

Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)

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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 the contribution of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their associated targets¹. The report responds to the decision taken by the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) at its 18th 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 sixth report submitted to the CDIP pursuant to that request. Based on the structure contained in the above-mentioned decision, the report provides an update for 2021 of the SDG-related:
 - (a) activities and initiatives undertaken individually by WIPO,
 - (b) activities undertaken by WIPO as part of the United Nations System, and
 - (c) assistance provided by WIPO to its Member States at their request.
3. As a specialized agency of the United Nations, WIPO continues to be fully engaged in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda within its mandate and is determined to support the achievement of SDGs, in particular by promoting a balanced and effective IP system that encourages innovation and creativity and facilitates the flow of knowledge and technical expertise in and among countries. The Organization's Development Agenda continues to guide its contribution to the realization of the SDGs. Innovation, and therefore SDG 9, is at the heart of WIPO's mission and vision. Innovation and creativity, however, are key to achieving many

¹ The list of SDGs and associated targets is available here: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

other SDGs and related targets. WIPO's services, programs and assistance are hence relevant for the 2030 Agenda at multiple levels, as explained below.

A. ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN INDIVIDUALLY BY THE ORGANIZATION

I. GENDER EQUALITY AND REDUCTION OF INEQUALITIES

4. Gender equality is both a specific SDG (5) and mainstreamed across all other goals. It is also both an enabler and an accelerator of the 2030 Agenda. Drawing on such crosscutting nature of gender equality, WIPO has continued to embrace a two-pronged approach. On the one hand, gender mainstreaming means assessing any planned action, policy or program, to determine their implications for women and men, across all areas of WIPO's work, both programmatic and non-programmatic. On the other hand, gender-specific actions target one group (generally either men or women) to bridge disparities, sensitize and engage, with the purpose of lifting up that group from its position of disadvantage. WIPO has continued to work on both approaches synergistically. WIPO's work in this area continued to be coordinated by a Gender and Diversity Specialist, and supported by a network of gender focal points (GFPs) distributed across all WIPO Programs. In 2021, the network was significantly expanded and GFPs received training on gender-related topics.

5. Growing evidence suggests that reducing multidimensional inequalities within and between countries is not only an important goal in itself, following the principle of "leaving no one behind", but it is also instrumental in ensuring inclusive progress, improved economic efficiency, increased productivity and environmental sustainability. As all of these have implications for gender equality, it is evident how SDG 5 and SDG 10 are closely connected and mutually reinforcing. For this reason, these two Goals continued to be crosscutting topics throughout WIPO's Program and Budget.

II. CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD SECURITY

6. WIPO continued to make tangible contributions to the SDGs through WIPO GREEN, which brings together key players to catalyze green technology innovation and diffusion through its database, network and acceleration projects. SDG 17, recognizing the importance of partnerships and setting the target of promoting the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies, is at the core of WIPO GREEN's mission, structure and activities. WIPO's activities in this area also extend to other SDGs, such as 2, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 15.

7. In 2021, the new WIPO GREEN database went live. Over 125,000 green technologies, needs and experts from over 156 countries are currently listed in the database. The number of registered database users grew to over 2,000 in 2021 and 17 private and public institutions joined WIPO GREEN, bringing the total number of partners to 136. Since its 2013 launch, the platform has facilitated more than 800 connections among network members. In 2021, 17 organizations joined WIPO GREEN.² In collaboration with WIPO's IP for Business Division, WIPO GREEN hosted an IP Management Clinic, providing expert advice to eight green technology SMEs, including two companies from Brazil and one Ukrainian company. As a

² Ajinomoto Co., Inc.; Amazon Web Services; astamuse company, Ltd.; Austria Wirtschaftsservice Gesellschaft mbH (aws); Furukawa Electric Co., Ltd; Global Mobility Service Inc.; HINODE SANGYO CO. LTD.; Kai Corporation; Kyushu Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI); Mitsubishi Electric Corporation; PONS IP; Portuguese Institute of Industrial Property; Ricoh Company, Ltd.; The University of Tokyo; Tohoku University; Tokyo Institute of Technology, Open Innovation Platform; Yamagata University.

project outcome, an IP management checklist for SMEs was published³. In addition, in December 2021, WIPO GREEN released its new *Global Challenges Brief: Progress in hydrogen fuel cell technology development and deployment in China* (SDG 7)⁴.

8. Work continued to progress in the context of WIPO's Acceleration Projects. In line with SDG 2, the Acceleration Project on Climate Smart Agriculture is carried out in cooperation with different Latin American institutions. Originally implemented as a short-term activity, the project is now in its second phase. In addition, 2021 saw Peru join the project, further strengthening participation in the regional initiative. New activities under the second phase include conducting sectoral studies that will help to identify major innovators, technologies and demands in specific areas, as well as green technology business matchmaking events. There are currently 115 technology solutions and 70 needs uploaded to the WIPO GREEN database's LAC Climate Smart Agriculture Collection (cumulative) and 51 technologies and 43 needs have been added to the database or updated. In addition, catalogues of needs and technologies are currently being drafted in the beneficiary countries.

9. In line with SDG 12, an Acceleration Project on the treatment and valorization of palm oil mill effluent (POME) continued to be implemented in Indonesia. 19 needs and 23 technologies were identified and are available in the POME collection. Two letters of intent were signed and the project led to a deal between a palm oil mill and a provider of a decomposition system. The project culminated in a catalogue on available technology options for the treatment and valorization of palm oil mill effluent.⁵ A third Acceleration Project was launched in China with the aim of seeking solutions to environmental needs in cities. Those 10 climate change needs include energy, water, pollution and waste challenges and can be found in the China Cities collection, along with 30 related technologies.⁶ The Project contributed to the achievement of SDG 11.

