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REPORT ON WIPO'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND ITS ASSOCIATED TARGETS

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. The present document represents the annual report on WIPO's contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹ and its associated targets submitted pursuant to the decision taken by the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) at its eighteenth session, held from October 31 to November 4, 2016, requesting the Secretariat to present an annual report thereon at the Committee's first session of the year.
2. This is the fourth report submitted to the CDIP pursuant to that request. Based on the structure contained in the above-mentioned decision, the report provides an update of the SDG-related:

¹ SDG 1: No Poverty; SDG 2: Zero Hunger; SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being; SDG 4: Quality Education; SDG 5: Gender Equality; SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy; SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; SDG 10: Reduced Inequality; SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production; SDG 13: Climate Action; SDG 14: Life Below Water; SDG 15: Life on Land; SDG 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions; SDG 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal.

- (a) activities and initiatives undertaken individually by WIPO;
- (b) activities undertaken by WIPO as part of the UN System; and
- (c) assistance provided by WIPO to its Member States at their request.

3. Although no direct reference is made to intellectual property (IP) in the SDGs and its associated targets, WIPO is fully engaged in the implementation of the Agenda 2030, within its mandate. WIPO continues to support the achievement of the SDGs in many ways and, in particular, by promoting a balanced and effective IP system that encourages innovation and creativity and supports the flow of knowledge and technical expertise within and among countries.

4. Innovation is at the heart of WIPO's mission. Thus SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure is the most central to, and the most closely aligned with, the Organization's mandate. Innovation is also essential in achieving most of the other SDGs.

5. At the twenty-first session of the CDIP, Member States decided that "any discussion on SDGs in CDIP sessions shall be undertaken under Agenda Item on "Intellectual Property (IP) and Development."" The topics discussed under this agenda item are intended to provide an opportunity to share experiences and best practices deployed by Member States and by WIPO in various fields of IP. A Roster of Topics, containing proposals from the Member States, has been made available² and is regularly updated to include new proposals.

6. During 2019, the CDIP discussed under this agenda item the topic of "IP and Development in the Digital Environment" at its twenty-third session, and "MSMEs, Innovation and IP" at its twenty-fourth session. In the context of the discussion on the first of the above topics, the Committee took a decision on follow-up actions to identify the infrastructure needs of developing countries and LDCs with the aim to bridging the digital divide.

A. ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN INDIVIDUALLY BY THE ORGANIZATION

7. WIPO offers a wide range of programs, platforms, databases, projects and activities which help Member States promote an enabling environment for innovation and creativity that is crucial to developing integrated solutions to the important challenges related to sustainable development. The WIPO Development Agenda guides WIPO's contribution to the implementation of Agenda 2030. WIPO's Program and Budget for the 2018/19 biennium mainstreamed development and the SDGs across the Organization's Strategic Goals. The 2018/19 Results Framework highlighted the Strategic Goals and Expected Results that contribute to the SDGs. Each Strategic Goal details a wide range of SDG-contributing programs and activities, which are undertaken by relevant sectors of the Organization.

8. In a December 2019 resolution adopted on science, technology and innovation (STI) for sustainable development³, the UN General Assembly, while expressing concerns that many developing countries face serious challenges building national STI base and reaffirming the need to enhance the STI programs of UN system entities, recognized the efforts of WIPO in assisting States establish IP strategies and national ecosystems that promote innovation and creativity and support the flow of knowledge and technical expertise. The same resolution encouraged WIPO to continue to undertake technical support activities, including helping countries design, develop and implement national IP and innovation strategies. Further, the resolution encouraged efforts to increase the availability of data to support the measurement of

² https://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/ipdevelopment/en/agenda/pdf/roster_of_topics.pdf

³ <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/230>

national innovation systems, such as the Global Innovation Index (GII), to assist policy makers design and implement innovation strategies.

I. The economics for IP

9. WIPO's statistical and analytical reports contribute to a better understanding of the workings of an effective innovation ecosystem. Four reports were produced in 2019:

10. The Global Innovation Index (GII): The GII is a country ranking and an analytical tool that helps governments benchmark their innovation performance along a large set of indicators, covering seven different dimensions: institutions, human capital and research, infrastructure, market sophistication, business sophistication, knowledge and technology outputs, and creative outputs. The GII supports the achievement of SDG 9 by helping benchmark innovative activity for the benefit of policymakers across the globe. In addition, the thematic discussion of the 2019 GII report focused on Creating Healthy Lives – the Future of Medical Innovation, thus also providing important perspectives on SDG 3. In the years to come, medical innovations such as artificial intelligence (AI), genomics, and mobile health applications will transform the delivery of healthcare in both developed and emerging nations. The GII 2019 addressed (i) the potential impact of medical innovation on society and economic growth, and what obstacles must be overcome to reach that potential, (ii) the changing global landscape for R&D and medical innovation, and (iii) the health challenges which future innovations need to address. The GII report makes relevant recommendations on how policies and institutions created by national and global actors can foster the future of medical innovation and its shared health impacts.

11. The World Intellectual Property Report 2019: The biannually published World Intellectual Property Report (WIPR) is a WIPO flagship economic report seeking to explain, clarify and contribute to policy analysis relating to innovation and intellectual property (IP) with the aim to facilitating evidence-based policymaking. The WIPR series supports the achievement of SDG 9 by helping policymakers better understand the large trends in innovation. The 2019 edition offers an empirical perspective on the global geography of innovation by exploring in detail how innovators from around the world concentrate geographically in a few innovation-dense urban areas. These innovation hotspots are scattered in a limited number of countries but increasingly globally connected through collaborative ties. The analysis of the consequences of such agglomeration of innovation relate, to some extent, to the economic and social links between these innovation hotspots and the less innovative peri-urban and rural areas, informing also SDG 11.

12. The World Intellectual Property Indicators 2019 (WIPI) report is WIPO's flagship statistics report. It reports on the latest worldwide trends in IP activity based on statistical data collected from national and regional IP offices. Policymakers, IP and innovation stakeholders, researchers and the media around the world rely on the WIPI to learn about the latest IP developments and take actions accordingly, supporting the achievement of SDG 9. The 2019 edition of the WIPI describes how global intellectual property filing activity evolved in 2018. Patent filings around the world reached 3.33 million, representing a 5.2% growth on 2017 figures. Filings of utility models, trademarks and industrial designs also recorded strong growth in 2018. The report highlights the continuing geographical shift in IP activity, with Asia now accounting for more than two thirds of all IP filings worldwide. Patent filing statistics suggest that while computer technology and electrical machinery are leading the fields of innovation, food chemistry, IT methods for management and environmental technology are the fastest-growing fields of technological innovation in the past decade.

13. WIPO Technology Trends Reports are another resource produced to provide users an overview of particular technologies, through patent analysis and expert contributions, while assessing and forecasting technology and business trends. The first edition of the Technology Trends Reports was produced in 2019 and focused on “Artificial Intelligence” (AI). The report reveals trends in patenting of AI innovations, the top players in AI from industry and academia, and the geographical distribution of AI-related patent protection and scientific publications.

II. WIPO's Platforms

14. WIPO's platforms help improve access to the IP system and the technological and business intelligence that it generates, and enable national IP offices to better respond to business and policy trends and deliver improved services to their clients. These platforms include:

- a) WIPO Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) form national networks in 80 countries of more some 1,000 TISCs in total to provide innovators with access to locally based, high-quality technology information and related services. In particular, TISCs help innovators exploit their potential and create, protect, and manage their IP rights. Services offered by TISCs contribute to the achievement of SDG 9 and include access to online patent and non-patent resources and IP-related publications, assistance in searching and retrieving technology information, training in database search, on-demand searches, monitoring technology and competitors, basic information on industrial property laws, management and strategy, and technology commercialization and marketing.

In 2019, training to establish and/or reinforce TISC services and their sustainability were carried out in 28 Member States at their request. Best practices and experiences in patent search, analytics and other related areas are also shared by TISCs through a virtual network on the eTISC platform. TISCs also actively promote resources specifically developed for their users, but which can also be used by anyone. These include practical guides to identify inventions in the public domain by teaching how to retrieve and analyze patent documents to determine whether specific inventions are protected or not, to use and integrate subject-matter found in patent documents, as well as other information and knowledge found in the public domain, into new products and processes.

- b) The Industrial Property Administration System (IPAS) is used in 87 Offices from developing and least developed countries to automate their IP business and administrative processes. IPAS supports the processing of patents, trademarks and industrial designs, from filing through to the grant of rights and post-grant processes. It is a workflow-based system, which is fully customizable to the requirements and legal framework of each IP office. It is one of the key components of the global IP infrastructure provided by WIPO, along with a set of modernization services, to offer a comprehensive sustainable solution to IP offices from developing countries with diverse levels of development, resources, capacity, skills and infrastructure.
- c) WIPO Publish is a software application that enables IP offices to disseminate official publication information and related IP information online to users and to WIPO Global IP databases and platforms. The system connects to WIPO IPAS or another IP administration system, and extracts and formats IP data according to WIPO standards. The data are then made available for online search, for online official publication, and for exchange with WIPO Global IP Databases.

- d) WIPO File, is a configurable, modular and customizable solution that is integrated with IPAS for the online reception of IP filings. WIPO File provides a generic solution to IP offices to help them receive applications online, to streamline the reception processes, and eventually to provide full online filing facilities including payments.
- e) The WIPO Centralized Access to Search and Examination (CASE) system enables participating patent offices to securely share search and examination documentation related to patent applications, with a view to improving the quality and efficiency of the patent search and examination process undertaken at local and regional patent offices. WIPO CASE currently has 33 participating IP offices.
- f) The WIPO Digital Access Service (DAS) allows secure electronic exchange of priority documents between participating intellectual property offices. The system enables applicants and offices to meet the requirements of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property for certification in an electronic environment. WIPO DAS currently has 24 participating IP offices.

III. Partnerships for the SDGs

15. In line with SDG 17, WIPO has developed a number of partnerships which help strengthen the global innovation ecosystem and stimulate the implementation of the SDGs. These partnerships include the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC), WIPO Re:Search, WIPO GREEN, Pat-INFORMED, The Patent Information Initiative for Medicines (Pat-INFORMED), the Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI), the Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI), the Inventor Assistance Program (IAP), and WIPO Match.

- a) The Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) is a public-private partnership led by WIPO that brings together key players – organizations representing people who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print-disabled, authors, publishers, collective management organizations, libraries and other authorized entities, as well as standards bodies - in support of the implementation of WIPO's *Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled*, which now has 63 contracting parties covering 90 countries. Through an effective international alliance of relevant state and non-state actors, ABC seeks to increase, and distribute, the number of books worldwide in accessible formats - such as Braille, audio, e-text and large print. In this manner, it makes valuable contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and in particular to SDG 4.
- b) WIPO Re:Search, a public-private partnership catalyzing the development of new medicines and technologies in the fight against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), malaria and tuberculosis, counted 144 members as of the end of 2019. That represented 42 countries from six continents, including more than 60 members based in low-and middle-income countries. Through its partnership hub, hosted by WIPO Re:Search partner BIO Ventures for Global Health (BVGH), WIPO Re:Search has facilitated 156 collaboration agreements since 2011, 10 of which are in advanced stages. Throughout 2019, WIPO Re:Search continued to operationalize its five-year strategic plan (launched in 2017). In line with the strategic goal to increase dissemination of information about the role of IP for R&D in neglected tropical diseases, malaria, and tuberculosis, WIPO Re:Search in 2019 published a comprehensive, user-friendly compendium of success stories for collaborations during the 2016-2019 period. Also in 2019, the WIPO Re:Search Fellowship Program, funded by the Government of Australia, brought six researchers from Africa and the Indo-Pacific region to host institutions in Australia and the United States, to increase the fellows' scientific and research capacity. Through innovative research partnerships and R&D collaborations,

WIPO Re:Search continues to make IP available to researchers in the field of NTDs, malaria and tuberculosis.

- c) WIPO GREEN, an online platform for technology exchange, supports global efforts to address climate change by connecting providers and seekers of environmentally friendly technologies. In its Strategic Plan 2019-2023, it defined three objectives, namely to increase the capacity and functionality of the database; to build a critical mass of partners, technologies, and needs; and to strengthen WIPO GREEN's communications and marketing functions. Subsequently, 15 private and public institutions joined WIPO GREEN in 2019, bringing the total number of partners to 101. The number of registered database users grew to over 1,400. Since its 2013 launch, it has facilitated more than 650 connections among network members. Almost 4,000 green technologies, needs and experts from 64 countries are currently listed in the WIPO GREEN database. In 2019, a new website went live and preparations started for a rebuild of the database. WIPO GREEN also launched an Acceleration Project in Latin America to uncover sustainable technology solutions related to Climate Smart Agriculture in the region and facilitate connections between technology seekers and providers. The national IP offices in Argentina, Brazil and Chile facilitate the implementation of the project. In addition, the government of Australia pledged support for a WIPO GREEN Acceleration Project in Asia in 2020.
- d) The Patent Information Initiative for Medicines (Pat-INFORMED) is a collaborative project launched in 2018 between WIPO and 21 pharmaceutical companies that hold patents on medicines in six therapeutic categories. Pat-INFORMED responds to the need expressed by many stakeholders to have access to clear and readily understandable information about the status of a specific medicine in a given country. Patent information on many products, including modern medicines, is usually complex; in addition, most medicines are protected by numerous patents. Pat-INFORMED provides a search engine and open access database to facilitate easy access to know whether a medicine is patented or not. In 2019, over 50 products and 5,000 patent listings were added to the database. Currently, there are almost 250 medicines and 20,000 patents available for searching. While there are a number of information sources that provide similar information, Pat-INFORMED includes a unique contact feature by which procurement authorities can contact directly the patent holder and receive more information about the product and its patent status. By increasing the availability and accessibility about the patent status of medicines, Pat-INFORMED contributes in a material way to both SDG 3 on good health and well-being and SDG 17 on partnerships.
- e) The Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI) partnership aims to increase the availability of scientific and technical information in developing countries. By improving access to scholarly literature from diverse fields of science and technology, ARDI seeks to reinforce the capacity of developing countries to participate in the global knowledge economy and supports researchers in those countries in creating and developing new solutions to technical challenges faced on a local and global level. Currently, through ARDI, over 100 publishers provide access to around 30,000 journals, books, and reference works for 121 developing countries and territories.
- f) The Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI) program is another public-private partnership administered by WIPO. This partnership is made possible through the cooperation of leading patent information providers. Through ASPI, eligible patent offices and academic and research institutions in developing countries can receive free or low-cost access to sophisticated tools and services for retrieving and analyzing patent data.

