

**Program and Budget Committee
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**Q&A
DRAFT PROPOSED PROGRAM AND BUDGET 2020/21**

WIPO DIGITAL TIMESTAMPING SERVICE

Q1: Please briefly explain what digital timestamping means?

A1: Digital timestamping refers to electronic signed certifications that prove the existence of a digital file at a specific date and time. Digital stamping enables you to say with a high level of certainty that the date and time on the timestamp is accurate and has not been tampered with. It is a sort of a digital notary service.

Q2: What is the WIPO Digital Timestamping Service?

A2: A proposal has been included in the 2020/21 Program and Budget that WIPO will become a trusted TimeStamping Authority (TSA) which will provide such digital timestamping service to users of the Global IP Systems and other innovation actors (Program 28).

Q3: Please explain why it is proposed.

A3: The Organization is facing rapidly evolving trends in the areas of Information Technology (IT), and its investment in IT systems and services in response to the needs for digital transformation is crucial and necessary for promoting innovation and for international cooperation, so that benefits from IT and other new technologies may be widely shared among Member States. As the Director General's Foreword explains, according to WIPO's preliminary studies, there is a significant demand for a trusted international entity providing this service. The service would be complementary to our existing global systems.

Q4: Why is the proposal included in Program 28?

A4: It is because the proposed service is intended to provide strong levels of information assurance and security to users of the service. Secondly, the development of a system of WIPO Digital TimeStamping ("WDTS") service requires a high level of expertise and knowledge in the relevant areas, which are currently available only in Program 28 responsible for "information assurance, security and safety". Finally, WDTS will serve general purposes of digital certification of time, and not limited to any specific IP right.

Q5: What will WIPO actually do for this service?

A5: WIPO will become a trusted TimeStamping Authority (TSA) that should comply with the relevant industry standards and certification (see Q11 and its answer below for more details). WIPO will provide the WDTS service to users who pay a fee, to recover the cost of WIPO's investment and operation of the service.

Q6: Please explain how the service can work for users who seek WIPO's certification?

A6: Users will access a specially dedicated WDTS web site in the secured area of WIPO web site, use WIPO's software to create a digital hash from the user's digital file (the original file) kept at the user's PC, and send the hash to WIPO. WIPO will securely process the hash, apply a timestamp, and then send back to the user a digital timestamping certificate. When the user needs to have someone verify the certificate, WIPO WDTS site will provide verification on demand as a free service.

Q7: Will WIPO store and keep the original file?

A7: No, WIPO will not receive the original file. The original file remains with the user of the service locally on their computers. WIPO neither receives the original file, nor has any information about the content. What WIPO will do is to receive only a hash created by the user from the user's digital file (the original file). A hash is created by an industry-standard cryptographic algorithm from the original file, and it is a unique string of bits (such as 908739a06e0998f39d671e3a158a2f085d590116dfaadfaca181ee0fc5e2379). It would be impossible to derive the original file from the hash.

Q8: Is there any risk of fraud?

A8: WIPO will not ascertain or arbitrate the ownership of the original work, only certify the existence/possession of the digital work at a specific point in time. WIPO will clarify this in the disclaimer and explanation of the WDTS to avoid any misunderstanding about the risk of fraud.

WDTS will use robust industry standard technologies such as IETF RFC 3161, and the risk of abusing WDTS will be mitigated. No external party, not even WIPO, will be able to modify a digital timestamp once generated, due to the nature of the technologies used.

WDTS aims to reduce the risk of fraud such as the presentation of "fake evidence". By using WDTS, users in the world can benefit from robust, timely and effective services from a most trusted international organization in the area of intellectual property.

Q9: Why should WIPO provide digital timestamp services, while private corporations and a few IPOs currently provide such services?

A9: Existing services are mainly limited to some countries and not available worldwide. In response to the digital transformation in the world, WIPO can provide services that are more inclusive to potential users in countries where digital timestamping services are not available. In view of WIPO's credibility and trust gained from users of WIPO's global IP protection services, WIPO should be able to provide most trusted services, with a focus on IP-related assets.

Q10: Will WIPO create a trade secret database or registry?

A10: No, WIPO will not create a registry of original documents for which a WIPO digital timestamp certificate is provided.