10. WIPO has also continued to address environmental responsibility at an internal level, including by preserving biodiversity on WIPO's campus (a landmark park with century-old oak trees, three vegetation roofs with local plants and herbs, several species of trees and other exterior plantations, and interior gardens), thus contributing to SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12 and 13. The "environment" criterion, which was introduced as one of several criteria for assessing and implementing renovations and maintenance of premises and technical facilities on the WIPO campus, has continued to be systematically considered. Main illustrations of this include the following topics which are an integral part of the annual program of work: 100 per cent local hydroelectricity provision, LED light fixtures and presence detection to reduce electricity consumption, cooling using the Lake Geneva water system, waste management system with sorting and recycling corresponding to various materials, and water consumption management.

11. In addition, from 2021 onwards WIPO started to require all potential bidders – in order to be eligible in a procurement process – to certify that they have a strong commitment in terms of sustainability and to provide a copy of their company policy. WIPO has continued its active participation in the "2050Today" initiative aimed at achieving zero emissions in the Canton of Geneva by 2050, under the auspices of the host country at the federal and cantonal levels, including a number of international intergovernmental organizations, local public and private sectors and NGOs. WIPO has also been actively participating (since 2010) in the "GreeningtheBlue" collection of carbon and other emissions data through the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), as one of over 50 UN agencies and programs, and has

³ The checklist is available here: <https://www.wipo.int/sme/en/checklist.html>

⁴ The Brief is available here: <https://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4583>

⁵ The Catalogue is available here: <https://www3.wipo.int/wipogreen/en/pdf/wipogreen-pome-technology-catalog-winrock-Sep-30-2021.pdf>

⁶ Publication available here: https://wipogreen.wipo.int/wipogreen-database/search?pagination.page=0&pagination.size=10&sort.0.field=CREATED_AT&sort.0.direction=DESC&query.Filters.0.field=COLLECTION&query.Filters.0.value=138827

continued (since 2014) to compensate its remaining unavoidable emissions by purchasing credits through the UN-wide mechanism managed by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

III. GLOBAL HEALTH

12. WIPO's work in the area of global health continued to advance the SDGs throughout 2021. Significant provisions of SDGs 3 and 17 are built into the partnership WIPO Re: Search, a pioneering consortium to fight Neglected Tropical Diseases, malaria and tuberculosis. Additionally, the Consortium prioritizes engagement of scientists and institutions in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in its collaboration and fellowship activities. By providing LMIC partners with access to Research and Development (R&D) resources and know-how not readily available in their countries, WIPO Re:Search enhances their capacity to conduct innovative research in furtherance of SDG 9.

13. In 2021, WIPO Re:Search counted 144 members, representing 46 countries from 6 continents, and including more than 60 members based in low-and middle-income countries. So far, WIPO Re:Search has brokered 173 collaborative research projects. Eleven organizations joined WIPO Re:Search in 2021.⁷ In 2021, the WIPO Re:Search Fellowship Program, funded by the Government of Australia, trained eight researchers from Africa and the Indo-Pacific region in drug R&D, molecular biology techniques and intellectual property management, to increase their scientific and research capacity.

14. In addition, WIPO's Pat-INFORMED database -an initiative of WIPO, the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations, and 20 leading, research-based biopharmaceutical companies- provides a search engine and open-access database to facilitate easy access for procurement agencies and the public about the patent status of medicines. At the end of 2021, Pat-INFORMED contained 232 International Nonproprietary Names (also known as generic names for pharmaceutical substances or active pharmaceutical ingredients), 660 patent families, and 21,492 patents. This initiative contributes to SDGs 3, 9 and 17.

IV. INNOVATION, PATENTS AND TECHNOLOGY

15. The work of the Organization in the area of Innovation, Patents and Technology contributes mainly to SDG 9, by spurring the dissemination of technical information and promoting an enabling environment for innovation.

a. The Patent Cooperation Treaty and related services

16. The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) helps applicants to seek patent protection for an invention simultaneously in a large number of countries by filing a single "international" patent application. In so doing, the PCT –and hence WIPO– supports the international dissemination of technical information relating to innovations via a freely accessible repository.

17. WIPO's PATENTSCOPE database⁸ gives access to over 100 million searchable inventions, including all published PCT applications and 73 national and regional patent collections of participating IP Offices. In 2021, 263,280 new PCT applications (containing the disclosure of the invention) were made available on PATENTSCOPE, an average of more than 5,000 every week. Following the introduction in 2020 of a feature to link PCT publications to other documents in the same patent family (i.e. patent publications representing the same

⁷ Anchor University Lagos (AUL); Global Healthcare Innovation Alliance Accelerator (GHIAA); Institute of Science and Technology (INSTech); Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW); National Hansen's Disease Program (NHDP); Public Health Institute (PHI); Universidad de Antioquia; Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia; University of Nebraska Medical Center; University of Rwanda (UR); University of the Republic of Uruguay.

⁸ [Patentscope Search](#)

invention with a common priority application), this feature was extended to cover families of patent documents linked by priorities through the Paris route.

18. The indexing of Markush definitions was added to PATENTSCOPE in 2021, making it possible to search chemical compounds within patent documents by any name in the text of a patent application, by a drawing of the structure, or when they fall within a Markush definition included in the application. This addition makes a Markush search facility available free-of-charge for the first time worldwide. The availability of the database on the Internet free of charge facilitates increased access to patent information, in particular, and contributes to the implementation of SDG 9, and specifically target 9.c.