- g) The Inventor Assistance Program (IAP) seeks to make the IP system more accessible to inventors and small businesses in developing countries. The IAP matches financially under-resourced inventors of promising new technologies and ideas with qualified IP counsel, who provide free-of-charge legal assistance on how to file a patent to protect their inventions.
- h) WIPO Match is an online partnership platform which facilitates matching seekers of IP-related specific needs with potential providers of such resources. WIPO Match contributes to the attainment of the SDGs, including Goal 17.

16. WIPO's Services enable users of the IP system – individual inventors and businesses – to protect their assets in global markets. WIPO's filing and registration services make it easier for inventors, researchers and businesses to protect their IP assets (e.g. technology, brands, designs, etc.) in multiple countries.

IV. Patents and Technology

17. The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) helps applicants seek patent protection for an invention simultaneously in a large number of countries by filing a single “international” patent application instead of filing several separate national or regional patent applications. In so doing, the PCT supports the international dissemination of the technical information relating to innovations via a freely accessible repository. As the Organization responsible for administering the PCT, WIPO provides a wide range of services to this end, from receiving and storing all PCT application documents, to providing assistance to patent Offices in the efficient and fully-informed processing of patent applications, to translating various portions of PCT applications, to publishing data on applications and thereby providing the public with an invaluable resource of information on inventions and innovation. WIPO's role in disseminating such technical information relating to patents and in providing technical assistance to developing countries in the development of their patent systems is therefore aligned with the implementation of SDG 9, particularly in regards to supporting and fostering innovation.

18. WIPO's PATENTSCOPE database⁴ is the primary mechanism by which WIPO carries out this technical information dissemination function. In 2019, between 4,000 and 5,000 new PCT applications (containing the disclosure of the invention) became available on PATENTSCOPE every week. The availability of the database free-of-charge on the Internet facilitates increased access to patent information especially and contributes to the implementation of SDG 9.c.

19. As regards the PCT's technical assistance objective, WIPO continues its work to assist Member States, particularly developing countries and LDCs, to leverage the IP system for economic, social and cultural development. Technical assistance programs provided by WIPO include PCT-specific activities, such as training for Office staff in PCT-related matters, user seminars, and assistance in adapting national legislation to PCT requirements. In 2019, the International Bureau organized or participated in 74 PCT-related events for the benefit of developing countries and LDCs, such as PCT seminars and workshops mainly for Office staff, potential users of the system and other stakeholders. The events were held in 55 countries and at WIPO headquarters, and were attended by about 5,000 participants from 80 countries. Further detailed information on coordination of technical assistance under the PCT can be found in the document presented to the 2019 PCT Working Group “Coordination of Technical Assistance Under the PCT”⁵. These activities were targeted, depending on the needs and situation of the beneficiary countries, not only for officials of IP Offices (related to SDG 9.b), but

⁴ <https://patentscope.wipo.int/search/en/search.jsf>

⁵ https://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/pct/en/pct_wg_12/pct_wg_12_22.pdf

for researchers (SDG 9.5), micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SDG 9.3) and educators.

20. Furthermore, WIPO continues to offer discounts of 90 percent of the international filing fee and certain other International Bureau fees for international applications filed by natural persons from developing countries and all applicants from LDCs (SDG 9.3).

21. The PCT provides a number of services for the purpose of preparing, filing and managing PCT international applications electronically thereby contributing, indirectly to SDG 9 and SDG 10. The ePCT is WIPO's online portal for filing and managing PCT applications. The ePCT browser-based service is a highly stable production environment for applicants and Offices, offering a very wide range of validations based on the latest reference data available to the International Bureau. This facilitates the filing of PCT applications, especially for applicants from developing countries and small offices which, unlike larger offices, cannot afford to install their own electronic filing systems.

22. In 2019, the following national or regional Offices gained access to ePCT services: Republic of Moldova, Tunisia, San Marino, Sudan, Malawi, Seychelles, Ireland, Angola, Belarus, El Salvador, and Vietnam. Ninety national or regional Offices now have access to ePCT services in their role as receiving Office, International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority or designated Office. In addition, ePCT filing became available in the following receiving Offices, introducing ePCT filing in 64 out of 118 receiving Offices: Republic of Moldova, Vietnam, Nicaragua, Romania, Ireland, Ecuador, and Kenya.

23. A number of program activities were carried out relating to the implementation of SDGs 8, 9 and 10. The Inventor Assistance Program (IAP), relating to SDG 8 (Targets 8.2, 8.3) and 9 (Target 9.5) and indirectly to SDG 10, matched under-resourced inventors with patent professionals in participating developing countries to navigate the patent drafting and procurement process. Participating countries maintained ownership of the program locally, including local promotion, selection of inventors, and recruitment of local volunteers. WIPO provided matchmaking of patent professionals in the participating countries and selected jurisdictions, general promotion and strategic direction for the program.

24. The WIPO Patent Drafting Training Program, relating to SDGs 9 and 10, focused on building practical patent drafting skills of staff of institutions dealing with technology and innovation support, technology transfer offices of universities, government agencies involved in providing technology development assistance, and patent agents and patent agent candidates. The Program provided interactive training, containing many practical drafting exercises. Progressive and flexible modules allowed it to adapt to the needs of the beneficiary country concerned.

25. The WIPO Symposium on Trade Secrets and Innovation supported the implementation of SDGs 9 and 10 and provided a forum for exchanging ideas and perspectives on issues relating to the interface between trade secrets and innovation. It explored new challenges and opportunities for both technological and service innovation sectors, and potential impacts of emerging technologies on the integration of trade secrets in the modern innovation ecosystem.

26. Similarly addressing SDGs 9 and 10, the Standing Committee on Law of Patents (SCP) served as a forum to discuss issues, facilitate coordination and provide guidance concerning the progressive international development of patent law. Recently, the SCP has been producing a number of documents and studies relating to various aspects of patent law. They not only compile relevant national law provisions, but also provide information on underlining policies and practical implementation of laws in different countries. These unique resources contribute to narrowing a gap caused by the information asymmetry among WIPO Member States in the

area of patent law, which involves complex legal questions and reflects the development of emerging technologies. They also contribute to informed decision making by WIPO Member States in formulating their national patent policy, law and practices.

27. In addition, as part of SDG-related activities undertaken within the Common System, in 2019 WIPO participated in a WTO Regional Workshop on Public Health, Intellectual Property and Procurement and a WTO National Workshop. The workshops provided an opportunity to explore the intersection between the three themes and in so doing support the further implementation of SDG 9 (Targets 9.a and 9.b).

28. Finally, upon request of a number of Member States and with the support of other WIPO divisions, such as External Relations, seminars were organized relating to legislation and policy on patent and trade secret related issues, thereby supporting the implementation of SDG 8 (Target 8.3) and SDG 9 (Targets 9.5 and 9.b).

29. The Arbitration and Mediation Center (WIPO Center) continues to be an important element of the Global IP Services provided by WIPO in promoting a balanced and effective international IP system and thereby advancing the contribution of WIPO to the implementation of SDGs 9 and 17. Through a range of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) options – notably mediation and arbitration, as well as domain name dispute resolution – the WIPO Center facilitates time and cost-effective resolution of IP-disputes between private parties. The WIPO Center also undertakes policy initiatives to promote and enable the use of ADR and to assist rights holders in protecting their IP on the Internet. ADR can empower parties by enhancing their control over the dispute resolution process. Its consensual nature often results in a less-adversarial experience, allowing parties to begin, continue, or enhance profitable business relationships. The use of ADR procedures can also help unburden national court systems and is seen as a best practice, including in e-commerce. In offering these benefits, ADR contributes to the optimal development and use of IP assets in the economy, thus fostering the innovation and creativity necessary for supporting the implementation of SDGs 9 and 17.

30. In 2019, the WIPO Center strengthened its efforts to contribute to SDG implementation through a number of activities, including, inter alia, training events for industry, legal, academic and other IP stakeholders, as well as publications and freely available online resources on ADR options. In 2019, 61 mediation, arbitration, and expert determination cases, involving parties from 23 countries, were filed with the WIPO Center, in addition to 115 “Good Office” requests; 3,693 domain name cases were filed, involving parties from 122 countries, and covering 6,296 domain names.

V. Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications

31. With regard to trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications, WIPO’s contribution to the implementation of the SDGs centered on the Madrid, the Hague, and Lisbon Systems, with additional contributions in respect of the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks and International Nonproprietary Names for Pharmaceutical Substances.

i. The Madrid System

32. Under the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks, a single international trademark registration can have effect in as many as 122 countries covered by the 106 members of the system. The countries represent all the continents and developed countries, developing countries and LDCs⁶.

⁶ https://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/treaties/en/documents/pdf/madrid_marks.pdf

33. The Madrid System facilitates and widens access to international trademark protection, which contributes to the goal of promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable development by promoting development-oriented policies that support productive activities (SDG 8, target 8.2). Trademark protection is essential for preserving and capitalizing on the most identifiable feature of brand equity and value. Enterprises of all sizes seeking to position their products or services in international markets stand to benefit from the simple and cost-effective procedure for international trademark protection offered by the Madrid System.

34. The Madrid System lowers the barriers for obtaining international trademark protection by harmonizing the formalities and lowering the cost of obtaining that protection. Brand owners need to file one application only to obtain an international registration for their marks. An international registration has the effect of an application filed with the Trademark Offices of the members of the Madrid System designated in the international application. By filing one international application, brand owners avoid filing individual domestic applications, in various languages, and, possibly, having to meet different formal requirements and incurring in costs such as, for example, translation, legalization or legal representation. The fee due for each designation is not higher than what the brand owner would have paid for a domestic registration. Moreover, the fee due to WIPO is reduced by 90 per cent for brand owners from LDCs. The international registration has the effect of a domestic registration if protection to the mark is not refused. The Madrid System also lowers the cost of maintaining all the rights acquired by virtue of an international registration. Renewal and other recordings in the International Register also have effect in all members of the Madrid System designated in the international registration where protection has not been refused.

35. The Madrid System is expanding its scope. Since 2015, the following have acceded to the Madrid Protocol: Afghanistan, African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, Gambia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Malawi, Samoa, Thailand and Zimbabwe. The Madrid Registry is currently assisting +20 countries with their preparations for a future accession to the Madrid Protocol. These include Bangladesh, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Fiji, Jordan, Kuwait, Malta, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Arab Emirates.

36. The Madrid System website contains a number of tools, e-services and educational resources tailored to assist trademark users throughout the various phases; from search before filing, filing, monitoring and managing the portfolio⁷. To mention some of them, that would be especially beneficial for small and medium sized enterprises from developing as well as developed countries:

- The Global Brands Database provides access to over 40 million records relating to internationally protected trademarks, appellations of origin and armorial bearings, flags and other state emblems as well as the names, abbreviations and emblems of IGOs;
- The Madrid Goods & Services Manager (MGS) assists users compile the list of goods/services for the international application;
- Madrid Member Profile Database provides useful information to the trademark holders on possible designated contracting parties;
- Webinars for all users of the system.
- The Madrid Monitor provides an entry into all relevant information concerning a specific trademark; the trademark holder can follow the status of his or her international application or registration, access detailed information on all trademarks registered through the Madrid System and keep an eye on possible competitors' trademarks.

⁷ <http://www.wipo.int/madrid/en/>

- The Madrid “How-to” videos explain in the simplest possible way key transactions under the Madrid System. These tutorials are presented by a Madrid Registry specialist and include visual elements and animations. The Madrid “how-to” videos are recorded in English with subtitles in the six UN languages and Japanese⁸.
- The free Madrid webinars offer each month practical information on topics related to filing and managing international registrations of marks. Each webinar starts with a presentation on a topic of interest and ends with a live Q&A session with Madrid Registry specialists. They are produced in English and other UN languages, and are available on replay on the Madrid website⁹.
- The Madrid Yearly Review 2019¹⁰ provides all relevant statistics on the Madrid System. The statistics reflect that trademark holders from developing countries are filing an increasing number of international applications.

