support growth and development of all Member States and their relevant regions and sub-regions, including through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda recommendations.</p>  |
| <b>Recommendation 3<sup>*</sup></b>   | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>  |
| <p>Increase human and financial allocation for technical assistance programs in WIPO for promoting a, <i>inter alia</i>, development-oriented IP culture, with an emphasis on</p>   | <p>1.1 More effective communication and engagement worldwide to raise awareness of and increase knowledge about the potential of IP to improve the lives of everyone, everywhere.</p>  |

<sup>188</sup> The DA Recommendations marked with an \*asterisk are the Recommendations identified by the 2007 General Assembly for immediate implementation.

<sup>189</sup> The Expected results are articulated in the WIPO Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2022-2026, available at: [www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=541373](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=541373)

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| <p>introducing intellectual property at different academic levels and on generating greater public awareness on IP.</p>  | <p>4.1 More effective use of IP to support growth and development of all Member States and their relevant regions and sub-regions, including through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda recommendations.</p> <p>4.3 Increased IP knowledge and skills in all Member States.</p>  |
| <p><b>Recommendation 4*</b></p>  | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p>  |
| <p>Place particular emphasis on the needs of SMEs and institutions dealing with scientific research and cultural industries and assist Member States, at their request, in setting-up appropriate national strategies in the field of IP.</p>  | <p>2.1 Development of balanced and effective international normative frameworks for IP.</p> <p>4.1 More effective use of IP to support growth and development of all Member States and their relevant regions and sub-regions, including through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda recommendations.</p> <p>4.2 Development of balanced and effective IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States.</p> <p>4.4 More innovators, creators, SMEs, universities, research institutions and communities leverage IP successfully.</p> |
| <p><b>Recommendation 5</b></p>   | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p>  |
| <p>WIPO shall display general information on all technical assistance activities on its website, and shall provide, on request from Member States, details of specific activities, with the consent of the Member State(s) and other recipients concerned, for which the activity was implemented.</p>   | <p>3.1 Wider and more effective use of WIPO's global IP systems, services, knowledge and data.</p> <p>4.1 More effective use of IP to support growth and development of all Member States and their relevant regions and sub-regions, including through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda recommendations.</p>  |
| <p><b>Recommendation 6*</b></p>  | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p>  |
| <p>WIPO's technical assistance staff and consultants shall continue to be neutral and accountable, by paying particular attention to the existing Code of Ethics, and by avoiding potential conflicts of interest. WIPO shall draw up and make widely known to the Member States a roster of consultants for technical assistance available with WIPO.</p> | <p>4.1 More effective use of IP to support growth and development of all Member States and their relevant regions and sub-regions, including through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda recommendations.</p>   |



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|  | 5.1 A Secretariat that is empowered through a dynamic corporate culture and is provided with the right resources and training to work effectively, collaboratively and innovatively.  |
| <b>Recommendation 7*</b>   | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>   |
| Promote measures that will help countries deal with IP-related anti-competitive practices, by providing technical cooperation to developing countries, especially LDCs, at their request, in order to better understand the interface between intellectual property rights and competition policies.                   | 2.1 Development of balanced and effective international normative frameworks for IP.  |
| <b>Recommendation 8</b>  | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>   |
| Request WIPO to develop agreements with research institutions and with private enterprises with a view to facilitating the national offices of developing countries, especially LDCs, as well as their regional and sub-regional IP organizations to access specialized databases for the purposes of patent searches. | 3.3 Knowledge transfer and technology adaptation is facilitated through WIPO's IP-based platforms and tools to address global challenges.<br><br>4.3 Increased IP knowledge and skills in all Member States.<br><br>4.4 More innovators, creators, SMEs, universities, research institutions and communities leverage IP successfully.  |
| <b>Recommendation 9</b>  | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>   |
| Request WIPO to create, in coordination with Member States, a database to match specific IP-related development needs with available resources, thereby expanding the scope of its technical assistance programs, aimed at bridging the digital divide.  | 3.3 Knowledge transfer and technology adaptation is facilitated through WIPO's IP-based platforms and tools to address global challenges.<br><br>4.1 More effective use of IP to support growth and development of all Member States and their relevant regions and sub-regions, including through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda recommendations.<br><br>4.2 Development of balanced and effective IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States. |
| <b>Recommendation 10</b>   | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>   |
| To assist Member States to develop and improve national IP institutional capacity through further development of infrastructure and other facilities with a view to making national IP institutions more efficient and promote fair balance between IP protection and the public interest. This technical assistance   | 3.3 Knowledge transfer and technology adaptation is facilitated through WIPO's IP-based platforms and tools to address global challenges.<br><br>4.1 More effective use of IP to support growth and development of all Member States and their relevant regions and sub-regions,  |