19. By providing technical assistance to Member States to develop their patent system and leverage the IP system for social, economic and cultural development, the Organization also continued to support and foster innovation. Technical assistance programs include PCT-specific activities. In 2021, WIPO organized or participated in 76 PCT-related events for the benefit of developing countries and LDCs, such as online PCT seminars and workshops. Depending on the needs and situation of the beneficiary countries, these activities were aimed at officials of IP offices (SDG 9.b), but also at researchers (SDG 9.5), micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) (SDG 9.3) and educators. Delivered remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these activities attracted more participants from a wider range of locations (nearly 7,500 participants from 80 different countries). Challenges in the remote delivery of training on PCT information technology (IT) tools and services had to be addressed, in particular in developing countries and LDCs, owing to technical constraints. Further detailed information on the coordination of technical assistance under the PCT can be found in the document presented to the 2021 PCT Working Group entitled “Coordination of Technical Assistance under the PCT”.⁹

20. WIPO’s work in the area of patents also contributes to the 2030 Agenda through other means, such as by offering discounts amounting to 90 per cent of the international filing fee and certain other fees for international applications filed by natural persons from developing countries and all applicants from LDCs (SDG 9.3); or providing a number of services for the purpose of preparing, filing and managing PCT international applications electronically (SDGs 9 and 10). The online portal e-PCT facilitates the filing of PCT applications, especially for applicants from developing countries and small offices that may not be able to install their own electronic filing systems. In 2021, two major versions of ePCT were released with new features and enhancements for applicants. By the end of the year, 98 offices had access to ePCT office services (including 81 offices using the browser-based ePCT office services as their main tool for processing international applications in their role as receiving Office; and 73 offices offering ePCT-filing to their customers to file new international applications online) and the eSearchCopy service was in use in all possible pairs (349) of receiving offices and international searching authorities.

21. In addition, the WIPO Centralized Access to Search and Examination (CASE) system enables participating patent offices to securely share documentation related to patent applications. This enables patent examiners to increase the quality and efficiency of their work by sharing technical information that might not otherwise be accessible to them. WIPO CASE is currently in use in 38 participating IP offices and more than 100,000 documents are exchanged each year.

⁹ Document PCT/WG/14/17 lists all the activities delivered and planned as at June 2, 2021. Available at: [Coordination of Technical Assistance under the PCT](#)

22. In line with SDG 17, WIPO continued to enhance cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation through its partnerships Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI) and Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI). ARDI provides access to nearly 58,000 subscription-based scientific and technical journals, books, and reference works to eligible developing countries and territories with nearly 2,350 institutions actively using ARDI worldwide. ASPI is another public-private partnership administered by WIPO made possible through the cooperation of leading patent information providers. It allows access to free or low-cost access to sophisticated tools and services for retrieving and analyzing patent data to eligible developing countries and territories and has nearly 70 active institutional users.

b. Patent law

23. The Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) continued to serve as a forum for discussing issues, facilitating coordination and providing guidance on the progressive international development of patent law. Its work contributes to reducing the information asymmetry among Member States in the complex area of patent law and informing the decision-making process of Member States in formulating their national patent policy, law and practices, thus addressing SDGs 9 and 10. In 2021, the Committee sessions were held in a hybrid format with truncated working hours, which posed challenges in terms of deliberations but allowed for a higher number of participants. The Committee produced a number of documents and studies relating to various aspects of substantive and procedural patent law, including policy considerations and practical implementation of laws. In addition, it held a number of sharing sessions during which Member States shared information on their respective laws and practices, as well as their experiences in implementing the laws. In 2021, a sharing session on the use of artificial intelligence for the examination of patent applications was held. Furthermore, the Committee continued to receive updates on the initiatives on publicly accessible databases of patent status information concerning medicines and vaccines.

24. By providing legislative advice to Member States in the area of patents, utility models, layout designs of integrated circuits and trade secrets, WIPO also continued contributing to SDGs 8 and 9, and in particular to the achievement of targets 8.3, 9.5 and 9.b. A legislative framework on patents and related forms of IP, aimed to protect intangible assets in the field of technology is an essential step to support local innovation. The resulting technological advancements not only benefit society, but also constitute the core of new business activities. In 2021, WIPO provided legislative and policy advice to 21 developing countries and LDCs (4 in the African region, 4 in the Arab region, 4 in Asia and the Pacific, 9 in Latin America and the Caribbean) in the above areas. Such assistance supported WIPO Member States to develop or amend their own legislative framework in the form and to the extent requested by them: by commenting on drafts submitted for review, or by developing new drafts (laws, implementing regulations, administrative instructions, and manuals). Such tailored advisory activities continuously took into account, among others, the requesting Member States' own level of development, policy priorities and international obligations.

c. Support to innovators

25. In addition, WIPO strives to provide innovators of its Member States with access to locally-based, high-quality technology information and related services through its networks of Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs). These networks have been established in 88 countries with over 1,300 individual TISCs hosted in institutions such as universities, research and development centers, etc. They help innovators exploit their potential and create, protect, and manage their IP rights. In 2021, training was given virtually in 24 WIPO Member States at their request. In addition, one regional meeting for Central Asian Republics was held and the very first Global TISC Conference took place in November 2021 with nearly 1,000 participants from 98 countries. The Conference featured presentations and panel discussions with leading experts in IP management, technology transfer, and technology entrepreneurship

as well as representatives from numerous advanced TISC networks. Best practices and experiences in patent search, analytics and other related areas are also shared by TISCs through a virtual network provided through the eTISC platform.

26. WIPO has developed a number of initiatives, publications, training materials and tools designed to help TISCs access and make effective use of valuable scientific and technical information. The WIPO INSPIRE (Index of Specialized Patent Information Reports) platform provides inventors, researchers and entrepreneurs with clear, accurate and objective information on patent databases, in particular their documentation coverage, as well as their search and analysis functionalities, in order to be able to identify and use the most appropriate patent database. The number of patent database reports continued to grow and reached 38 reports in 2021.