37. The Madrid Registry carries out throughout the year promotional activities (seminars, workshops and trainings on the Madrid System) with Madrid System members, many of which are developing countries.

38. The Madrid Legal Division has offered legal assistance to the following countries as part of their preparations for an accession to – or the later implementation of – the Madrid Protocol, ranging from commenting on their legislation and the compatibility with the Madrid Protocol, to drafting provisions for their legislation, clarifying and explaining parts of the legal framework and answering legal and operational questions: Bangladesh, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Eswatini, Fiji, Jordan, Kuwait, Malta, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

39. The Madrid Registry has offered technical assistance to a number of IP Offices with electronic communication in the Madrid System. This assistance has involved providing these Offices access to our Madrid Office Portal (MOP) tool and helping them to receive and communicate notifications under the Madrid System. In 2019, 25 more IP Offices were granted access to the Madrid Office Portal, adding to the 73 original users. Assistance was delivered to the following Offices: Armenia; Bahrain; Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba; Botswana; Brazil; Canada; Cuba; Curaçao; Cyprus; Democratic People’s Republic of Korea; Egypt; Gambia; Liechtenstein; Malawi; Monaco; Namibia; Oman; Samoa; Sao Tome and Principe; Serbia; Slovenia; Spain; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

40. The Madrid Registry has undertaken a number of activities in 2019 to assist developing countries and LDCs. The activities concerned organization of seminars, training of staff in the countries, inviting examiners from IP Offices for training in Geneva, and offering technical and legal assistance to Offices for preparations for an accession to the Madrid Protocol or its implementation.

ii. The Hague system

41. Under the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs, a single international application may contain up to 100 industrial designs and have effect in as many as 90 countries covered by the 73 Members of the Hague System. The countries represent developed countries, developing countries and LDCs¹¹.

⁸ <https://www.wipo.int/madrid/en/tutorials.html>

⁹ (<https://www.wipo.int/madrid/en/webinar/>)

¹⁰ (https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_940_2019.pdf),

¹¹ <https://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/treaties/en/documents/pdf/hague.pdf>

42. The Hague System facilitates and widens access to international design protection, which contributes to the goal of promoting inclusive and sustainable development by promoting development-oriented policies that support productive activities, in particular, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation (SDGs 8). Industrial designs make a product attractive and appealing to customers. Design drives consumer's choice: the appearance of a product can be a key factor in the consumer's purchase decision. Industrial designs can therefore be very important for both small- and medium sized enterprises and larger companies alike, regardless of their sector of activity. Industrial designs are applied to a wide variety of products of industry and handicraft items: from packages and containers to furnishing and household goods, from lighting equipment to jewelry, and from electronic devices to textiles. Industrial designs may also be relevant to graphic symbols, graphical user interfaces (GUI), and logos.

43. Under the Hague System, individual designers, small and medium size enterprises or large international companies may benefit from the simplified application process and reduced costs for seeking to obtain and preserve their industrial design rights in multiple markets. The international registration has the effect of a domestic application in the designated IP Offices, and where no refusal has been issued by the respective IP Office within the prescribed time limit, the international registration has the effect of a domestic registration. The Hague System also lowers the costs of maintaining all the rights acquired by virtue of an international registration. Furthermore, the fees for the international application due to the International Bureau of WIPO, as well as the standard designation fees due to designated Hague Members, are reduced by 90 per cent for design owners / creators from LDCs.

44. A vast majority of international applications are filed directly with the International Bureau of WIPO through its electronic filing interface, *eHague*. A wealth of guidance is included in the *eHague*, which also alerts the applicants concerning specific features in respect of designations of a Contracting Party and thereby prevents them from making a number of mistakes.

45. The Hague System is expanding its geographical scope. In 2019 the following countries have acceded to the 1999 Act of the Hague Agreement: Israel, Samoa and Viet Nam. The Hague Registry is currently assisting more than 20 countries with their preparations for a future accession to the 1999 Act of the Hague Agreement, including several developing countries and LDCs, for example, Antigua and Barbuda, Belarus, China, Chile, Colombia, Curaçao, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Peru, Saudi Arabia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Zimbabwe, and one intergovernmental organization, Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO).

46. Under Program 31 of its Program and Budget for the 2020/21 biennium, one of the implementation strategies of the Hague Registry is to constantly strive to enhance the System's user-friendliness through further developing guidance material for applicants that take into account the impact of the expansion of the System, as well as enhance user and customer experience through responsive customer support services. The Hague System website¹² contains a number of online solutions to support design owners during the international registration cycle and to facilitate access to information on registered designs as well as on Hague Members. These include:

- “*eHague*”, E-filing interface provides users with a modern, easily accessible means to file international applications, which automatically alerts users of the declarations or specific requirements, set by a given designated Hague Member. In addition to filing an

¹² <https://www.wipo.int/hague/en/>

application, applicants may pay the fees due, communicate with WIPO, or manage their application portfolios using the interface.

- *“Tutorial for the eHague”* and its demo version, provide step-by-step explanation on how to file an application, find out its current status, communicate with the International Bureau, submit new documents and pay the fees.
- *“Fee calculator”* allows the users to enter the details on the number of designs, reproductions and designations of Contracting Parties to quickly estimate the application or renewal fees in Swiss francs. Fee calculator is also accessible in the eHague.
- *“E-renewal interface”* allows holders to renew their international registrations on-line.
- *“Global Design Database”* enables free, simultaneous searches of over 11 million industrial designs registered under the Hague System and / or in participating national collections.
- *“Hague Member Profiles Database”* offers a portal to the practices and procedures of the Hague System members, declarations made by them and references to their domestic legislation.
- *“Guidance on Preparing and Providing Reproductions in order to forestall possible refusals on the ground of insufficient disclosure of an industrial design by Examining Offices”*, is prepared in consultation with the Examining Offices under the Hague System. The purpose of this Guidance is neither to be self-sufficient nor all inclusive; each guidance focuses on a separate issue elaborating ways to help the applicant to avoid a possible refusal. A table at the end of this Guidance indicates whether a specific guidance is recommended by a given Examining Office. The Guidance is available in the six United Nations official languages.
- *“Guide for Users”*, serves as a comprehensive point of reference on the entire Hague System. Within the Guide users will find background information on, and descriptions of, Hague System procedures and requirements, all accompanied by the relevant legal references.
- *“Hague Yearly Review”, 2019¹³* provides all relevant statistics on the Hague System.
- *“Contact Hague Service”* allows users of the system to request a priority document or submit a request for recording of a change, or anyone to ask a question.
- *“International Designs Bulletin”* is published in electronic format every Friday on the WIPO website, and IP Offices may download it in XML format to their own databases.
- *“WIPO Digital Access Service (DAS)”¹⁴*: To support IP Offices of the Members of the Hague System in efficiently managing procedures under the Hague System, the prospective and current Members are actively encouraged to participate in the DAS system, which allows priority documents to be securely exchanged between participating IP Offices.
- *“ePay”* allows the users to pay fees to the International Bureau through an online payment system offering a range of payment methods.
- *Webinars, seminars, videos and other information material* is available on the Hague website.

47. The Hague Registry carries out throughout the year promotional activities (seminars, workshops and training on the Hague System) with Hague System members, many of which are developing countries. Moreover, WIPO provides legislative advice to prospective and current Members of the Hague System, upon request, advising on the interoperability of their legislation and IP Office procedures with the System’s legal framework and procedures. In 2019, the Hague Registry has offered legislative advice to the following countries as part of their preparations for accession to – or the later implementation of – the 1999 Act of the Hague Agreement: Belarus, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Samoa, Trinidad and Tobago,

¹³ https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_930_2019.pdf

¹⁴ <https://www.wipo.int/das/en/>

Turkmenistan. Likewise, legislative advice was provided to the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO).

48. Furthermore, Delegations from the Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI), Belarus Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lao PDR, Morocco, Peru, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, and Viet Nam participated in a study visit regarding the 1999 Act of the Hague Agreement, which was organized in conjunction with the eighth session of the *Working Group on the Legal Development of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs*, at the headquarters of WIPO, from October 30 to November 1, 2019. During the study visit, the Delegations also participated in a Seminar on the Hague System and the Hague Registry had separate discussions on the legal aspects / status of preparations for accession with the Delegations.

49. Upon request, WIPO contributes to the organization of technical assistance and capacity building activities in the Offices of current and prospective Members of the Hague System. Technical assistance may include support in building or integrating solutions for the exchange of electronic communication with the International Bureau of WIPO. Capacity building activities may include *in situ* training workshop and participation in workshops at WIPO headquarters, organized in cooperation with the respective Bureaus.

iii. The Lisbon System

50. With the entry into force of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on February 26, 2020, the Lisbon System for the protection and international registration of appellations of origin and geographical indications facilitates and widens access to an international protection mechanism for national or regional appellations of origin and geographical indications. Under the Lisbon System, a single international registration can have effect, for the time being, in potentially up to 51 countries depending on which Acts a Member is party to. The Contracting Parties include LDCs, developing countries and developed countries¹⁵.

51. Appellations of origin (AOs) and geographical indications (GIs) are used to identify products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities, characteristics and/or a reputation that are due to that origin and therefore serve as powerful marketing tools to add commercial value to the products that they identify. This is increasingly true in a global market where consumers seek higher assurances about the quality, authenticity and traceability of products; appellations of origin and geographical indications have been developed and implemented as intellectual property rights to bring this information to consumers. When considering SDGs, another interesting characteristic of appellations of origin and geographical indications is the fact that they are collective rights that can be used by all those producers that meet recognized and mutually agreed standards of production for a specific origin-based product. Among those standards, an increased number of GI producers associations are integrating social, economic and environmental considerations to meet sustainable local development objectives, as well as consumers' expectations.

52. An effective system for the international protection of appellations of origin and geographical indications, such as the Lisbon System, helps producers obtain a fair return on their continuous investment and effort, often over several generations, in building the reputation of traditional origin-based products. Because of the collective dimension of these intellectual property rights and the fact that they often give value to traditional and emblematic products of a particular region, the protection of appellations of origin and geographical indications has the potential to enhance the reputation of the region in which they originate. Such protection also contributes to a region's economic and social development by producing spill-over effects such as the creation of new employment opportunities (e.g. local tourism). By securing protection

¹⁵ <https://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/treaties/en/documents/pdf/lisbon.pdf>

internationally to appellations of origin and geographical indications, the Lisbon System contributes to the promotion of inclusive and sustainable development, productive employment and decent work for all, by achieving higher levels of economic productivity including through a focus on value added and labor-intensive sectors, as well as the promotion of local culture and local productions (SDG 8).

53. Under the Lisbon System, small-scale farmers, artisans, SMEs or even larger companies, may collectively benefit, as beneficiaries (users) of appellations of origin and geographical indications, from the simplified application process and reduced cost for protecting their appellations of origin and geographical indications in foreign markets. In particular, the beneficiaries of an appellation of origin and geographical indication are exempt from having to file separate national applications in different countries, thus avoiding the complications arising from the existence of different procedures and languages between States. The international application is filed directly with WIPO. The international registration of an appellation of origin and geographical indication under the Lisbon System ensures its protection – according to the standards set in the Lisbon Agreement and its Acts – in those Members of the System that have not refused protection in their respective territory within the prescribed time limit. The protection lasts, for as long as the designation is protected in the country of origin, without any need for renewal. In addition, the effects of the registration will extend to new Members that might join the System in the future under the same conditions.

54. In 2019, the Lisbon Registry undertook, upon request by WIPO Member States, technical assistance and capacity building activities, which directly contribute to SDGs 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12 and 15. Those activities aimed at assisting competent authorities and interested stakeholders (local communities and producers) in identifying, developing and protecting appellations of origin and geographical indications, in order to support the integration of local communities and producers in the global economy. Such technical cooperation involves the development of GI quality schemes, as a prerequisite for the protection of appellations of origin and geographical indications. These schemes contribute to adding value and helping sustain the reputation of those origin-based products. This, in turn, contributes to the creation of new job opportunities, fosters sustainable local development and stabilizes populations in their region of origin. As women are often involved in the production of these traditional origin-based products, the implementation of the requested activities can also have a positive impact in promoting gender equality and women empowerment (SDG 5). Thanks to the collective management of appellations of origin and geographical indications, producers are also more and more interested in adopting sustainable production standards that will help preserve the environment that gives their products their specificities, contributing therefore to SDG 15. Two pilot projects that the Lisbon Registry managed in 2019 on the GI *Koh Trung Pomelo* in Cambodia and the GI *Madd de Casamance* in Senegal are clearly illustrating how that intellectual property right can have positive spillover effects on the local population and the local environment contributing to the SDGs.