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| <p>should also be extended to sub-regional and regional organizations dealing with IP.</p>   | <p>including through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda recommendations.</p> <p>4.3 Increased IP knowledge and skills in all Member States.</p>   |
| <p><b>Recommendation 11*</b></p>   | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p>   |
| <p>To assist Member States to strengthen national capacity for the protection of domestic creations, innovations and inventions and to support development of national scientific and technological infrastructure, where appropriate, in accordance with WIPO's mandate.</p>  | <p>4.1 More effective use of IP to support growth and development of all Member States and their relevant regions and sub-regions, including through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda recommendations.</p> <p>4.3 Increased IP knowledge and skills in all Member States.</p> <p>4.4 More innovators, creators, SMEs, universities, research institutions and communities leverage IP successfully.</p> |
| <p><b>Recommendation 12*</b></p>   | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p>   |
| <p>To further mainstream development considerations into WIPO's substantive and technical assistance activities and debates, in accordance with its mandate.</p>   | <p>4.1 More effective use of IP to support growth and development of all Member States and their relevant regions and sub-regions, including through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda recommendations.</p>  |
| <p><b>Recommendation 13*</b></p>   | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p>   |
| <p>WIPO's legislative assistance shall be, <i>inter alia</i>, development-oriented and demand-driven, taking into account the priorities and the special needs of developing countries, especially LDCs, as well as the different levels of development of Member States and activities should include time frames for completion.</p> | <p>2.1 Development of balanced and effective international normative frameworks for IP.</p> <p>4.2 Development of balanced and effective IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States.</p>  |
| <p><b>Recommendation 14*</b></p>   | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p>   |
| <p>Within the framework of the agreement between WIPO and the WTO, WIPO shall make available advice to developing countries and LDCs, on the implementation and operation of the rights and obligations and the understanding and use of flexibilities contained in the TRIPS Agreement.</p>   | <p>2.1 Development of balanced and effective international normative frameworks for IP.</p> <p>4.2 Development of balanced and effective IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States.</p>  |
| <p><b>Recommendation 15*</b></p>   | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p>   |
| <p>Norm-setting activities shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- be inclusive and member driven;</li> </ul>  | <p>2.1 Development of balanced and effective international normative frameworks for IP.</p>  |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- take into account different levels of development;</li> <li>- take into consideration a balance between costs and benefits;</li> <li>- be a participatory process, which takes into consideration the interests and priorities of all WIPO Member States and the viewpoints of other stakeholders, including accredited IGOs and NGOs; and</li> <li>- be in line with the principle of neutrality of the WIPO Secretariat.</li> </ul> | <p>2.2 WIPO brings the international community together to proactively address emerging issues and policy challenges at the global level relating to IP, innovation and creativity.</p>                      |
| <p><b>Recommendation 16*</b></p>   | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p>   |
| <p>Consider the preservation of the public domain within WIPO's normative processes and deepen the analysis of the implications and benefits of a rich and accessible public domain.</p>   | <p>3.1 Wider and more effective use of WIPO's global IP systems, services, knowledge and data.</p> <p>4.2 Development of balanced and effective IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States.</p> |
| <p><b>Recommendation 17*</b></p>   | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p>   |
| <p>In its activities, including norm-setting, WIPO should take into account the flexibilities in international IP agreements, especially those which are of interest to developing countries and LDCs.</p>   | <p>2.1 Development of balanced and effective international normative frameworks for IP.</p> <p>4.2 Development of balanced and effective IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States.</p>        |
| <p><b>Recommendation 18*</b></p>   | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p>   |
| <p>To urge the IGC to accelerate the process on the protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore, without prejudice to any outcome, including the possible development of an international instrument or instruments.</p>   | <p>2.1 Development of balanced and effective international normative frameworks for IP.</p>  |
| <p><b>Recommendation 19*</b></p>   | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p>   |
| <p>To initiate discussions on how, within WIPO's mandate, to further facilitate access to knowledge and technology for developing countries and LDCs to foster creativity and</p>  | <p>1.1 More effective communication and engagement worldwide to raise awareness of and increase knowledge about the potential of IP to improve the lives of everyone, everywhere.</p>                        |