27. The WIPO Technology Trends (WITT) report on Assistive Technology to support persons with functional limitations to participate in all aspects of life was published in 2021, covering seven domains: mobility, hearing, vision, cognition, communication, the built environment and self-care, including conventional and emerging assistive products. The launch of the WITT also included access to an interactive and accessible platform showing the technology readiness, number of patents, ease of adoption and expected impact on assistive technologies.

V. TRADEMARKS, DESIGNS AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS

28. The work of the Organization in the area of trademarks, designs and geographical indications continued to contribute mainly to the attainment of SDGs 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 16 and 17.

a. Legislative advice

29. During the reporting period, in line with SDGs 8, 9, 10 and 16, WIPO continued to provide demand-driven and tailored legislative advice in this field to Member States, with a particular focus on developing countries, LDCs and countries in transition. The Organization responded to 16 such requests from 11 countries, located in five different geographical regions. In addition, WIPO provided legislative advice to prospective and current Members of the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (STLT), sharing information and experience on legal, technical and institutional aspects regarding the implementation of the Treaty and opportunities resulting therefrom. During 2021, WIPO provided this type of assistance to Albania, Bahrain, Fiji, and Uruguay, supporting SDGs 4 and 16. The Organization also continued to broaden the geographical coverage of the Treaty, to further simplify the trademark registration procedures worldwide, contributing to SDGs 9, 10 and 16.

b. International Nonproprietary Names for Pharmaceutical Substances

30. 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),¹⁰ enabling the exchange of information contained in the WHO INN Global Data Hub and the WIPO Global Brand Database (GBD). The replacement of previous paper circulars and hard carriers (CD-ROMs) for electronic communications further contributes to SDG 13.

31. As a result, 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. Due to 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. In addition, National

¹⁰ Memorandum of Understanding between WIPO and WHO, connecting WHO INN Global Data Hub and the GBD, concluded in 2018.

Pharmacopeia Commissions and Experts in the naming of pharmaceuticals can 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.

32. Furthermore, in response to the sanitary emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, a Special Edition, containing proposed INN names to be used as active ingredients of vaccines against variants of the SARS-CoV-2 severe acute respiratory syndrome, was published on the WIPO GBD as List No. 125, on June 14, 2021.

c. Global IP Systems and related services

33. Through the Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems¹¹, WIPO simplifies the application process and reduces cost of obtaining an international protection of trademarks, industrial designs and GIs. In so doing, the Organization promotes inclusive and sustainable development, contributing to the attainment of SDG 8.

34. During the reporting period, the Organization took steps to increase the use and geographic scope of international IP registration systems, with a particular focus on developing countries and LDCs. In this context, the Madrid Registry provided technical assistance to more than 20 countries, as part of their preparations for future accession to the Madrid Protocol.¹² In addition, technical advice on electronic communication with Madrid System was offered to IP Offices, providing them with access to Madrid Office Portal tool and enabling to receive and communicate notifications under the Madrid System. In 2021, two¹³ IP Offices were granted such access, increasing the total number of portal users to 100. At the same time, the Hague Registry assisted more than 20 countries with preparations for their accession to the 1999 Act of the Hague Agreement.¹⁴ Several Member States of the ARIPO¹⁵ have expressed interest in joining the Hague System.

35. In addition, demand-driven legislative advice continued to be provided to prospective and current members of the Madrid, the Hague and the Lisbon systems on interoperability of their legislation and IP Office procedures with the mentioned Systems' legal frameworks and procedures. In 2021, the Madrid Registry offered legislative advice to 11 countries¹⁶, while the Hague Registry offered legislative advice to seven countries¹⁷.

36. The year 2021 marked the amendments to the Common Regulations under the 1999 Act and the 1960 Act of the Hague Agreement, which entered into force to ensure that all users of the Hague System benefit from receiving electronic communication from WIPO. The Hague Union Assembly, which convened in October 2021, adopted further amendments to the Common Regulations, including (i) extension of the standard publication period from 6 to 12 months; (ii) relaxation of the requirements for the recording of a change in ownership where the request is presented by the new owner; and (iii) relaxation of requirements for excuse of delay

¹¹ More information about the Systems can be found at: www.wipo.int/madrid/en/; www.wipo.int/hague/en/; and www.wipo.int/lisbon/en/.

¹² The countries include Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Cape Verde, Chile, Ethiopia, Fiji, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Malta, Mauritius, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Tuvalu and the United Republic of Tanzania.

¹³ Namely, Jamaica and Pakistan.

¹⁴ These include Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Curaçao, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Philippines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe, and one intergovernmental organization, namely, Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO).

¹⁵ In particular, Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Sierra Leone.

¹⁶ Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Gambia, Guernsey, Hong Kong SAR (China), Jamaica, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates.

¹⁷ Brazil, China, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and Tunisia.

in meeting time limits to perform an action before the International Bureau, due to a *force majeure* event, such as COVID-19. Moreover, the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs, held in December 2021, considered the possible introduction of new languages into the Hague System, among other topics, and agreed to continue to discuss that topic at the next session.

37. To further simplify the application processing, online solutions, e-services, how-to videos, yearly statistical reviews and tailored educational resources were periodically updated and made available on WIPO's website to assist trademark and design users throughout the life cycle of an international application. For example, online interfaces for international applications for Madrid and Hague systems, namely Madrid e-Filing and *eHague*, continued to offer applicants easily accessible means and step-by-step guidance on how to digitally and securely file international applications and renew international registrations. In 2021, four IP Offices¹⁸ joined the Madrid e-Filing service, increasing the total number of participating Offices to 15. Moreover, technical assistance was provided to Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region, China, to establish e-Filing service and bi-directional electronic communication with WIPO.