55. In line with the Program and Budget for the 2018/19 biennium, the Lisbon Registry has undertaken, upon request of WIPO Member States, a number of initiatives, which will further contribute to achieving SDG Goals (in particular 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12 and 15), such as:

- (a) the organization of, or the participation in, national or regional events in current and prospective Members of the Lisbon System to explain the strategic use of appellations of origin and geographical indications to foster local and sustainable development and the benefits of the Lisbon System in securing their protection internationally, as well as to promote the use of the System by local communities and producers.
- (b) the organization of technical assistance and capacity building activities for relevant authorities and interested stakeholders of current and prospective Members of the Lisbon System (technical assistance included organizational and operational capacity

programs and needs assessment activities; capacity building activities included *in situ* training workshops and assistance in the development and implementation of sustainable appellations of origin and geographical indications, e.g the Pilot Project on the GI *Koh Trung Pomelo* in Cambodia and the Pilot-Project on the GI *Madd de Casamance* in Senegal mentioned above); and

- (c) legislative advice to prospective and current Members of the Lisbon System were also provided to explain the legal framework of the Lisbon System, assess the compatibility of domestic legislation with the Lisbon Agreement (1967 Act) and/or the Geneva Act, and/or develop implementing regulatory provisions.

iv. International Nonproprietary Names for Pharmaceutical Substances

56. In line with SDG 3 and SDG 17, WIPO continued its cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) on International Nonproprietary Names for Pharmaceutical Substances (INNs). Following the conclusion, in 2018, of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that enables the exchange of information contained in the WHO INN Global Data Hub and the WIPO Global Brand Database (GBD), the two organizations pursued their liaison to provide Member States with up-to-date information on newly proposed and recommended INN names. The replacement of previous paper circulars and hard carriers (CD-ROMs) for electronic communications further contributes to SDG 13.

57. Trademark examiners in WIPO Member States may now search the GBD for INN names in an accessible format and by using different filters that facilitate the textual comparison between INNs and verbal marks. With the help of this new tool, they will be able to fulfill the public interest in keeping these names free and available for use by pharmacists and medical practitioners around the world, thus preventing medication errors. At the other end, information on existing trademarks that have been properly granted for use on pharmaceutical products is key in avoiding counterfeiting in this crucial area for global health and well-being. National Pharmacopeia Commissions and Experts in the naming of pharmaceuticals can also use the trademark data in the GBD to avoid proposing or recommending new INN names that may cause confusion with existing trademarks, therefore contributing to enhanced pharmacovigilance and more reliable medicines.

v. Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks

58. WIPO provides legislative advice to prospective and current Members of the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks, upon request, advising on the compatibility of their legislation with the Singapore Treaty, drafting implementing provisions or explaining the context and application of this international standard. By using neutral language when formulating the advice, WIPO endeavors to eliminate the long-standing gender bias in legal texts, therefore reinforcing SDG 5.

59. Under the Resolution Supplementary to the Singapore Treaty, WIPO shares, on a multilateral basis, information and experience on legal, technical and institutional aspects regarding the implementation of the Treaty and how to take full advantage of the opportunities and benefits resulting therefrom. During 2019, WIPO provided this type of support to Ecuador, Mexico, Syria, as well as the Andean Community General Secretariat and its Member States. Such activities support SDG 4 and SDG 16.

VI. Copyright Sector

60. WIPO works with governments and private stakeholders to develop human resources, share knowledge, build the partnerships, and lay the groundwork to level the playing field and shape an international copyright system that functions efficiently and enables a positive environment for advancing the SDGs.

i. The Publishers Circle and related projects

61. The Publishers Circle initiative seeks to support the publishing industry in developing countries through new forms of cooperation and joint projects with public and private partners in order to develop a viable, globally connected and effective publishing sector. In 2019, the Charter of the Publishers circle was signed by 99 government and non-governmental organizations, libraries and other partners indicating a broad support for the initiative from all regions and from different stakeholders. As part of the Charter's commitment, five mentorship programs were launched involving publishers from Burundi, Cameroon, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Tanzania, who partnered with publishers in the Republic of Korea, Ireland, Morocco and the United Kingdom. WIPO coordinated these performance-coaching programs, which aimed at developing long-term partnerships, transfer of practical knowledge and raising professional standards. A tool on negotiating publishing contracts has been drafted and will be offered to publishers from developing countries as a practical guide and as background and reference material. A gap analysis has been undertaken with regard to the use of identifiers in the publishing industry with the view of focusing WIPO's assistance in the areas where the highest impact can be achieved to assist creators, publishers and users in the developing world. The activities in the framework of the Publishers Circle contribute directly to the achievement of SDGs 4 and 17 through the reinforcement of the copyright framework as a solid basis for publishers and authors.

ii. The Accessible Books Consortium (ABC)

62. The three main activities carried out by the ABC are:

- a. The ABC Global Book Service makes publications in accessible formats available for international exchange, including educational materials and texts. Seventy-one (71) libraries for the blind, known as authorized entities, have joined the Service, of which 25 are from developing or least developed countries. The Service now has available a catalogue of over 565,000 accessible titles in 76 languages, with 440,000 of those titles available for cross-border exchange free from clearance formalities under the conditions of the Marrakesh Treaty.
- b. Capacity Building provides training and technical assistance in the latest accessible book production techniques to authorized entities, departments of education and publishers in developing countries and LDCs. Funding for the production of educational materials in national languages to be used by primary, secondary and university students who are print disabled is provided by ABC, so that the techniques taught during the training can be utilized immediately by the trainees. Over 12,600 accessible educational titles in national languages have been produced through ABC projects in 17 developed or least developed countries in the past six years. ABC launched a call for proposals for capacity building projects in October 2019; 44 applications were received from organizations around the world seeking assistance in the production of accessible books for people who are print-disabled. Some of these applications will be short-listed and implemented in the 2020-21 biennium.

- c. Accessible Publishing: ABC promotes the production of “born accessible” works by publishers, that is, books that are usable from the start by both sighted persons and the print disabled. Publishers and publisher associations around the world are invited to sign the *ABC Charter for Accessible Publishing*, which contains eight high-level aspirational principles relating to digital publications in accessible formats. The past 12 months have seen a great increase in the number of adherents to the Charter, with 57 publishers joining *en masse* through the Brazilian Publishers Association.

63. ABC again organized the *ABC International Excellence Award for Accessible Publishing* and both winners of the 2019 award were from developing countries: Editorial 5 (ED5), from Brazil, in the publisher category, and eKitabu, from Kenya, in the initiative category. The awards were presented at the London Book Fair in March 2019 to recognize these organizations for having provided outstanding leadership and achievements in the advancement of the accessibility of digital publications to persons with print disabilities.

iii. DA Project on “Copyright and the Distribution of Content in the Digital Environment” (Latin America)

64. This project contributes to SDG 8 and SDG 9. The outputs of this project will facilitate information about the digital market and the copyright legal framework applicable to the online distribution of audiovisual content in Latin America. Such information shall provide a better understanding of the legal systems applicable to the digital environment and identify opportunities for the Latin American audiovisual content to reach consumers beyond its national borders. Understanding the market and the legal environment applicable to it will foster better policy decisions on how to adapt the national legal framework to the reality of the digital environment, ultimately ensuring fair recognition to those involved in the creation of audiovisual contents and economic growth for those countries succeeding in exploiting the opportunities of the digital market.

iv. DA Project on “Enhancing the Use of IP in the Software sector”

65. The project supports SDG 9 and aims at enhancing the use of IP in the software sector to support economic growth in three beneficiary countries - Kenya, Trinidad and Tobago and the Philippines - by providing tools that could also be used in other countries. Through its activities and deliverables, the project will contribute to building knowledge and expertise on when and how to use various IP tools in support of developing and commercializing mobile applications. The project creates linkages among beneficiary countries and within each country between IP offices, ICT hubs, research institutions and industry.

66. In 2019, WIPO produced a study on IP and mobile applications, which was made available to the beneficiaries and to all WIPO Member States. Three workshops took place in the beneficiary countries and a scoping study was carried out on the situation with regard to the use of IP in the mobile app sector.

67. Within the mandate of the Copyright Management Division (CMD), the active implementation of the Development Agenda is a priority and one of the components of the technical assistance that the division delivers to developing countries and LDCs to help them achieve the SDGs. For that reason, CMD works with governments, collective management organizations (CMOs), International Federations and other stakeholders to establish and strengthen CMOs that function effectively and efficiently and enable a positive environment for advancing SDGs. Against this background, CMD started a project related to the collective management of reprography with Benin in 2019, stretching until the end of 2020, jointly with the Beninese Copyright Office (BUBEDRA) within the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports, and the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organizations (IFRRO). Similar projects,

with the National Institute for the Defense of Competition and Protection of Intellectual Property (INDECOP) of Peru and the Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO), will be completed in 2020, following requests from the respective Member States in 2019. The aim of these projects is to implement functioning and viable collective management systems to facilitate access to educational materials while sustaining a viable national text and image-based publishing industry through giving compensation to authors and publishers for the use of their works. The projects support SDGs 4 and 17.

68. The active implementation of the Development Agenda is at the cornerstone of Copyright Development Division (CDD)'s mandate and is a major component of the technical assistance that this division delivers to developing and Least Developed Countries to help them achieve the SDGs. As such, CDD works with governments and relevant stakeholders to develop human resources, share knowledge, build partnerships, and lay the necessary and technical foundations and infrastructure for a robust copyright system that will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

69. During 2019, CDD organized, jointly with other programs of the Sector/Organization various regional, sub-regional, and national activities on public policy matters and provided platforms for sharing information and experience on topical issues that were of particular interest to these countries, as well as on increasing local capacities to assist Members States in meeting their goals, including:

- Setting up and providing the tools for building a modern copyright administration and structure required by creators and creative industries to successfully use and prosper from the growth of the digital environment;
- Facilitating the use and flow of new technologies and business models within and between countries, comprising South-South cooperation; and
- Including and implementing relevant SDGs as part of their copyright policies and strategies, in particular SDG 4 (education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) and SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure).

70. In the Copyright Law Division, as part of the activities focused on SDGs 4 and 17, it is important to note the comprehensive action plan on the topic of limitations and exceptions for educational and research institutions, adopted by the WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights. Among others, this action plan was directed to develop three key deliverables. One key deliverable was the report on practices and challenges in relation to online distance education and research activities, presented during the SCCR/39, held in October 2019. This report gathered current practices and challenges that educational and research institutions face in relation to teaching and research activities at university level conducted online, with a special focus on "cross-border" elements (e.g. students and researchers located in different countries, materials obtained from/published in other countries, etc.). Another significant deliverable was a typology for the categorization and organization of limitations and exceptions for educational activities, which was presented during SCCR/38, in April 2019. Finally, the said action plan was completed with the organization of three regional seminars and an international conference held in 2019, in which specific issues related to education including online distance education were thoroughly addressed. Discussions in these meetings shed light on the potential of a balanced copyright system which would foresee the relevant limitations and exceptions to allow affordable and accessible educational materials to a wider range of students from every region and at every level of economic development, including lifelong learning opportunities; this is while providing the necessary conditions that trigger the development and progress of the publishing industries in those countries.

VII. Development Sector

71. The Development Sector continued to support a number of activities that facilitated mutually beneficial exchanges of knowledge and experience among developing countries and LDCs and aimed at promoting innovation, creativity and the effective use of the IP system for economic, technological, social and cultural development. The implementation of Development Agenda projects continued during 2019, delivering a set of outputs that could be used by Member States for their sustainable development. One example of such outputs, amongst others, is the Study on the Role of Intellectual Property in Sustainable Tourism Development in Namibia¹⁶, and the Study on Intellectual Property in Tourism and Culture in Sri Lanka¹⁷.

i. Division for Least Developed Countries

72. The Program on the Transfer of Appropriate Technology to LDCs is designed to support LDCs in the identification, management, administration and utilization of technical and scientific information with a focus on patent information, with a view to building their institutional and national capacity on appropriate technology for development. In this context, the transformation of beneficiary individuals and communities in rural areas and cities through technology learning and employment generation, no matter how small, is an overarching objective of the Program with linkages to SDG 1. The implementation modalities of the Program also directly focus on building national innovation capabilities and absorption capacities and promoting the use of science and technology and their application for development, which links it directly to the implementation of SDG 9. In addition, the Program through fostering equitable participation in activities and established institutions, including the National Expert Groups (NEGs), contributes to the achievement of SDG 5. The delivery strategy of the Program also requires collaboration and participation of a range of players from individuals to private and public institutions in various sectors. Therefore, national institution building through the creation of national bodies/institutions, stakeholder groups, and national expert groups, support SDG 16. Thus far, because of the Program, 12 Appropriate Technologies (two each) have been transferred in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nepal, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia.

73. The specific appropriate technologies which are identified and are in the process of application provide solutions to specific development related challenges which have linkages to a number of SDGs including SDGs 2, 3, 6 and 7.

74. For example, the successful conclusion of the national project in Ethiopia has provided long-term solutions to two specific areas: (i) Solar coffee drying and (ii) Aquaculture. The solar coffee drying technology which was identified is a low-cost, technical alternative to the traditional method of sun drying. It can be manufactured locally and reduces post-harvest losses and the drying time of the coffee beans from approximately 300 hours to only about 4 hours. The adoption and application of this technology thus has linkages to the implementation of SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16 and 17.

75. The technology identified for aquafarming addresses the problem of depletion of fish in the lakes. The technology therefore has positive implications for food security, rural development and poverty alleviation, and has linkages to the implementation of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 17. This technology was also identified for Rwanda and Tanzania.

¹⁶ The study is available at: https://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/ip-development/en/agenda/pdf/study_tourism_namibia_i.pdf

¹⁷ The Study is available at: https://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/ip-development/en/agenda/pdf/study_ip_in_tourism_and_culture_sri_lanka.pdf

76. The project in Rwanda identified solar water distillation technology which addresses the problem of limited access to quality and clean drinking water. In this context, the technology has linkages to the implementation of SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16 and 17.