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| <p>innovation and to strengthen such existing activities within WIPO.</p>  | <p>3.3 Knowledge transfer and technology adaptation is facilitated through WIPO's IP-based platforms and tools to address global challenges.</p> <p>4.1 More effective use of IP to support growth and development of all Member States and their relevant regions and sub-regions, including through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda recommendations.</p> <p>4.2 Development of balanced and effective IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States.</p> |
| <p><b>Recommendation 20</b></p>  | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p>   |
| <p>To promote norm-setting activities related to IP that support a robust public domain in WIPO's Member States, including the possibility of preparing guidelines which could assist interested Member States in identifying subject matters that have fallen into the public domain within their respective jurisdictions.</p>   | <p>3.1 Wider and more effective use of WIPO's global IP systems, services, knowledge and data.</p> <p>4.2 Development of balanced and effective IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States.</p>   |
| <p><b>Recommendation 21*</b></p>   | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p>   |
| <p>WIPO shall conduct informal, open and balanced consultations, as appropriate, prior to any new norm-setting activities, through a member-driven process, promoting the participation of experts from Member States, particularly developing countries and LDCs.</p>   | <p>2.1 Development of balanced and effective international normative frameworks for IP.</p> <p>2.2 WIPO brings the international community together to proactively address emerging issues and policy challenges at the global level relating to IP, innovation and creativity.</p>  |
| <p><b>Recommendation 22</b></p>  | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p>   |
| <p>WIPO's norm-setting activities should be supportive of the development goals agreed within the UN system, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.</p> <p>The WIPO Secretariat, without prejudice to the outcome of Member States considerations, should address in its working documents for norm-setting activities, as appropriate and as directed by Member States, issues such as:</p> | <p>3.1 Wider and more effective use of WIPO's global IP systems, services, knowledge and data.</p> <p>3.3 Knowledge transfer and technology adaptation is facilitated through WIPO's IP-based platforms and tools to address global challenges.</p> <p>4.1 More effective use of IP to support growth and development of all Member States and their relevant regions and sub-regions,</p>   |

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| <p>(a) safeguarding national implementation of intellectual property rules;<br/>(b) links between IP and competition;<br/>(c) IP-related transfer of technology;<br/>(d) potential flexibilities, exceptions and limitations for Member States; and<br/>(e) the possibility of additional special provisions for developing countries and LDCs.</p>                              | <p>including through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda recommendations.</p>  |
| <p><b>Recommendation 23</b></p>  | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p>   |
| <p>To consider how to better promote pro-competitive IP licensing practices, particularly with a view to fostering creativity, innovation and the transfer and dissemination of technology to interested countries, in particular developing countries and LDCs.</p>   | <p>3.3 Knowledge transfer and technology adaptation is facilitated through WIPO's IP-based platforms and tools to address global challenges.</p> <p>4.1 More effective use of IP to support growth and development of all Member States and their relevant regions and sub-regions, including through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda recommendations.</p> |
| <p><b>Recommendation 24</b></p>  | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p>   |
| <p>To request WIPO, within its mandate, to expand the scope of its activities aimed at bridging the digital divide, in accordance with the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) also taking into account the significance of the Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF).</p>  | <p>3.3 Knowledge transfer and technology adaptation is facilitated through WIPO's IP-based platforms and tools to address global challenges.</p> <p>4.1 More effective use of IP to support growth and development of all Member States and their relevant regions and sub-regions, including through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda recommendations.</p> |
| <p><b>Recommendation 25</b></p>  | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p>   |
| <p>To explore IP-related policies and initiatives necessary to promote the transfer and dissemination of technology, to the benefit of developing countries and to take appropriate measures to enable developing countries to fully understand and benefit from different provisions, pertaining to flexibilities provided for in international agreements, as appropriate.</p> | <p>2.1 Development of balanced and effective international normative frameworks for IP.</p> <p>3.3 Knowledge transfer and technology adaptation is facilitated through WIPO's IP-based platforms and tools to address global challenges.</p> <p>4.2 Development of balanced and effective IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States.</p>                 |