Q11: Will WIPO be technologically capable of providing digital timestamp services?

A11: Technologies used for the provision of digital timestamp services are mature and industry standards (such as RFC 3161) outline the requirements a third party (such as

WIPO) must meet in order to operate as a TSA, using a proven technology called Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) to ensure a high level of confidentiality, integrity, and authenticity of the digital token. WIPO has the knowledge, skills and capability to establish and operate such a service.

Q12: How many resources do WIPO require?

A12: Initial investment for a pilot project of WIPO Digital Timestamping service in 2020/21 is about 1.3 million Swiss francs. WIPO aims to establish the business and technical infrastructure in 2020 for the launch of the initial service. The initial investment cost would be recovered within 2 to 5 years from the launch.

STRATEGIC GOAL III FACILITATING THE USE OF IP FOR DEVELOPMENT

Q1: Please briefly explain the reason for the changes in resource allocations under ERs III.4 and IV.2 under Program 9 in the Draft Proposed Program and Budget 2020/21?

A1: The decrease of resources under ER III.4 primarily reflects: (i) a redistribution of personnel resources across Bureaus to support an enhanced focus on capacity building (ER III.2); and (ii) an enhanced emphasis on promoting enhanced access to IP information in the Office of the Deputy Director General (reflected under ER IV.2).

In addition to (ii) above, the increased resources under ER IV.2 is the result of: (i) an enhanced focus on appropriate technology projects for LDCs, previously reflected under ER III.1; and (ii) technology transfer initiatives in the Regional Bureaus, resulting in a shift of resources from ERs III.1, III.4 and IV.4.

Q2: Can you provide a breakdown of the budget for each of the Regional Bureaus in the Draft Proposed Program and Budget 2020/21?

A2: The breakdown of the budget for each of the Regional Bureaus in the Draft Proposed Program and Budget 2020/21 is reflected in the table below.

Financial Resources for Program 9 by Unit
(in thousands of Swiss francs)

	2018/19 Approved Budget			2018/19 Budget after Transfers			2020/21 Proposed Budget			Difference from 2018/19 Approved Budget	
	Personnel Resources	Non-Personnel Resources	Total	Personnel Resources	Non-Personnel Resources	Total	Personnel Resources	Non-Personnel Resources	Total	Amount	%
<i>1. Financial Resources</i>											
0030 Office of the DDG- Development Sectbr	3,975	653	4,628	3,411	772	4,183	3,331	653	3,984	(644)	-13.9%
0031 Regional Bureau for Africa	3,686	1,696	5,382	3,450	1,661	5,111	3,136	1,696	4,832	(550)	-10.2%
0032 Regional Bureau for Arab Countries	3,979	1,696	5,675	3,065	1,696	4,761	2,986	1,696	4,681	(993)	-17.5%
0033 Regional Bureau for Asia & the Pacific	4,066	1,696	5,762	3,727	1,672	5,400	3,720	1,696	5,416	(346)	-6.0%
0034 Regional Bureau for Latin America & the Caribbean	4,046	1,696	5,742	4,225	1,696	5,921	4,342	1,696	6,038	296	5.2%
0035 Division for Least-Developed Countries	2,545	1,052	3,597	2,609	1,062	3,671	2,538	1,152	3,691	94	2.6%
GRAND TOTAL	22,297	8,488	30,785	20,487	8,559	29,046	20,054	8,588	28,642	(2,143)	-7.0%

STRATEGIC GOAL VII ADDRESSING IP IN RELATION TO GLOBAL POLICY ISSUES

Q1: What is the number of books downloaded by Authorized Entities (AEs) in developing and least developed countries out of the total of 14,500 books downloaded through the ABC Global Book Service?

A1: Of 14,500 digital files downloaded (cumulative as of December 31, 2018), 1,200 (8.3%) were downloaded by authorized entities located in developing countries.

To increase the number of files downloaded by developing countries, the following measures have been taken:

- increasing support to developing countries for adherence to the Marrakesh Treaty and provision of technical assistance on legislation;
- accelerating the signing of additional AEs in developing countries;
- dedicating additional resources to further accelerate the integration of catalogues of new AEs; and
- implementing capacity building projects in developing countries to train and assist in the production of accessible copies of local educational works.