38. WIPO further contributed to the attainment of 2030 Agenda by offering 90 per cent reduction for the international filing fee and certain other fees for applications filed by brand and/or design owners from developing countries.

d. Capacity-building and awareness-raising

39. To raise awareness of and increase knowledge about the effective use of trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications, as well as the benefits of international IP registrations systems, the Organization expanded the range, reach and accessibility of its technical assistance and capacity building activities, supporting SDGs 4, 5, 9 and 10. Examples of such activities include: (i) organization of the *Worldwide Symposium of Geographical Indications* and the *Virtual Exhibition on Geographical Indications*; (ii) development and launch of the specialized distance learning (DL) course on the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks (DL-303);¹⁹ (iii) organization of tailored workshops and trainings, focusing on specific target markets and stakeholders, such as training series on the Madrid System for Alibaba SME; (iv) a forum on SME Branding and Development; (v) a Webinar on the benefits of the Hague System for designers from Botswana, Ghana, Namibia, Rwanda, and Sao Tome and Principe, attended by approximately 100 participants; and (vi) a Webinar on the Hague System for students in the Master of Laws in IP program of Ankara University in Turkey.

40. A rising interest from developing countries and LDCs towards international registration of appellations of origin (AO) and GIs was mirrored in the increased share of international registrations from those countries.²⁰ The collective quality scheme linked to AOs and GIs contribute further to rural and local development, food safety, export promotion, and local tourism. In 2021, the Lisbon Registry undertook, upon request by WIPO Member States, technical assistance and capacity building activities, which directly contributed to the achievement of SDGs 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12 and 15. Those activities aimed at assisting competent authorities and interested stakeholders in integrating local communities and producers in the global economy, through identification, development and protection of sustainable AOs and GIs. Examples of GI and branding projects are "Koh Trung Pomelo", "Kampot (Sea) Salt" and

¹⁸ Islamic Republic of Iran, Spain, Turkey, and Ukraine

¹⁹ The course was developed by the Madrid Registry in cooperation with the IP Australia and with the support of the WIPO Academy. It provides a detailed overview of the Madrid System, including its benefits, core principles and various operational processes.

²⁰ The share of international registrations from developing countries and LDCs increased from 6.6 per cent in 2008 to 15 per cent in 2021.

“Kampot Flower Salt” projects in Cambodia, “Madd de Casamance” project in Senegal and “Riz de Kovié” project in Togo.

VI. COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS

41. WIPO’s activities in the area of copyright continued to contribute to the 2030 Agenda at multiple levels.

a. Technical assistance and capacity building

42. During 2021, technical assistance and capacity building activities in the area of copyright continued to be guided by the SDGs (especially 4, 8 and 9) and adapted to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in the developing world. Emphasis was given to more effective use of IP to support growth and development of developing countries and LDCs, enhancing institutional and human capacities, increasing copyright knowledge and skills through the organization of practical training and coaching programs. These programs were also aimed at supporting the work of national copyright offices and enabling more creators, creative communities, managers of creative SMEs and cultural institutions leverage copyright successfully as well as contributing to sustainable cultural, social and economic development of their countries.

43. The programs were tailor-made and implemented at sectoral, national, sub-regional and regional levels. They benefitted a high number of countries from different geographical regions. Some of the programs were designed to address the specific needs of young and new creators and managers of creative enterprises and startup companies in developing countries and LDCs. Webinars, trainings, seminars, workshops and other activities were carried out to build capacity and raise awareness about a variety of topics: collective management of copyright and related rights; copyright infrastructure; supervision and monitoring of collective management organizations; methodologies and practices to set tariff schemes in the music field; collective management and private copying; or designing of gender equality plans for copyright policy makers.

44. WIPO further enhanced the implementation of capacity building programs and projects within the Publishers Circle initiative aimed at supporting the development of local publishing industry in developing countries and LDCs. By the end of 2021, the Charter of the Publishers Circle had been signed by over 150 governmental and non-governmental international and national organizations, publishers, libraries and other partners, confirming continuing broad support for the public and private partnership initiative. Trainings and coaching programs continued to be delivered during the reporting period.

45. In addition, a series of publications were made available during the reporting period: a Guide on Teaching Copyright and Related Rights; a Guide on Training in Copyright and Related Rights; two model curriculum on copyright; an updated version of the WIPO Good Practice Toolkit for Collective Management Organizations²¹. These materials may be used to increase knowledge and skills in the field of copyright and creative industries, especially in developing countries and LDCs (SDG 4).

46. The ongoing Development Agenda Projects on “Copyright and the Distribution of Content in the Digital Environment” and “Enhancing the use of IP for mobile apps in the software sector” continued their implementation, while preparatory work started for the DA Project on “Development of the Music Sector and New Economic Models of Music in Burkina Faso and in Certain Countries of the West African Monetary Economic and Union (WAEMU)”. In addition, the Organization continued to undertake technical assistance, capacity building and awareness

²¹ The publication is available here: <https://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4561&plang=EN>

raising in the following areas that were previously the focus of several DA projects: copyright documentation systems (including by releasing a Report on Voluntary Copyright Registration Systems²²), open licensing and open source software, and public sector information.

b. Copyright law and legislative advice

47. WIPO's Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) met once (41st session) in hybrid format during 2021. The Committee agenda included the topics of limitations and exceptions for libraries, archives, and museums, for educational and research institutions, and for persons with disabilities. It was agreed to organize an information session on the topic of the impact of Covid-19 on the cultural, creative and educational ecosystem, including copyright, related rights, and limitations and exceptions, during the week of the 42nd session of the Committee. By facilitating SCCR discussions, WIPO continued to support SDGs 4 and 17.