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| <p><b>Recommendation 26</b></p> <p>To encourage Member States, especially developed countries, to urge their research and scientific institutions to enhance cooperation and exchange with research and development institutions in developing countries, especially LDCs.</p>  | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p> <p>2.2 WIPO brings the international community together to proactively address emerging issues and policy challenges at the global level relating to IP, innovation and creativity.</p> <p>4.2 Development of balanced and effective IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States.</p>   |
| <p><b>Recommendation 27</b></p> <p>Facilitating IP-related aspects of ICT for growth and development: Provide for, in an appropriate WIPO body, discussions focused on the importance of IP-related aspects of ICT, and its role in economic and cultural development, with specific attention focused on assisting Member States to identify practical IP-related strategies to use ICT for economic, social and cultural development.</p> | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p> <p>2.2 WIPO brings the international community together to proactively address emerging issues and policy challenges at the global level relating to IP, innovation and creativity.</p> <p>3.2 Improved productivity and service quality of WIPO's global IP systems, services, knowledge and data.</p> <p>4.1 Mainstreaming of the DA recommendations in the work of WIPO.</p> <p>4.5 Enhanced IP infrastructure for IP Offices.</p> |
| <p><b>Recommendation 28</b></p> <p>To explore supportive IP-related policies and measures Member States, especially developed countries, could adopt for promoting transfer and dissemination of technology to developing countries.</p>  | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p> <p>2.1 Development of balanced and effective international normative frameworks for IP.</p> <p>3.3 Knowledge transfer and technology adaptation is facilitated through WIPO's IP-based platforms and tools to address global challenges.</p> <p>4.2 Development of balanced and effective IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States.</p>  |
| <p><b>Recommendation 29</b></p> <p>To include discussions on IP-related technology transfer issues within the mandate of an appropriate WIPO body.</p>  | <p><b>Link to Expected Results</b></p> <p>2.2 WIPO brings the international community together to proactively address emerging issues and policy challenges at the global level relating to IP, innovation and creativity.</p>   |

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|  | <p>3.3 Knowledge transfer and technology adaptation is facilitated through WIPO's IP-based platforms and tools to address global challenges.</p> <p>4.2 Development of balanced and effective IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States.</p>   |
| <b>Recommendation 30</b>   | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>  |
| <p>WIPO should cooperate with other intergovernmental organizations to provide to developing countries, including LDCs, upon request, advice on how to gain access to and make use of IP-related information on technology, particularly in areas of special interest to the requesting parties.</p> | <p>2.4 Effective interaction and partnerships with the UN, IGOs and NGOs in support of global goals to which IP can contribute.</p> <p>3.1 Wider and more effective use of WIPO's global IP systems, services, knowledge and data.</p> <p>3.3 Knowledge transfer and technology adaptation is facilitated through WIPO's IP-based platforms and tools to address global challenges.</p> <p>4.3 Increased IP knowledge and skills in all Member States.</p> |
| <b>Recommendation 31</b>   | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>  |
| <p>To undertake initiatives agreed by Member States, which contribute to transfer of technology to developing countries, such as requesting WIPO to facilitate better access to publicly available patent information.</p>   | <p>3.1 Wider and more effective use of WIPO's global IP systems, services, knowledge and data.</p> <p>3.3 Knowledge transfer and technology adaptation is facilitated through WIPO's IP-based platforms and tools to address global challenges.</p> <p>4.3 Increased IP knowledge and skills in all Member States.</p>   |
| <b>Recommendation 32</b>   | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>  |
| <p>To have within WIPO opportunity for exchange of national and regional experiences and information on the links between IP rights and competition policies.</p>  | <p>2.1 Development of balanced and effective international normative frameworks for IP.</p>  |