77. The identification of technology for extracting carrageenan from seaweed as a result of the national project in Tanzania should allow groups or clusters of seaweed farmers in Zanzibar and Pemba Islands of the United Republic of Tanzania to engage in small-scale production which will add value to their seaweed harvesting. Senior Government officials and seaweed farmers from Zanzibar organized training programs in cooperation with the Government of Indonesia for facilitating productivity in the use of appropriate technology. The identified technology is expected to promote employment and trade opportunities in the sector. In this context, the technology has linkages to the implementation of SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16 and 17.

78. In Nepal, the identified technology for biomass briquetting utilizes biomass from agricultural residue to produce high-quality briquettes as an alternative to wood. This clean, green alternative fuel reduces indoor air pollution and contributes towards the health and well-being of the population, especially of women and children, in addition to contributing to conservation of the country's forests. The technology thus has linkages to SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16 and 17.

79. The project in Zambia identified technology for run-off rainwater harvesting which allows the capture and storage of rainwater through a rainwater-harvesting container. The application of the rainwater harvesting technology has had significant positive impacts on agricultural productivity, with positive implications for rural incomes, employment and food security. This technology therefore has linkages to SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16 and 17.

80. Currently, work in the area is ongoing in three additional countries namely, Mozambique, Senegal and Uganda.

81. In Mozambique, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between WIPO and the Government. During the National Expert Group (NEG) Meeting, which was held in Maputo from October 21 to 23, 2019, the following two needs areas were selected: (i) development of Aqua-farming and (ii) Biofuel for community use. The implementation of the project is also ongoing in Uganda where the two development needs areas of (i) Rainwater Harvesting and Treatment and (ii) Environmentally friendly brick stabilization for construction purposes have been identified. In Senegal, a MoU for the project has been signed. The first NEG Meeting, which took place in Dakar from September 23 to 25, 2019, identified national and international experts for the national project. The needs assessment process to identify and select development areas required is ongoing.

ii. Regional Bureau for Africa

82. In continuity of activities undertaken in previous years, the Regional Bureau for Africa has in 2019 intensified cooperation with African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) and Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI) with the view to promoting the use of an effective IP system for the economic, technological cultural and social development of their respective Member States. The organized activities aimed at promoting a conducive policy environment for encouraging research and public private partnerships between Universities and R&D institutions and Industry.

83. As a follow up to the adoption by ARIPO and OAPI of the *Guidelines for the Elaboration of Institutional IP Policies (IIPPs) by Universities and R&D Organizations in African countries*, the Bureau adopted an initiative under the concept "IP Weeks" with the main objective of unlocking

the innovative potential of countries in the region. Four countries, namely, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, were selected based on recommendations contained in their National Intellectual Property Strategies for this exercise in 2018. The “IP week “ held in these countries provided an opportunity to build the capacity of two selected groups of national stakeholders, Universities and Research Institutions as well as SMEs. This activity will be replicated in coming years to support intensified capacity building in areas prioritized by African countries in their national IP Strategies.

84. Under the WIPO/ARIPO/OAPI (WAO) Agreement, the Bureau organized in 2019 a *Conference on Intellectual Property (IP), Innovation and Value Addition for Business Competitiveness and Sustainable Development in Africa* which was preceded by the organization of a *Regional Meeting for Young African Innovators, Creators and Entrepreneurs Workshop: Intellectual Property (IP), Innovation and Creativity for Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness in Harare, Zimbabwe*. These two activities aimed to provide a platform for participants to discuss and exchange views on the effective and comprehensive use of the IP system in promoting research, innovation and business competitiveness in Africa.

85. The Bureau also participated in the *First Africa Sciences, Technology and Innovation Forum and the fifth Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development* which took place in Marrakech, Morocco. This forum aimed at facilitating a policy forum to accelerate the implementation of 2030 for sustainable development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union. Finally, the Bureau organized a study visit for senior Members of the African Academy of Sciences to WIPO’s Headquarter to discuss the contribution of IP in the development of science, technology and innovation in Africa. All these activities contribute to the implementation of SDG 9.

86. During the same period, the Bureau assisted Rwanda and Niger in reviewing their IP Laws and formulating a National IP and Innovation Plan respectively, as part of the effort of the countries in building a conducive environment for encouraging research and public private partnerships. These activities falls under SDGs 9 and 16.

87. The Bureau also launched four projects on IP and Branding in Botswana, Ghana, Madagascar and Mauritius with a view to engage discussion with national stakeholders and define branding strategies for the commercialization of their products using IP tools. The social dimension of these projects through the positive impact on the income of the concerned rural communities is a key indicator of their success.

88. In the same vein, to sensitize SMEs and business communities on the importance of trademark protection in business, the bureau took part in the Regional Seminar on the Protection of Trademarks for Competitiveness and Market Expansion and the celebration of the OAPI’s Trademark Award Ceremony in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. As part of the effort to build an African framework for the protection and use of Geographical Indications (GIS), the Bureau took active participation in the technical and consultative Committees for the development of GIS in Africa, in Essaouira, Morocco, as well as in the Regional RoundTable on GIs with ARIPO and OAPI, in Yaounde, Cameroon. These activities are related to SDGs 1, 2 and 8.

89. Furthermore, the Bureau organized several other activities in line with SDGs 1 and 3 as follows:

- *Study Visit on Geographical Indications on behalf of Sao Tome and Principe and Cabo Verde Lisbon, Portugal* to equip Sao Tome and Principe and Cabo Verde with the necessary tools for implementing a registration and control system for geographical indications.

- *Study Visit for the Heads of IP Offices of Eswatini, Liberia, Seychelles and Sierra Leone to the Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA) in Gaborone, Botswana to provide the Heads of IP Offices with the business model of management of IP Offices that is implemented in Botswana.*
- *Patent Drafting Course for ARIPO Member States and observers States in Harare, Zimbabwe*

90. It is worth mentioning that gender consideration is part of the Bureau policy when implementing its activities.

iii. Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC Bureau)

91. WIPO is ideally placed to draw on its technical experience to support beneficiaries to elaborate national IP strategies (NIPS) and facilitate the integration of IP into innovation, economic, social and cultural policies. In 2019, LAC worked with Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana and Peru, for the design of NIPS, which supports SDGs 4, 5, 9 and 16.

92. Partnerships with Regional Stakeholders (SDG 17): In the spirit of partnership and collaboration of the Agenda 2030, WIPO seeks to foster the exchange of knowledge between stakeholders beyond government officials, including civil society, academia, the private sector and international organizations. During 2019, the LAC Bureau strengthened partnerships with regional stakeholders such as the *Centro Latinoamericano de Administracion para el Desarrollo* (CLAD), the *Programa Iberoamericano de Propiedad Industrial* (IBEPI), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the *Comunidad Andina* (CAN), the *Asociación Interamericana de la Propiedad Intelectual* (ASIPI), the *Foro para el Progreso de América del Sur* (PROSUR), and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

93. Regional Program on Patent Examination Schemes (SDGs 4 and 9): In the context of the PCT Regional Seminar for Latin American countries, August 5 to 7, 2019: a Special Session was organized to discuss the training of examiners. Different potential donors such as the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (OEPM), the United States Patents and Trademarks Office (USPTO), the European Patent Office (EPO), the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and the IPKey Latin America Project and national IP Offices of the LAC region participated in the referred session.

94. WIPO LEX Judgments Database Project: Six Latin American countries and Spain are pilots in this initiative with aims to: (i) provide easy access to selected court decisions in the field of IP, facilitating the sharing of valuable information and expertise from other jurisdictions; and (ii) strengthen the skills of authorities to deliver informed decisions on IP disputes, contributing in this manner to the legal infrastructure of the innovation ecosystem (SDG 9).

95. Project on the Development of Intellectual Property (IP) and Spinoff Policies for Universities and Research Institutions in Colombia: The objectives of the project is to stimulate transfer of knowledge in universities and research institutions, by identifying opportunities for improvement and providing support, in particular, on: (i) the establishment and/or improvement of the IP policy framework; and, (ii) the development of professional skills for the effective use of the IP system, with emphasis in the areas of innovation, transfer of knowledge and development of spinoffs (SGD 9).

96. The following activities were also carried out in 2019:

- II Regional Workshop on Negotiation of Technological Development Collaboration Agreements, Santiago, Chile, May 28 to 31, 2019: The Workshop was organized in

- collaboration with the Chilean Economic Development Agency (CORFO) and the *Sociedad de Fomento Fabril* (SOFOFA). The Workshop addressed capacity building in the field of IP management and commercialization to foster innovation (SDGs 4 and 9);
- XVIII WIPO/AECID/OEPM Regional Seminar on IP for Judges and Prosecutors of Latin American Countries, Montevideo, Uruguay, September 16 to 19, 2019: This Seminar aimed at strengthening capacities of judges and public prosecutors of the LAC region on IP protection and IP litigation, focusing on different emerging topics involving the use of the IP System (SDG 4, 9);
 - IV WIPO/OEPM Regional Forum to promote the Use of the International Intellectual Property Registry System among the Latin-American Private Sector, Lima, Peru, June 19 to 21, 2019: This Forum aimed at promoting IP as a tool for economic competitiveness in the international market, high-lightening the advantages of the use of the IP International Registry Systems (SDG 9);
 - National Workshop on the Optimization of the use of Intellectual Property Rights in Sport, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, September 3 and 4, 2019: The Workshop aimed at raising awareness and fostering the strategic use of IP tools to create sustainable sport clusters in the economy in order to present the benefits that it could bring to the economic, social and tourism sectors of the country and Caribbean region (SDG 9);
 - XXIV International Congress of CLAD on State Reform and Public Administration in Buenos Aires, Argentina, November 12 to 15, 2019: This Congress was organized by the Latin American Center for Development Administration (CLAD). One of the main areas of discussion was the general trends of reform and modernization of public administration. Governance of practices of IP offices were the focus of a panel organized by WIPO and the Spanish Patent and Trademarks Office (OEPM) in the framework of the mentioned Congress (SDGs 9, 16);
 - Regional Program on IP, Innovation and Gender Equality: This program was established by the LAC Bureau in 2017. Since then, three regional meetings were organized. The last Event took place on November, 2019 in Lima, Peru. The main lines of action of the Program are: (i) to link the existent or foreseen gender-oriented public policies with IP in Latin America; and (ii) to include gender equality in the working agenda of IP offices. In the context of the mentioned Program, WIPO has worked with the UN Agencies such as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), (SDGs 5, 9 and 17);
 - Regional Workshop on Intellectual Property (IP) and Design – Empowering Women in Design through the Use of IP, Bridgetown, Barbados, October 29 and 30, 2019: This Workshop targeted young female designers from selected Caribbean countries. It aimed at empowering women by leveraging the use of IP tools in the design arena. Furthermore, the Event was organized in partnership with the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation (BIDC) and the Ministry of Investment and Development Corporation through the Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office (CAIPO). It was also supported by the Office of UN WOMEN in The Caribbean (SDGs 5 and 9).

iv. Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (ASPAC Bureau)

97. Since 2015, ASPAC Bureau has undergone significant change in its approach and delivery of technical assistance to countries in the region. The key change has been to move away from an *ad hoc* delivery of independent activities to working with countries to design and implement a more structured, coherent and project-based approach that links activities towards a cumulative impact. The projects have focused the work of ASPAC Bureau on 3 result areas: (a) Building Frameworks to prioritize needs, inspire change and track progress in the IP landscape in countries; (b) Modernizing and capacity-building for national IP Offices to raise competencies,

build business structures and systems; and (c) enabling IP stakeholders for technology innovation, branding and designs to effectively use the IP system.

98. Result Area 1: Building Frameworks

- **Project to Formulate National IP Strategies Formulation in Countries:** This project enables countries to achieve a more “whole-of-government IP consciousness.” Although the output is a tangible strategy document, the consultative and consensus-building process to arrive at the strategy document brings together various agencies of government to learn, discuss and agree on collective actions to address various IP and development issues for the country. The initiative supports SDG 9, in that IP when managed well by countries will incentivize investments in innovation. By having a national conversation and strategy, competing interests in IP can also be balanced to facilitate knowledge dissemination. Alongside SDG 9, because the IP strategy fosters entrepreneurship and job creation, the initiative has impact on SDG 8 as well.

99. Result Area 2: Modernizing and Capacity-Building for National IP Offices in Countries

- **Resource and Management Diagnostics:** This Project allows countries to revisit the legal charter, operational structure, resource and management systems as well as the business model of their national IP offices to improve the administration of IP and deliver better services. Far from being a typical regulatory agency, IP offices are also transforming into enabling institutions with more value-adding services to promote and support innovation and creativity. As such, this initiative supports SDG 9.
- **Competency-Based and Individualized Training and Learning Management System for Patent and Trademark Examiners:** The Project seeks to establish a framework whereby training offerings from various entities and donor offices can be matched with the training needs of individual examiners from developing and least developed countries in the region. At present, training is an uncoordinated patchwork of seminars and workshops, while trainees have been sent to various training programs with little information or consideration of the individual competency needs matching the training offering. As such, despite years of training, examiners trained under the present set-up are not able to learn the full suite of competencies needed to advance examination work. With a competency-based approach to managing training and learning by patent and trademark examiners, the Project seeks to help countries receiving training to attain the highest-level of competencies using effectively the training resources of donor offices. It also allows countries to track the competency level of its examiners. In raising the competencies of examiners, the IP registration system is made efficient and cost effective, which enables innovations to be protected in a timely manner. As such, this initiative also supports SDG 9.