48. In addition, the Organization provided legislative assistance to requesting Member States, taking into account the international legal framework, including its built-in flexibilities. A total of 27 developing and least developed countries (7 in Asia and the Pacific, 7 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1 in the Arab region, 12 in Africa) and 3 countries with economies in transition received advice in this period. In addition, 20 pieces of legislative advice were provided on collective management of copyright and related rights (8 for Africa; 2 for ASPAC; 2 for CACEEC; 3 for CEBS and Group B; and 5 for GRULAC). The provision of such assistance contributed to the implementation of SDGs 8 and 9 as it creates a favorable framework for the development of the creative industries and consequently for economic growth.

c. Accessible Book Consortium (ABC)

49. The WIPO-led ABC continued its work to bring together key players, such as 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. During the reporting period, the ABC advanced on its three main areas of work. First, it provided training and technical assistance on the latest book production techniques and funded the production of accessible books. As of December 2021, over 17,000 accessible educational books had been produced in 27 countries through funding provided by ABC. In 2021, WIPO also partnered with the DAISY Consortium to develop an online course on accessible book production. The course was completed by over 100 trainees from 46 partner organizations in the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Lesotho, Mali, Malawi, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, Palestine, Peru, and Senegal in 2021. As a direct consequence of the Course, nearly 3,500 educational books in accessible formats were produced in 2021.

50. Second, ABC continued to provide the Global Book Service, an online catalogue of books in accessible formats. At the end of 2021, 100 authorized entities (participating libraries for the blind) -47 of them in developing countries- had signed the agreement to participate in the service; and more than 730,000 titles were available for cross-border exchange. In April 2021, ABC launched the Supplementary Application ("SA"), which enables ABC authorized entities to offer to their print-disabled patrons the ability to independently search and immediately download titles from the ABC Global Book Service. As of the end of 2021, 29 authorized entities from 23 countries, including eight developing, agreed to offer the SA to their patrons.

51. Third, the ABC promoted 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 around the world are invited to sign the ABC Charter for Accessible Publishing. As of the end of 2021, 117 publishers had signed the charter, including 87 from developing countries.

²² https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=67308

52. Through its activities, ABC contributes to the production of accessible educational works (SDG 4); empowering individuals with visual disabilities (SDG 10 and specifically target 10.2); and facilitating the creation of works of particular importance to its partners' cultural heritage (SDG 11). The partnership spirit of SDG 17 is embedded in this public-private partnership.

d. WIPO for Creators

53. The consortium WIPO for Creators continued to contribute to the implementation of key SDGs as well as its partners' corporate social responsibility strategies. The mission of the consortium is to raise awareness and increase knowledge of creators' rights and related management practices, promoting recognition and fair reward for all creators regardless of their geographical, cultural or economic conditions. By doing so, WIPO for creators contributes to fair remuneration and hence decent work and economic growth (SDG 8). Through the online application Creators Platforms (under development during the reporting period), it will contribute to improving rights data flow and management across the creative value chain (SDG 9). The partnership spirit behind SDG 17 is also evidently present in this initiative.

e. Initiatives in response to COVID-19

54. In the context of the implementation of WIPO's COVID-19 response, preparations for several projects in the area of copyright were launched with the aim of increasing the availability of textbooks as a remedy to isolation, contributing to pandemic preparedness in the area of access to information and facilitation of digitization of materials of museums and libraries to increase access for students, or building digital skills and expertise of cultural heritage professionals. These projects contribute to the realization of SDGs 4 and 17, since they will be facilitated through collaborative partnerships.

VII. GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND TRADITIONAL CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

55. WIPO continued to support the implementation of the SDGs through its normative, policy and capacity-building activities that address IP rights management in genetic resources (GRs) and data and the IP protection of traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs). SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 13, 14 and 15 in particular were linked to the Organization's work in this field in 2021. The partnership spirit reflected in SDG 17, and more generally in the 2030 Agenda, was present in the activities undertaken, since many were carried out in collaboration with a wide range of partners, such as National IP Offices, the International Trademark Association (INTA), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the International Trade Center (ITC), UN Women, UNFCCC, etc.

a. Training programs and other initiatives

56. In line with SDGs 2 and 15 referring to GRs and agricultural productivity, WIPO provided a specialized virtual 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. The aim was to build capacity on the use of IP systems in relation to GRs in support of innovation as a contributing factor to increased economic growth and reduction of poverty.

57. WIPO's training activities and information resources on GR, TK and TCEs also continued to contribute to the achievement of SDGs 4, 5, 8 and 11. In particular, 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 MSMEs, and target 11.4 referring to the protection of cultural heritage. These initiatives contributed towards the empowerment of indigenous 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.

58. In 2021, the mentoring phase of the *WIPO training, Mentoring and Matchmaking Program on Intellectual Property for Women Entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities* continued, and its second cycle started in October the same year. The program aims to encourage women entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity related to traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions by strengthening the capacity of indigenous and local community women entrepreneurs to make strategic and effective use of IP tools in support of their entrepreneurial activities (SDG 5).