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|  | <p>2.2 WIPO brings the international community together to proactively address emerging issues and policy challenges at the global level relating to IP, innovation and creativity.</p> <p>2.4 Effective interaction and partnerships with the UN, IGOs and NGOs in support of global goals to which IP can contribute.</p>                                   |
| <b>Recommendation 33</b>   | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>   |
| To request WIPO to develop an effective yearly review and evaluation mechanism for the assessment of all its development-oriented activities, including those related to technical assistance, establishing for that purpose specific indicators and benchmarks, where appropriate.                                | <p>4.1 More effective use of IP to support growth and development of all Member States and their relevant regions and sub-regions, including through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda recommendations.</p> <p>5.3 Sound and prudent financial management and effective corporate governance and oversight.</p>                                     |
| <b>Recommendation 34</b>   | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>   |
| With a view to assisting Member States in creating substantial national programs, to request WIPO to conduct a study on constraints to intellectual property protection in the informal economy, including the tangible costs and benefits of IP protection in particular in relation to generation of employment. | <p>3.1 Wider and more effective use of WIPO's global IP systems, services, knowledge and data.</p> <p>4.2 Development of balanced and effective IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States.</p> <p>4.4 More innovators, creators, SMEs, universities, research institutions and communities leverage IP successfully.</p>                        |
| <b>Recommendation 35*</b>  | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>   |
| To request WIPO to undertake, upon request of Member States, new studies to assess the economic, social and cultural impact of the use of intellectual property systems in these States.   | <p>3.1 Wider and more effective use of WIPO's global IP systems, services, knowledge and data.</p> <p>3.3 Knowledge transfer and technology adaptation is facilitated through WIPO's IP-based platforms and tools to address global challenges.</p> <p>4.2 Development of balanced and effective IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States.</p> |
| <b>Recommendation 36</b>   | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>   |
| To exchange experiences on open collaborative projects such as the Human Genome Project as well as on IP models.   | <p>3.1 Wider and more effective use of WIPO's global IP systems, services, knowledge and data.</p>  |

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|  | 3.3 Knowledge transfer and technology adaptation is facilitated through WIPO's IP-based platforms and tools to address global challenges.  |
| <b>Recommendation 37*</b>  | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>  |
| Upon request and as directed by Member States, WIPO may conduct studies on the protection of intellectual property, to identify the possible links and impacts between IP and development.   | 3.1 Wider and more effective use of WIPO's global IP systems, services, knowledge and data.<br><br>3.3 Knowledge transfer and technology adaptation is facilitated through WIPO's IP-based platforms and tools to address global challenges.<br><br>4.2 Development of balanced and effective IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States. |
| <b>Recommendation 38</b>   | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>  |
| To strengthen WIPO's capacity to perform objective assessments of the impact of the organization's activities on development.  | 4.1 More effective use of IP to support growth and development of all Member States and their relevant regions and sub-regions, including through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda recommendations.   |
| <b>Recommendation 39</b>   | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>  |
| To request WIPO, within its core competence and mission, to assist developing countries, especially African countries, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, by conducting studies on brain drain and make recommendations accordingly.  | 4.1 More effective use of IP to support growth and development of all Member States and their relevant regions and sub-regions, including through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda recommendations.   |
| <b>Recommendation 40</b>   | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>  |
| To request WIPO to intensify its cooperation on IP related issues with UN agencies, according to Member States' orientation, in particular UNCTAD, UNEP, WHO, UNIDO, UNESCO and other relevant international organizations, especially WTO in order to strengthen the coordination for maximum efficiency in undertaking development programs. | 1.1 More effective communication and engagement worldwide to raise awareness of and increase knowledge about the potential of IP to improve the lives of everyone, everywhere.<br>2.4 Effective interaction and partnerships with the UN, IGOs and NGOs in support of global goals to which IP can contribute.   |
| <b>Recommendation 41</b>   | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>  |
| To conduct a review of current WIPO technical assistance activities in the area of cooperation and development.  | 4.1 More effective use of IP to support growth and development of all Member States and their relevant regions and sub-regions,  |