100. Result Area 3: Enabling Stakeholders to Effectively Use the IP System

- **The Enabling Environment to Strengthen Business Competitiveness through Brands and Designs:** The Project raises the country’s ability to use brands and designs as a value-addition to local businesses and industries. This requires professionals from various disciplines, business chambers and other organizations and government entities supporting businesses as well as academic institutions to be equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills and experience in developing, protecting and using trademarks, geographical indications and designs to benefit industries. The Project

seeks to create/enhance local and affordable IP services by developing a community of practice to serve especially the MSMEs in order to increase the access to use and benefit from the IP system. This initiative supports SDGs 8 and 9.

- The Enabling Innovation Environment to Increase Capacity for Technology Innovation Support: The Project facilitates technology transfer in developing countries, by raising the capacity of technology-generators and technology-users to use IP as a common language and protocol for collaborations, transactions and creating agreements. This initiative involves a broader societal level of intervention where WIPO is able to bring together various actors of the innovation value chain (from industry, academe and government) to communicate, build stronger relations and aim for successful technology development and utilization within the country. A networked community of technology transfer actors is envisioned as a milestone towards achieving said goals. The project will build on the TISC network. This initiative supports SDGs 8 and 9.

v. *Regional Bureau for Arab Countries (RBAC)*

101. The RBAC has undertaken several activities in 2019. Most of them relate to SDGs 9 and 17. Some, however, relate also to other SDGs.

- “*WIPO Regional Seminar for Heads of IP Offices on Building Respect for Industrial Property through Awareness Raising*”, in cooperation with Building Respect for IP Division, Algiers, Algeria, April 2 to 3, 2019. The objective of this workshop was to equip and encourage national IP offices in the region to undertake activities to build respect for IP, and explain the support provided by WIPO for such activities, in addition to allowing an exchange of ideas, information and experiences relevant to public outreach and related strategies for building respect for IP. The Seminar contributed towards the implementation and achievement of SDGs 9 and 16;
- Conclusion of the *First Joint Training Program* in Arabic, in collaboration with WIPO Academy and the Moroccan Office of Industrial and Commercial Property (OMPIC), Casablanca, Morocco, March 7 to 8, 2019. The main objective of this Training was to help upgrade the skills and capabilities of the trainees in the management and evaluation of Intellectual Property assets (patents, trademarks and designs), thereby responding to the specific needs of Arab countries. The Training contributed towards the achievement of SDGs 4, 9 and 17;
- *CDIP Project on IP and Tourism (2019) – “Workshop for Museums”*, Cairo, Egypt, March 17 to 19, 2019, and “*Private Stakeholders Workshop*”, March 20 to 21, 2019. In addition, a National Workshop was organized in Bibliotheca Alexandrina on “*IP management in Libraries/Museums*”, September 10 to 12, 2019. The purpose of the Workshops was to evaluate the needs and challenges of the institution as a first step, in order to develop a tailor made program for training managerial staff on IP related issues and to jointly design an IP policy for these institutions. Activities under this project contributed towards the implementation of SDGs 9 and 17;
- “*Sub regional Workshop on Patent Drafting for the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries (GCC)*”, in cooperation with the Patent Law Division, April 7 to 11, 2019. The Workshop contributed towards the achievement of SDGs 9 and 17;
- National Workshop on the “*Promotion of Innovation and the diffusion of Green Technologies for SMEs*”, Algiers, Algeria, June 19 to 20, 2019. The Workshop broadly addressed the themes of green technology and renewable energy and was as such well aligned with SDG 7 and SDG 9. Given the breadth of the themes addressed, and the

cross-cutting nature of the SDGs, several other Goals were also implicated, including SDG 6, SDG 11, SDG 12, and SDG 15;

- “*WIPO/League of Arab States (LAS) Regional Meeting on Intellectual Property and Think Tanks*”, Cairo, Egypt, June 25 to 27, 2019. The purpose of the meeting was to explore opportunities for further integrating IP issues in Arab societies through: (i) addressing the role of Arab Think Tanks in raising the awareness of public users and stakeholders of the economic, social, technological and cultural benefits of IP, (ii) urging Arab Think Tanks to focus in their work on highlighting the principal role of IP in promoting entrepreneurship, creating employment opportunities and increasing competitiveness, (iii) encouraging Arab Think Tanks to emphasize the developmental role of IP through enhancing innovation and creativity, (iv) shedding light on the role of IP in combating piracy and counterfeiting with its negative effects on societies, and (v) shaping a framework of cooperation between Arab IP institutions and Arab Think Tanks. The Meeting contributed towards the implementation and achievement of SDGs 9 and 17;
- “*Regional Meeting on Intellectual Property and Women Entrepreneurship in the Arab Region*”, organized in cooperation with the World Women Inventors and Entrepreneur Association (WWIEA), Seoul, Republic of Korea, in Amman, Jordan, September 1 to 3, 2019. The main objectives of the Workshop were to raise awareness on the role of IP in advancing women entrepreneurship skills, and, more broadly, advancing economic development, as well as offer practical and user-friendly tools for Arab women entrepreneurs on how to use the IP system. The Meeting also sought to promote women networking and sharing of best practices/experiences across women entrepreneurs in the Arab region. It contributed towards the achievement of SDGs 5, 9, 10 and 17;
- “*Regional IT Workshop for Arab States: Update on WIPO Offerings on Systems and Tools and Share of Experiences*”, Muscat, Oman, October 21 to 24, 2019. The main objectives of this Workshop were to (i) demonstrate anticipated functionality of the IPAS 4 as a single automation platform for paperless offices; (ii) present cloud advantages with the infrastructure of the new IPAS and highlight business-models and requirements to move to the new IPAS platform, and (iii) facilitate the exchange of experiences among participating offices on the advancements realized in respective automation projects. The Workshop contributed towards the achievement of SDGs 9 and 17;
- “*WIPO/LAS Regional Meeting on the Global Innovation Index (GII)*”, Cairo, Egypt, October 15 to 17, 2019. The main objectives of this Meeting were to highlight the developmental aspects of the GII and provide the needed information regarding the indicators and methodologies used in its preparation. The Meeting also tackled the underlying strengths and pointed to challenges to be overcome, which have the potential to affect the ranking of Arab countries in GII. In addition, the Meeting sought to develop a roadmap for future cooperation between WIPO and Arab countries in the overall field of innovation and IP Policy. It contributed towards the implementation and achievement of SDGs 9 and 17;
- Signing of a MoU between the Moroccan Office of Industrial and Commercial Property (OMPIC) and WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Centre on the margins of WIPO Assemblies on October 4, 2019. The MoU aims to support OMPIC in developing local IP Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) capacity, and promoting the latter at the national level, in addition to collaborating in the promotion of ADR services through exchanging best practices and sharing experiences in the field. The MoU also supports sharing tools and learning resources that can help in developing ADR services in Morocco, as well as raising awareness regarding WIPO and OMPIC ADR procedures among the users of OMPIC’s services and, when appropriate, utilizing case administration services of the

WIPO Centre. The MoU contributed towards the implementation and achievement of SDGs 9 and 17;

- “*WIPO Sub-Regional Workshop on the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) for Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Member States*”, Kuwait City, Kuwait, October 14 to 15, 2019. The objectives of the Workshop were fourfold: (i) provide PCT training in Arabic to IP Office staff, users and GCC country representatives; (ii) present an overview of the latest ePCT platform version through exercises; (iii) promote PCT and ePCT awareness in GCC Member States; and (iv) exchange best practices in these areas with GCC users and IP Office staff. The Workshop contributed towards the implementation of SDGs 9 and 17;
- “*Sub-regional Workshop on Patent Case Management for Members of the Gulf Cooperation Council Patent Office Grievances Committee*”, Kuwait City, Kuwait, December 16 and 17, 2019. The aim of the Workshop was to enhance the capacity of members of the Committee in relation to the substantive adjudication of patent validity disputes, and build the practical skills of Committee members in the field of judicial administration of IP disputes. The Workshop contributed towards the implementation and achievement of SDGs 9 and 17;
- Expert Missions to several Arab countries for the formulation of National IP Strategies. The IP strategy adopts a coherent, coordinated and integrated approach comprising a set of efficient and concrete measures, and symbolizes an outstanding tool for encouraging and facilitating the effective creation, development, management, and protection of IP at the national level. Its overarching objectives should ideally re-enforce national efforts aimed at economic and social development. Such Expert Missions contributed towards the implementation and achievement of SDG 9. Beneficiary Countries in 2019: Algeria, Mauritania, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

vi. WIPO Academy

102. The WIPO Academy is the core entity in WIPO for the delivery of IP education, training and human capacity-building services, particularly for developing countries, LDCs and countries in transition. As such, it continues to support the Organization’s commitment to achieving, individually or as part of the UN system, the SDGs. By offering programs which effectively responded to the training needs of Member States, the WIPO Academy contributed to several SDGs in 2019, in particular to SDG 9.

103. The WIPO Academy’s courses support industrialization and foster innovation by building IP capacity among government officials, supporting academics in their IP teaching and research, and providing IP education to junior professionals, students, and the public at large. The courses are designed and delivered in partnership with a range of stakeholders, in particular national and regional IP offices, as well as universities and academics. Such a collaborative approach, making use of multi-stakeholder partnerships as well as South-South cooperation, both improves the efficacy of the courses and contributes to SDG 17. The Academy’s participation in SDG: Learn, a collaboration established with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the United System Staff College (UNSSC), further strengthens this collaborative learning and delivery.

104. The WIPO Academy’s distance learning program attracts by far the largest number of participants worldwide: reaching over 120,000 participants from 190 countries in 2019. The Academy also offered 23 face-to-face, tailored professional development courses to 440 government officials over the year. The Academy’s Joint Master’s degree programs, which facilitate access to higher education in IP, saw over 200 participants graduate from eight degree courses in 2019. The WIPO Academy also partnered with universities and national IP offices to organize 16 of its intensive two-week Summer School programs, with over 700 participants.

The Academy's National IP Training Institutions projects support countries in developing their own national IP training capacity and empower them to design and deliver IP training that best meets their development needs, thus contributing to the capacity-building targets of SDG 17. A further two such institutions were established in 2019, taking the total to nine. All the Academy's courses and projects, together with the different colloquia for IP teachers organized by the WIPO Academy, contribute both to SDG 9 and 4.

105. The Academy's programs make a further contribution to the implementation of SDG 5 (Gender Equality), by successfully attracting a greater number of women (53%) than men (47%) participants. Building on this strong participation by women, the Academy organizes a training course for scientists from the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Programme.

VIII. Transition and Developed Countries (TDC)

106. The Department for Transition and Developed Countries is responsible for providing support to improve the participation of Central European and Baltic States, Central Asian, Eastern European and Caucasian countries, as well as some Mediterranean countries, in the international intellectual property system. The Department also works to ensure these states share in the economic and social benefits of innovation and creativity. This is achieved in many ways, including by improving opportunities to make the most of creative and innovative potential, and by enhancing foreign investment and technology transfer activities.

107. In terms of developed countries, the Department focuses on strengthening institutional relations with these countries. It also works on improving the coordination, promotion and delivery of WIPO services and programs in developed countries. The Department also covers non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and industry relations work with emphasis placed on cross-sectoral cooperation. It aims to leverage relationships with NGO and private sector groups in order to raise awareness of IP services such as the PCT, Madrid, including multi-stakeholder platforms in the field of global health.

108. The Department's activities include: (i) providing support to countries in transition in order to assist them in creating and adjusting national IP strategies, and providing advice on how to tailor such strategies to each government's economic and cultural strategy with respect to creativity and innovation; (ii) developing and implementing capacity building and technical assistance cooperation plans with, and for, countries in transition; (iii) developing WIPO studies for countries in transition; (iv) organizing roving seminars in developed countries that give a quick and comprehensive overview of WIPO services and initiatives; and (v) organizing and coordinating the organization of WIPO events in transition and developed countries. TDC also manages the activities concerning the support to SMEs and Universities and Research Organizations (Program 30).

109. Under Program 10 of its Program and Budget for the 2018/19 biennium, WIPO has taken a number of initiatives that further contribute to achieving goals 4, 5 and 9 of the SDGs.

110. In particular, under SDG 4, TDC organized a Sub regional Seminar on IP Teaching, (November 2019, in Turkmenistan) and a Training on International Practice in IP specialized Law Courts (December 5 and 6, 2019, in Azerbaijan). A number of activities also took place with the objective to enhance quality IP education at Master's level, with joint Programs in Poland and Turkey.