59. In line with SDG 13 referring to combatting climate change and its impacts, the *WIPO Photography Prize for Indigenous Peoples and Local Community Youth 2021-2022* was launched. Its aim was to celebrate and make widely known the creativity of Indigenous and local community youth, as well as raise their awareness on how copyright can be used to protect their creativity expressed in the photographs. The theme of the WIPO Photography Prize was “Climate Change and Climate Action: Mother Earth through our Lenses”. Participation was meant to encourage Indigenous and local community youth to express themselves on this issue of immense global significance.

b. Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)

60. In 2021, the IGC met once and recommended to the 2021 WIPO General Assembly that the mandate of the IGC be renewed for the 2022-2023 biennium. It also recommended to the 2021 WIPO General Assembly the terms of the mandate and work program for 2022-2023. In October 2021, the WIPO General Assembly agreed on the renewal of the IGC’s mandate for the 2022-2023 biennium. The IGC will continue to expedite its work with the objective of finalizing an agreement on an international legal instrument(s), without prejudging the nature of outcome(s), relating to IP which will ensure the balanced and effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. WIPO continued to facilitate the process, which relates especially to SDGs 2, 3, 8, 14 and 15.

VIII. IP AND ECONOMICS

61. WIPO’s statistical and analytical reports contribute to promoting an effective innovation ecosystem (SDG 9). Two reports were produced in 2021.

62. The Global Innovation Index 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. In addition to the global ranking, the 2021 GII introduced a new feature –the Global Innovation Tracker– that monitors innovation trends worldwide. The 2021 Innovation Tracker focused on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the global innovation landscape.

63. The World Intellectual Property Indicators (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. The 2021 edition of the World IP Indicators described how patent filings increased by 1.6 per cent in 2020 to just under 3.3 million applications around the world; industrial design activity grew by 2 percent; and trademark activity rose by 13.7 percent. These increases occurred in a year in which global economic output fell sharply, due to the COVID-19 crisis. Asia accounts for most intellectual property

applications in the world, specifically 66.6 per cent of total patent filings, 70.9 per cent of industrial design activity and 71.8 per cent of global trademark activity.

IX. IP FOR BUSINESSES

64. WIPO's efforts to support businesses continued to contribute to the realization of several SDGs, mainly 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10.

65. SMEs play an important role in employment creation and revenue generation. Therefore, efforts to enhance innovation and competitiveness indirectly contribute to countries' economic growth and the provision of decent work to the population. Capacity building and awareness-raising activities targeting SMEs and businesses, as well as SMEs-support institutions, contribute to a more effective use of IP. This can lead to employment creation and economic growth. During the reporting period, WIPO continued to organize such activities, addressed at stakeholders from a wide variety of countries.

66. Improving the skills of those filing patent applications is indispensable for increasing the probability that local innovators find a local professional so that they can actively participate in, and benefit from, the patent system and protecting local innovation. The WIPO Patent Drafting Training Program thus contributes to SDGs 9 and 10, through the provision of a hands-on Program that focuses on the development of practical patent drafting skills where participants are guided by experienced tutors. The training in this Program continuously evolves and adapts to the needs of beneficiary countries. In 2021, the program continued to be held via virtual workshops due to the pandemic. Further, due to sustained high demand for the Program, an International Patent Drafting Training Program was prepared for launching in 2022. The program will deliver a hands-on learning experience for emerging patent professionals, where participants learn the mechanics of patent drafting and put it into practice.

67. The Inventor Assistance Program (IAP) empowers under-resourced inventors and small businesses to navigate the patent system and to transform their ideas into assets. Inventors receive support in patent drafting and prosecution process with assistance from experienced patent professionals at no cost. The Program helps inventors to obtain patents in their own country and selected jurisdictions. Securing a patent facilitates the scale-up of innovation either by the inventors themselves or through collaboration. Through IAP, WIPO thus helps to foster innovation (SDG 9) and reduce inequalities (SDG 10), while also contributing to a sustained and inclusive economic growth and decent work for all (SDG 8). In 2021, beneficiaries selected under the IAP grew by 34 per cent. Since the Program's inception, 139 beneficiaries were supported and 15 patents were granted. The program includes six IAP participating countries: Colombia, Ecuador, Morocco, South Africa, Peru, and the Philippines. Targeted events, focusing on upskilling inventors in areas identified by the Program's focal points, reached more than 450 potential beneficiaries in 2021, and contributed to the continued expansion and increased impact of the IAP.

68. Work also continued to progress in the context of the Development Agenda Project on "Increasing the Role of Women in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Encouraging Women in Developing Countries to Use the Intellectual Property System". The Project, which is in its second year of implementation, contributes to SDG 5 by supporting women entrepreneurs through trainings and other activities. During the reporting period, the *Enterprising Ideas: A Guide to Intellectual Property for Startups* was produced; a report on the national assessment was presented online to local stakeholders in one of the beneficiary countries; a virtual training on the patent system for women inventors was delivered in three of the beneficiary countries; and an international mentorship program was launched to support women inventors on how to use the IP system in their commercialization strategies.

X. IP AND THE JUDICIARIES

69. WIPO's work with national and regional judiciaries contributes to fulfilling their vital role of resolving IP disputes that carry significant consequences for governments, enterprises, communities and individuals and in assuring that the IP ecosystem is balanced and effective. This enables innovation to flourish (SDG 9) and helps to develop the human and institutional capacities of judiciaries to effectively adjudicate IP disputes within their applicable legal systems (SDG 16, particularly targets 16.3 and 16.6).

70. During the reporting period, WIPO's work with judiciaries focused on four different areas. First, the Organization continued to strive to create platforms for dialogue among national and regional judiciaries to enable the exchange of experiences and expertise on issues of common concern in the judicial adjudication of IP disputes. In 2021, the annual WIPO Intellectual Property Judges Forum brought together 360 judges from 88 countries and 6 regional jurisdictions for three days of discussion on topics related to judicial case management of IP disputes (with a special focus on patent cases in this edition). Over half of the participating judges joined from developing and least developed countries. Further, the WIPO Webinars for Judges series that had been established as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 continued in 2021, with two sessions focusing on sharing and discussing recent jurisprudence from the Caribbean region and the Court of Justice of the Andean Community, on topics of relevance to judiciaries across the world.