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|  | <p>including through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda recommendations.</p> <p>4.2 Development of balanced and effective IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States.</p>   |
| <b>Recommendation 42*</b>  | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>   |
| To enhance measures that ensure wide participation of civil society at large in WIPO activities in accordance with its criteria regarding NGO acceptance and accreditation, keeping the issue under review.  | 2.4 Effective interaction and partnerships with the UN, IGOs and NGOs in support of global goals to which IP can contribute.  |
| <b>Recommendation 43</b>   | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>   |
| To consider how to improve WIPO's role in finding partners to fund and execute projects for IP-related assistance in a transparent and member-driven process and without prejudice to ongoing WIPO activities.   | 3.3 Knowledge transfer and technology adaptation is facilitated through WIPO's IP-based platforms and tools to address global challenges.   |
| <b>Recommendation 44*</b>  | <b>Link to Expected Results</b>   |
| In accordance with WIPO's member-driven nature as a United Nations Specialized Agency, formal and informal meetings or consultations relating to norm-setting activities in WIPO, organized by the International Bureau, upon request of the Member States, should be held primarily in Geneva, in a manner open and transparent to all Members. Where such meetings are to take place outside of Geneva, Member States shall be informed through official channels, well in advance, and consulted on the draft agenda and program. | <p>2.1 Development of balanced and effective international normative frameworks for IP.</p> <p>2.2 WIPO brings the international community together to proactively address emerging issues and policy challenges at the global level relating to IP, innovation and creativity.</p> |



| <b><i>Recommendation 45</i></b>  | <b><i>Link to Expected Results</i></b>   |
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| <p>To approach intellectual property enforcement in the context of broader societal interests and especially development-oriented concerns, with a view that “the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights should contribute to the promotion of technological innovation and to the transfer and dissemination of technology, to the mutual advantage of producers and users of technological knowledge and in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare, and to a balance of rights and obligations”, in accordance with Article 7 of the TRIPS Agreement.</p> | <p>2.3 International dialogue and cooperation on Building Respect for IP.</p> <p>4.2 Development of balanced and effective IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States.</p> <p>4.3 Increased IP knowledge and skills in all Member States.</p> |

[Annex II follows]

**LIST OF DA PROJECTS AS OF 2023**

| <b><i>Completed and Evaluated DA Projects (40)</i></b> |   |
|--|---|
| 1.   | Conference on “Mobilizing Resources for Development   |
| 2.   | IP Technical Assistance Database (IP TAD)   |
| 3.   | Specialized Databases’ Access and Support – Phase I   |
| 4.   | IP Development Matchmaking Database (IP DMD)  |
| 5.   | Establishment of “Start-Up” National IP Academies   |
| 6.   | Smart IP Institutions Project   |
| 7.   | Innovation and Technology Transfer Support Structure for National Institutions  |
| 8.   | Improvement of National, Sub Regional and Regional IP Institutional and User Capacity   |
| 9.   | IP and the Public Domain  |
| 10.  | IP and Competition Policy   |
| 11.  | IP, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), the Digital Divide and Access to Knowledge   |
| 12.  | Developing Tools for Access to Patent information   |
| 13.  | Enhancement of WIPO's Results-Based Management (RBM) Framework to Support the Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Activities   |
| 14.  | Capacity-Building in the Use of Appropriate Technology-specific Technical and Scientific Information as a Solution for Identified Development Challenges  |
| 15.  | IP and Product Branding for Business Development in Developing Countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs)   |
| 16.  | Patents and the Public Domain   |
| 17.  | IP and Brain Drain  |
| 18.  | IP and the Informal Economy   |
| 19.  | Specialized Databases’ Access and Support – Phase II  |
| 20.  | Establishment of “Start-Up” National IP Academies – Phase II  |
| 21.  | IP and Socio-Economic Development   |
| 22.  | Developing Tools for Access to Patent Information – Phase II  |
| 23.  | Strengthening the Capacity of National IP Governmental and Stakeholder Institutions to Manage, Monitor and Promote Creative Industries, and to Enhance the Performance and Network of Copyright Collective Management Organizations |
| 24.  | IP and Technology Transfer: Common Challenges- Building Solutions   |
| 25.  | Open Collaborative Projects and IP Based Models   |
| 26.  | Strengthening and Development of the Audiovisual Sector in Burkina Faso and Certain African Countries   |
| 27.  | Enhancing South-South Cooperation on IP and Development among Developing Countries and LDCs   |
| 28.  | IP and Design Management for Business Development in Developing and Least Developed Countries (LDCs)  |