111. Under SDG 9, the Department organized several initiatives with the objective to enhance industry innovation and infrastructure in the Region:

- Sub-regional Seminar on Copyright and Collective Management, May 2019, in Armenia;

- Sub-Regional Seminar on Economic Value of IP, June 3-4, 2019 Belarus;
- Regional seminar on PCT, Kyrgyzstan, September 5-6, 2019;
- Sub regional Seminar on Enforcement, September 11 and 12, 2019, Uzbekistan;
- Regional seminar on "Copyright protection in the Internet: problems and prospects" with the participation of representatives of law enforcement agencies, judges, advocates, October 16 and 17, 2019, Kazakhstan;

112. Other specific activities took place in Eastern Europe and Balkan Countries, in support of SDG 9, for example:

- WIPO Regional Seminar on Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement (Chisinau, Moldova, June 5 and 6, 2019);
- WIPO Regional Advanced Training Program on IP Institutional Policy: Challenges in Adoption and Implementation (Belgrade, Serbia, November 5 and 6, 2019);
- WIPO Sub-Regional Seminar on Patent Information and Databases (Skopje, North Macedonia, December 3, 2019).

113. Under SDG 5, Program 10 supported Regional Seminar on Challenges to IP with the focus on Role of Women in IP and IP Policies (May 15-16, 2019; Kyrgyzstan).

114. Under Program 30 of its Program and Budget for the 2018/19 biennium, WIPO has taken a number of initiatives that further contribute to achieving goals 4, 5, 8 and 9 of the SDGs.

115. In support of SDG 4, the SMEs and Entrepreneurship Support Division (SESD) organized a series of regional and national meetings on Institutional IP Policies in academic institutions, raising awareness of the importance of well-defined and customized legal framework for creation, dissemination and management of knowledge and technology from universities and research institutions towards industry and society. In that context the following events were organized :

- National Workshop on *Intellectual Property Policies for Universities and Research Institutions*, Amman, Jordan, March 19 to 20, 2019 - The objective of the event was to raise awareness about the importance of the development of IP Policies and to empower participating universities and research institutions to draft their own policy in line with their needs. The workshop was attended by 39 high-level academic professionals and technology managers as well as officials from Industrial Property Directorate, actively supporting academic institutions in Jordan in using IP system.
- *Intellectual Property Policies for Universities and Research Institutions*, on June 10 and 11, 2019 in Cairo. The meeting was attended by 42 participants from 31 national academic institutions and a number of SMEs, interested in IP and collaboration with academic institutions. The WIPO IP Policy Project in Egypt was launched together with 31 beneficiary institutions that will receive expert assistance in developing and adopting their IP Policies for more efficient technology creation and management.
- WIPO Regional Advanced Training Program on IP Institutional Policy: Challenges in Adoption and Implementation (November 5 and 6, 2019, Belgrade), for about 50 participants, mainly university technology managers from Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia and Turkey. The aim of the meeting was to further support regional academic institutions not only to define Institutional IP Policies, by using the WIPO Toolkit for Academic Institutions, but also to identify challenges and discuss solutions in their implementation;
- Sub-regional Seminar on *IP Teaching with focus on IP Management System in Universities: from Idea to Commercialization*, was held on June 20-21, 2019 in Moscow, Russian Federation. The event took place in the Russian State Academy of Intellectual

Property and was attended by university professors, teachers, IP managers and students. Speakers and participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Belarus, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Poland shared knowledge and best practices in the field of IP education. The event was attended by 80 participants in total.

- Regional Seminar on Intellectual Property (IP) Policies and IP Challenges with the Focus on the Role of Women in IP, May 15 and 16, 2019, in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

116. A Sub-regional Workshop on Intellectual Property (IP) Policies for Universities and Research Centers in Central American Countries and the Dominican Republic was organized in Panama City, Panama, from March 26 to 28, 2019, in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MICI) and the Industrial Property Registry (DIGERPI) from Panama.

117. Under SDG 5, Program 30 supported the annual Korea International Women's Invention Exposition, the WIPO-KIPO- KWIA International Women's Invention Forum and organized a workshop on the better management of IP from June 20 to 25, 2018 in Seoul, Republic of Korea for the benefit of some 100 women inventor participants which included those coming from 11 developing and least developed countries.

118. In addition Program 30 is implementing a project approved under the Development Agenda on Increasing the Role of Women in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Encouraging Women in Developing Countries to Use the Intellectual Property System which completed the first year of implementation with the finalization of four national assessments of the four pilot countries; Oman, Pakistan, Uganda and Mexico, as well as a literature review, a review of good practices and the first draft of a guide on the IP in issues in taking an invention to market.

119. With reference to SDG 8, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises consist of more than 90% of enterprises globally. They play an important role in employment creation and revenue generation. Therefore, efforts to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs directly and indirectly contributes to countries' economic growth and provision of decent work to the population. In this regard, the SESD organized and participated in the following capacity building activities for SMEs and businesses:

- Sub-regional Case Study Workshop on Improving Competitiveness of SMEs through the Effective Use of the IP system (Tokyo, Japan, August 6 to 8, 2019). The workshop focused on assisting SMEs understand and appreciate the important role that Intellectual Property can play in enhancing SMEs competitiveness. Targeted participants were representatives of IP Offices and SMEs intermediaries from selected countries from the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Sixteen participants attended the workshop.
- The SESD also held a Sub-regional workshop on the Role of Intellectual Property in Franchising Industry (Muscat, Oman, October 28 and 29, 2019). The workshop aimed at strengthening the knowledge of participants on how to utilize IP successfully in a franchise. A successful Franchising industry can also provide positive contribution to the economy and provide more employment opportunity. About 25 participants attended the workshop, from Kuwait (1), Qatar (1), Saudi Arabia (3) and the remaining were local participants. Eight participants were women.

120. Under SDG 9, SESD supported innovation stakeholders in Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Sector by upgrading their knowledge and competences regarding IP valuation, by providing them with theoretical background on how to determine and by organizing practical exercise regarding application of IP valuation methods on the real cases. The WIPO Regional Workshop on *Intellectual Property (IP) Valuation for Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Industry Sector*, was organized in Havana, Cuba, on February 5 to 7, 2019, for 41 participants from

Brazil, Chile and Cuba. Participants were predominantly from universities of Brazil and Chile, and the bio sector research institutions, with commercialization and production activities such as Center of Molecular Immunology (CIM) of Cuba or Center of Pharmaceutical Research and Development of Cuba (CIDEM) in the framework of the Group of Biotechnological and Pharmaceutical Industries – BioCubaFarma.

121. In order to facilitate international IP collaboration and cross border technology management for the benefit of industries and societies, SESD supported the process of establishment of the regional network of Technology Management Offices (TMOs) in Baltic States. A Regional Meeting on the Pilot Project on the Development of the Baltic States Regional TMOs Network was organized on December 10 and 11, 2019 in Vilnius in collaboration with Baltic States' Patent Offices. Participants were technology managers from national TMOs who discussed and developed a strategy on how to create their National Professional Consortia in order to strengthen quality and professionalism in delivering technology management services that would affect sustainable development of their societies. An Action Plan was adopted on the further steps to be taken in order to upgrade collaboration through establishment of Baltic States TMOs Network.

122. Within the Project on the *Implementation of the National Model of IP Institutional Policies in Academic and Scientific Institutions in the Russian Federation* and its Action plan for 2019-2020 WIPO organized four National Seminars on *Intellectual Property Policies for Universities and Research Institutions* in different cities of the Russian Federation. Target group of these events were academia policy makers, who deal with the implementation of IP policies based on the National Model. Around 200 participants from 35 universities and research institutions attended these seminars.

123. A National Seminar on *Technology Transfer and Commercialization* was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in May 28-29, 2019. The Seminar was attended by representatives of technoparks, innovation and technology centres (45 participants in total). The purpose of the event was to bridge the gap between academia and industry, and to increase the capacity of TMOs to use IP generated in the country.

124. SESD, in cooperation with LAC Bureau, launched a "National Project on the Establishment of Institutional IP Policies in Universities and Research Institutions" in Colombia. The project aims to increase the capacities and provide tools to Colombian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to create IP policies. A national meeting on IP Policies and Spinoffs was held in Medellin, November 2019, and a Model IP Policy for Colombian Academic Institutions was created. The project will continue in 2020 and will help ten Colombian HEIs develop their individual IP policies, with the support of WIPO-sponsored experts.

IX. Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge And Traditional Cultural Expressions

125. WIPO supports the implementation of the SDGs through its normative, policy and capacity building activities that address IP issues related to the access to and benefit-sharing in genetic resources (GRs) and the protection of traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs). SDGs 2, 3, 4, 8, 11, 14 and 15 in particular were linked to WIPO's work in this field in 2019.

126. Concretely, in 2019 WIPO undertook a range of activities related to these specific SDGs which include:

- On SDGs 2 and 15 referring to GRs and agricultural productivity, WIPO, jointly with the Swedish Patent and Registration Office, provided specialized training for, and supported projects of, diverse stakeholders working on IP and GRs in Bangladesh, Cambodia,

Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia with the view to building capacity on the use of IP systems in relation to GRs to the best advantage of stakeholders in GRs and in support of innovation as a contributing factor to increased economic growth and reduction of poverty. WIPO undertakes activities in cooperation with the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Capacity-Development Initiative (ABSi) intended to enable development stakeholders to include IP issues in access and benefit-sharing agreements for GRs. Together WIPO and ABSi developed and published a Guide on Intellectual Property Issues in Access and Benefit Sharing Agreements, which builds upon the WIPO online collection of GRs-related agreements.

- On SDGs 4, 5 and 8, particularly target 8.3 referring to the promotion of development-oriented policies that support productive activities, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, WIPO's training activities and information resources contributed towards the empowerment of indigenous peoples as vulnerable peoples and facilitated their access to life-long learning opportunities that help them acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and to participate fully in society in line with the SDGs framework. WIPO launched a *Project-based Training and Mentoring Program on Intellectual Property for Women Entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities* (IPLCs) (the WEP). The WEP aims to strengthen the capacity of women entrepreneurs from IPLCs to make strategic use of IP rights in support of small businesses and projects based on TK and TCEs. The strategic use of IP rights can allow the women to derive greater economic benefit from their innovation and creativity and holding IP rights may enable them to attract funding and investment. The mentoring phase will start in 2020. This gender-focused, practical capacity-strengthening and economic development-centered program is offered by WIPO in cooperation with several partner organizations, including the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Trade Centre (ITC), and with the involvement of UN Women. WIPO provided practical IP training and facilitated community-government contacts through a regional Practical Workshop in Canada gathering 16 representatives from two indigenous peoples living in the Arctic region, the Inuit and the Saami, as well as government officials from Canada, Finland and Sweden.
- WIPO supported or contributed to national or regional activities on the protection of TK and TCEs in *inter alia* Panama, Peru, Uganda and Ukraine.
- On SDG 11, particularly target 11.4 referring to the protection of cultural heritage, WIPO participated in activities in relation to the International Year of Indigenous Languages that was celebrated in 2019 by the UN General Assembly, promoting in particular its resources for IPLCs that are available in indigenous languages and therefore more widely accessible.

127. In 2019, WIPO also continued to facilitate the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations taking place in the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC). These negotiations, which relate especially to SDGs 2, 3, 8 and 14, aimed at the reaching of an agreement on an international legal instrument(s), without prejudging the nature of outcome(s), relating to IP, which will ensure the balanced and effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. They will continue in 2020 and 2021.

X. Judiciaries and IP

128. In 2019, WIPO continued to develop its new approach to the judicial administration of IP, including by establishing the WIPO Judicial Institute, which is responsible for collaborating and coordinating with all relevant WIPO sectors to build an Organization-wide approach to judicial activities. WIPO's work with judiciaries aims to support the crucial role played by them in protecting innovation and creativity and in ensuring a balanced and effective international intellectual property system (SDG 9).

129. In the second year of this initiative, WIPO's work with judiciaries contributed to the SDGs through the following three central pillars of activities:

- First, WIPO built upon the creation of a global platform for exchange of information among judicial peers, in order to facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practices for the judicial adjudication of IP disputes, within the distinct legal and economic framework of each Member State (SDG 16, Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels). The second annual *WIPO Intellectual Property Judges Forum* was held in November 2019, and brought together 127 judges from 74 countries for interactive transnational dialogue on emerging issues in copyright, trademarks and patents, and on challenges arising from the adjudication of cross-border IP disputes.
- In addition, WIPO continued strengthening and expanding its judicial capacity building activities:
 - In 2019, the second annual Master Dialogue on IP Adjudication was held in collaboration with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and brought together 33 judges in Washington, D.C., for in-depth discussions and insights from courtrooms on the frontiers of IP law in 21 countries, addressing internationally significant issues such as standard essential patents (SEPs) and the interface of IP with competition law;
 - WIPO mainstreamed the Continuing Judicial Education (CJE) programs on IP, which seek to enhance the capacity of national judicial training institutions to deliver participatory and self-sustaining education programs for judges;
 - In response to Member State requests, WIPO also delivered 18 *ad hoc* judicial training activities.
- In 2019, WIPO brought to fruition several projects to contribute to the availability of, and access to, information and data on judicial systems and decisions on IP throughout the world (SDGs 9 and 16):
 - The WIPO Lex-Judgments database provides open and free online access to judicial decisions on IP worldwide. The database was piloted with select Member States and presented in November 2019. It will be released to the public in 2020;
 - WIPO released two new publications for judges: first, a collaboration with the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) on a Guide for Judges, "When Private International Law meets Intellectual Property Law"; and second, the launch of a new series, the "WIPO Collection of Leading Judgments on Intellectual Property", the first volume of which contained landmark judgments from the Supreme People's Court of China.

B. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE ORGANIZATION AS PART OF THE UN SYSTEM

130. As a specialized agency of the United Nations, WIPO contributes as a member or observer in various fora, to relevant discussions on the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. WIPO engages, in particular, with UN inter-agency processes relevant to intellectual property (IP) and innovation, including the United Nations Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation (IATT) for the Sustainable Development Goals established within the framework of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. WIPO also engages in relevant meetings of the major organs, programs and specialized agencies of the United Nations, such as the UN General Assembly, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), ITU, UNCTAD, UNFCCC and WHO. This engagement cuts across thematic fields such as Digital Agenda, Climate Change and Public Health.

131. WIPO provides technical information to the relevant multilateral processes and initiatives, ensuring that such initiatives fully benefit from WIPO's knowledge and expertise in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. Further, WIPO contributes information through a wide range of reports and publications to promote greater awareness of its programs and services so that these can be used for the achievement of the SDGs.

I. UN General Assembly (UNGA 74)

132. WIPO was represented at the SDGs Summit, which took place during the High Level Segment of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly (September 23 to 27, 2019) with the objective of reviewing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs. The SDGs Summit adopted the political declaration of the High-Level Political Forum calling for accelerated action on the sustainable development agenda. During the 74th UNGA, WIPO also attended the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development that sought to achieve progress on the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

II. The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

133. The fourth edition of the HLPF, the central body responsible for monitoring the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda, was held in New York in July 2019 under the theme *Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*. Five of the seventeen SDGs were addressed, namely SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16. Forty-seven countries, including seven for the second time, presented their national review on SDGs implementation. In his Progress Report to the HLPF on the implementation of the SDGs, the UN Secretary-General noted that a majority of countries have seriously engaged in the process of implementing the SDGs, and have put regulatory frameworks in place and allocated resources. He stressed that there are encouraging progress in some areas, including in access to quality education and health care, to water and sanitation and to affordable clean energy. However, he noted that "progress has been slow on many Goals, that the most vulnerable people and countries continue to suffer the most, and that the global response thus far has not been ambitious enough".

III. United Nations Technology Facilitation Mechanism

134. The UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) was established in 2015 by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. It comprises (i) a Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development (STI Forum), which takes place annually in New York, (ii) the UN Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (IATT), and the (iii) TFM Online Platform (OLP) designed to be a UN hosted portal for STI initiatives. WIPO has contributed to these initiatives as follows:

i. STI Forum

135. As in the previous years, WIPO assisted in the preparatory process for the Fourth Annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for SDGs held at UNHQ on May 14 and 15, 2019. WIPO organized a side event on Facilitating Access to IP and Technological Information and Platforms. The event aimed at promoting awareness and understanding of the strategic use of patent information for technology development and innovation. The event was attended by Member States, UN entities and other stakeholders.

ii. IATT

136. WIPO, as a founding member of the IATT for the SDGs, continued to participate actively in its work program. WIPO contributed to the mapping of initiatives, mechanisms and programs within the UN System related to STI. This process contributed to the creation of an online platform designed to: (i) be used to establish a comprehensive mapping of, and serve as a gateway for information on existing STI initiatives, mechanisms and programs, within and beyond the United Nations; (ii) facilitate access to information, knowledge and experience, as well as best practices and lessons learned, on science, technology and innovation facilitation initiatives and policies; and (iii) facilitate the dissemination of relevant open access scientific publications generated worldwide.

137. WIPO participated in 2019 at the UN Capacity Building Workshop on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development organized by UNDESA, UNESCAP and the Ministry of Science and Technology of China. The workshop took place in Guilin, Guangxi Province, China, from December 9 to 17, 2019, and aimed at improving the innovation capacities of participants, especially from Least Developed Countries. Senior officials from 29 countries, and 9 UN agencies/programs attended the workshop.

138. In 2019, WIPO also continued supporting the work of the IATT Sub-Group on STI Roadmaps, particularly by advising on IP elements and sharing information on WIPO's methodology and experience in the development of IP strategies.

139. WIPO as a co-founder of the IATT Sub-Group on Gender and STI continued increasing synergies and collaboration among UN entities on gender and STI, enhancing the visibility of UN engagement in this field, and promoting awareness on the importance of supporting opportunities for the participation of women and girls in STI fields.

140. Together with ITU, WIPO hosted, in 2019, a side event at UNHQ in the margins of the 63rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on Gender and Science, Technology and Innovation (March 11 to 12, 2019). The purpose of the event was to promote awareness of the importance of gender equality in STI, and present the work of UN agencies members of the IATT in support of the achievement of SDG 5 on Gender Equality. Furthermore, in the margin of the Fourth STI Forum (May 14 and 15, 2019), ITU, WIPO and UNESCO organized an Exhibition on Women and Science, Technology and Innovation. The Exhibition showcased portraits and stories of exceptional women from around the world who made significant achievements advancing STI and, in doing so, served as role models for women and girls to enter STEM areas.

iii. TFM Online Platform

141. WIPO is actively participating in the IATT Sub-Group on the Online Platform (OLP). WIPO agreed to connect WIPO GREEN, WIPO Re:Search and WIPO Match to the OLP. WIPO interacted with UNDESA and other UN bodies involved in the process to discuss and agree on the technical arrangements.

IV. Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development

142. WIPO continued to participate in the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development and provided input in the 2019 Financing for Sustainable Development Report.

V. South-South Cooperation (SSC)

143. WIPO participated in the preparatory process of the UN SSC (BAPA+40) which led to the adoption in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on March 22, 2019, of an outcome document urging greater South-South Cooperation to achieve Sustainable Development by enhancing collaboration to address changing political landscape and resource constraints.

WIPO has been participating with other UN agencies in the drafting of a UN System-wide Strategy document on South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

VI. Inter-Agency Analytical Team for Good Practices on the Sustainable Development Goals (IAAT)

144. WIPO is a member of the Inter-Agency Analytical Team for Good Practices on the Sustainable Development Goals. The UN IAAT was established following the launch of a global call for submissions by stakeholders of good practices, success stories and lessons learned in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals by UNDESA. More than 600 submissions were received.

145. In 2019, the IAAT examined and analyzed submissions to determine whether they should be included in the good practices database and supported the identification of good practices to be showcased in reports and special events in 2019 – particularly for the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

VII. Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAED-SDGs)

146. WIPO attended the tenth Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAED-SDGs) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from October 21 to 24, 2019. The meeting reviewed the tier classification of indicators, shared experiences on the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, and discussed the workplan and next steps.

VIII. UNCTAD eCommerce Week

147. The fifth edition of the UNCTAD eCommerce Week took place at the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG) from April 1 to 5, 2019, with the theme *From Digitalization to Development*. WIPO, as an eTrade for All initiative member, contributed to IP-related sessions, for example on “Intellectual property and development in the digital economy”, “Capacity Building with Respect to the DNS and Domain Names” and the “Digital Economy and the Creative Industries”.

IX. The World Summit on Information Society (WSIS)

148. Coinciding with the theme of the World IP Day 2019, WIPO organized a session on Capturing Value in the Sport Industry: The Role of IPRs, during the WSIS Forum, which took place in Geneva from April 8 to 12, 2019. The session set out links between IP and sport for example, IP as a major contributor to the enhancement of performance equipment in the sports industry and IP as a means of optimizing economic benefits for the sport industry. It also discussed information and communication technologies (ICTs) based on IP that are fueling

sports innovation. This forum was an opportunity for sporting industry stakeholders to share their perspectives.

X. IP and Tourism

149. WIPO worked closely with the pilot countries (Egypt, Ecuador, Namibia and Sri Lanka) and is currently working with UNWTO in producing a joint-publication on IP, Tourism and Sustainable Development.

XI. 14th Internet Governance Forum Meeting

150. WIPO continued to actively engage in the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and participated in the fourteenth meeting of IGF, which took place in Berlin, Germany, from November 25 to 29, 2019, under the theme *One World, One Net, One Vision*. WIPO partnered with FIAPF (International Federation of Film Producers Associations) to co-organize a workshop on Inclusion and Representation as an Enabling Content growth. This workshop discussed how locally relevant content facilitates internet adoption and digital inclusion by creating meaningful online spaces for communities and the corresponding role of the copyright system and other regulatory mechanisms. WIPO also contributed to a session organized by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) on Public Service, how media could fix the cyberspace, which covered a range of issues related to the essential conditions that are needed for providing a “Public Service Internet”. WIPO also took part in the 2019 edition of the IGF Best Practice Forum on Local Content that focused on how to create an enabling environment for the creation and dissemination of local content as well as identifying good practices for the promotion and preservation of linguistic diversity, cultural heritage and local content.

XII. UNFCCC Processes

151. WIPO continued to follow the UNFCCC process, in particular the discussions taking place on technology development and transfer. WIPO attended the Climate Action Summit convened to encourage commitments in line with the Paris Agreement. WIPO also participated as an Observer in the twelfth and thirteenth meetings of the Advisory Board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) (Copenhagen, March 27 to 29, 2019 and Paris from September 11 to 13, 2019) and in the eighteen and nineteen meetings of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) (Copenhagen, March 25 to 27, 2019, and Bonn, September 16 to 19, 2019). Additionally, WIPO was represented at the intersessional Climate Change Conference that took place in Bonn from June 17 to 27, 2019.

XIII. COP25 (December 2 to 13, 2019)

152. WIPO participated actively in UNFCCC Climate Change Conference (COP25/CMP15/CMA2) in Madrid from December 2 to 13, 2019. WIPO co-organized side events with INAPI of Chile, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on Accelerating Innovation and technology transfer in support of climate smart agriculture: what role for intellectual Property Rights. WIPO also participated in a side-event on driving innovation for low emission industrialization via digital technologies, partnerships and new business models (SDG9). In addition, WIPO jointly organized with UNIDO and Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN), a side event on Accelerating Global Climate Technology Collaboration and Partnership.

XIV. Trilateral Cooperation on Public Health, IP and Trade

153. The Trilateral Cooperation on Public Health, IP and Trade among WHO, WIPO and WTO contributes to enhancing the empirical and factual information basis for policy makers at the

intersection of these three domains, and supports them in addressing public health in relation to IP and trade.

154. WIPO participated on October 31, 2019, in the eighth trilateral symposium on Cutting-Edge Health Technologies: Opportunities and Challenges, held at WTO headquarters. The symposium discussed how scientific progress and advances in health technologies have contributed to unprecedented improvements in health outcomes and pointed to significant challenges such as the unequal distribution of gains in life expectancy and quality of life among low, middle and high-income countries. The Symposium marked ten years of trilateral cooperation.

155. The three organizations also participated in mutual training events, such as the WTO Trade and Public Health Workshop (November 11 to 15, 2019). WIPO contributed to several sessions of the Workshop, such as on the IP system as a key factor for innovation in the pharmaceutical sector and on IP policy options to further global access to health technologies. The three organizations also made presentations in the WIPO-WTO Advanced Course on IP for Government Officials (Geneva, March 11 to 22, 2019), the WIPO-WTO Colloquium for IP Teachers and Researchers (June 17 to 29, 2019), and the regional workshop on public health, IP and public markets for the West African Economic and monetary Union (UEMOA) countries, held in Senegal, July 2 to 4, 2019.

156. WIPO was represented in the United Nations Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and contributed to the development of the Group's Report to the UN Secretary-General in April 2019.

157. WIPO also participated in the 13th Meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (UNIATF-NCD), which brings together 40 UN agencies to support governments tackle NCDs.

158. WIPO will continue in 2020 to monitor, follow and provide, as required, inputs to the different processes and discussions on the implementation of the SDGs.

C. THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY WIPO TO MEMBER STATES UPON THEIR REQUEST

159. Article (3) of the MoU between WIPO and the United Arab Emirates, signed in 2018, on Areas of Cooperation states that projects and activities covered by FIT/UAE will ...*"contribute to the efforts exerted by WIPO in promoting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 9..."*. To this end, two activities were implemented in 2019 under FIT/UAE:

- a. *"Dialogue on Utilizing the IP System for Economic, Social and Cultural Development in the Digital Era – Japan and Selected Arab Countries"*, Tokyo, Japan, October 28 and 29, 2019. The main objectives of the Dialogue were to exchange views and information on IP Policy and strategic considerations relating to the current international circumstances and emerging trends in the field of intellectual property, as well as identify best practices to utilize the IP system and infrastructure for economic, social and cultural development. The Dialogue also aimed to explore possible areas of cooperation for establishing modern and effective IP systems. It contributed towards the implementation and achievement of SDGs 9 and 17;
- b. ABC Capacity Building Project Agreement with *Ibsar* NGO in Tunisia. The project aims to build the capacity of organizations representing people with print disabilities, as well as Tunisian publishers. This project contributed towards the implementation of SDG 9, 10 and 17.

160. “Supporting Women’s Entrepreneurship in Iraq”: Project proposal submitted in September 2019, by the Ministry of Industry and Minerals of Iraq, with an explicit reference to SDGs 5 and 9. The project aims to strengthen women’s participation in economic activity and foster their role in the labor market. WIPO’s technical assistance in this regard is planned in 2020, in consultation with the Ministry of Industry and Minerals of Iraq, and should support the national authorities’ measures taken to develop the proper mechanisms and policies by including the promotion of women’s entrepreneurship culture, and should contribute towards the achievement of SDGs 5 and 9 in Iraq.

161. The CDIP is invited to consider the information contained in this document.