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| 29.   | Capacity-Building in the Use of Appropriate Technology Specific Technical and Scientific Information as a Solution for Identified Development Challenges - Phase II       |
| 30.   | IP and Socio-Economic Development - Phase II  |
| 31.   | Strengthening and Development of the Audiovisual Sector in Burkina Faso and Certain African Countries - Phase II  |
| 32.   | Cooperation on Development and IP Rights Education and Professional Training with Judicial Training Institutions in Developing and Least Developed Countries              |
| 33.   | IP, Tourism and Culture: Supporting Development Objectives and Promoting Cultural Heritage in Egypt and Other Developing Countries  |
| 34.   | The Use of Information in the Public Domain for Economic Development  |
| 35.   | IP Management and Transfer of Technology: Promoting the Effective Use of IP in Developing Countries, Least Developed Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition |
| 36.   | Enhancing the Use of IP for Mobile Applications in the Software Sector  |
| 37.   | Tools for Successful DA Project Proposals   |
| 38.   | Increasing the Role of Women in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Encouraging Women in Developing Countries to Use the IP System   |
| 39.   | IP and Gastronomic Tourism in Peru and Other Developing Countries: Promoting the Development of Gastronomic Tourism through IP  |
| 40.   | Copyright and the Distribution of Content in the Digital Environment  |
| <b>DA Projects under Implementation as of December 2023 (8)</b> |   |
| 1.  | Identifying and Using Inventions in the Public Domain   |
| 2.  | Registration of the Collective Marks of Local Enterprises as a Cross-Cutting Economic Development Issue   |
| 3.  | Development of the Music Sector and New Economic Models of Music in Burkina Faso and in Certain Countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)         |
| 4.  | Promoting the Use of IP in Developing Countries in Creative Industries in the Digital Era   |
| 5.  | Systematization of Statistical Data and the Design and Implementation of a Methodology for Developing Impact Assessments on the Use of the IP System                      |
| 6.  | Empowering Small Businesses Through IP: Developing Strategies for Supporting Geographical Indications or Collective Marks in the Post-registration Period                 |
| 7.  | Enhancing the use of IP for Mobile Applications in the Software Sector – Phase II   |
| 8.  | Reducing Work-Related Accidents and Occupational Diseases through Innovation and IP   |
| <b>DA Projects approved in 2023 (7)</b>                         |   |
| 1.  | Development of Strategies and Tools to Address Online Copyright Piracy in the African Digital Market  |
| 2.  | Text and Data Mining (TDM) to Support Research and Innovation in Universities and Other Research-Oriented Institutions in Africa  |
| 3.  | Empowering Youth (K-12) to Innovate for a Better Future   |

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| 4. | IP and Gastronomic Tourism in Peru and other Developing Countries: Promoting the Development of Gastronomic Tourism through IP – Phase II                                     |
| 5. | IP and Innovation Collaboration as a Foundation for Technology Transfer and Bringing Research Output to Market  |
| 6. | IP and Unlocking the Potential of Non-Agricultural Geographical Indications for the Empowerment of Local Communities and Preservation or Revival of Local Arts and Traditions |
| 7. | Copyright and the Distribution of Content in the Digital Environment – Phase II   |

[End of Annex II and of document]