71. Second, WIPO continued to produce publications and other resource tools that promote an in-depth understanding of topics of relevance to the global IP judiciary, thereby informing judges in their adjudicative work, as well decision makers responsible for judicial administration structures. In particular, work advanced for the publication of: "WIPO IP Benchbook: Philippines and Viet Nam"; "WIPO International Patent Case Management Judicial Guide"; and a follow-up report to the resource jointly published by WIPO and the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) in 2019, "When Private International Law Meets Intellectual Property – A Guide for Judges"²³, that will focus on practical challenges faced by courts and litigants in cross-border intellectual property disputes.

72. Third, capacity building support continued to be provided to increase the IP knowledge and skills of judges. In 2021, in response to requests received from Member States for assistance in delivering national capacity building for the judiciary in IP dispute adjudication, WIPO delivered national training events in Albania, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Morocco and Panama, as well as a regional event in Latvia. Further to requests from Madagascar and Mali and following consultation with those Member States, a bi-national capacity building activity was implemented in those two countries. A request received from Uzbekistan was developed into a sub-regional capacity building activity that reached judges not only in Uzbekistan, but also Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. In addition to training events, WIPO responded to a request from the United Republic of Tanzania for assistance in producing a Compendium of Laws and Digest of Cases (publication expected in 2022).

73. Fourth, WIPO continued to build its collaborations with Member States to enhance WIPO Lex²⁴, a free-of-charge gateway to access IP legal information from around the world, organized into three collections: laws, treaties and judgments. In 2021, WIPO Lex expanded its Judgments collection to include leading decisions from 24 jurisdictions. In addition, the WIPO Lex Laws and Treaties collections continue to provide the most comprehensive, authoritative and reliable source of IP legal information available on the web. In 2021, WIPO Lex added 660 new laws for 74 countries, and 3 IP-related treaties. The database now contains over 16,500

²³ Publication available here: https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_1053.pdf

²⁴ <https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/index.html>

laws, covering national IP and IP-related legislation of 200 jurisdictions; and 772 IP treaties, including the 26 WIPO-administered treaties.

XI. ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION

74. The Arbitration and Mediation Center (WIPO Center) continued 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 realization of SDGs 9 and 17. Through a range of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) options outside the court system – notably mediation and arbitration, as well as domain name dispute resolution – the WIPO Center facilitates time and cost-effective resolution of disputes between private parties concerning innovation, technology, and other IP business.

75. WIPO mediation and arbitration 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. WIPO mediation and arbitration procedures can also help unburden national IP Offices and other IP authorities, including national courts. In offering these benefits, WIPO mediation and arbitration contributes to the optimal development and commercialization of IP assets in the economy, thus fostering the innovation and creativity necessary for achieving SDGs 9 and 17. The COVID-19 pandemic has further increased parties' use of the WIPO Center's efficient online case administration tools. In 2021, the WIPO Center saw an increase in the number of ADR cases that it administered: 163 mediation and arbitration cases, in addition to 100 requests for good offices, were filed with the WIPO Center, involving parties from 47 countries; and 5,128 WIPO domain name cases were filed, covering 8,770 domain names and involving parties from 132 countries.

76. In addition, the WIPO Center stepped up its offering of online seminars and training activities, which attracted some 22,500 registrants from over 150 countries. The WIPO Center strengthened its efforts to contribute to the SDGs through a number of activities, including training events for industry, legal, academic and other IP stakeholders, as well as freely available online publications and other resources on ADR options. In response to increasing demand, the WIPO Center furthermore focused on the development of best ADR practices for the resolution of disputes related to creative and innovation processes in the digital environment.

XII. BUILDING RESPECT FOR IP

77. WIPO continued its work to foster international cooperation to build respect for IP, creating an environment in which IP can stimulate innovation and creation, and enforcing IP rights in the interest of socio-economic development and consumer protection, which contributes to SDGs 4, 8, 9 and 16. The 2021 projects and activities below are of particular relevance.

a. International Policy Dialogue

78. The Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE) meets annually and allows stakeholders to share information and exchange experiences on the most pressing issues in the area of IP enforcement and building respect for IP. While the 15th ACE session (originally scheduled for October 2020) had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an ACE Online Dialogue was held on September 21, 2021 to provide an additional avenue for policy dialogue on the topic of New Developments in Combating Piracy and Counterfeiting on the Internet. The ACE sessions, including the ACE Online Dialogue, contribute to the implementation of SDG 8 (particularly target 8.3) and SDG 9 (particularly target 9.b) by promoting development-oriented policies at both national and regional levels, which in turn support decent job creation for all, research, creativity and innovation. Moreover, the ACE focusing on the fight against

counterfeiting and piracy, it contributes to the realization of SDG 16 (particularly targets 16.3 and 16.4) in helping to reduce illicit trade and combatting organized crime.

79. WIPO further continued to contribute to the achievement of the same targets (16.3 and 16.4) by facilitating international cooperation on the WIPO ALERT initiative. WIPO ALERT is a secure online platform, which allows countries to share information about websites or applications deemed to infringe copyright with the advertising industry, in order to reduce illicit financial flows from advertising to websites infringing copyright on a commercial basis.

b. Awareness raising

80. The Organization contributed to SDG 4 with the development of further educational tools for young people. A Korean-style Manhwa comic and webtoon on respect for copyright was created in eight languages, including Korean and Portuguese. Episodes of the popular animations for children on industrial property, featuring the Pororo, the Little Penguin character, were dubbed in Chinese and Portuguese and made available on the WIPO YouTube channel. Work began on the dubbing of the Pororo animations in Thai. A quiz for young people on respect for IP was created and posted on the awareness pages of the WIPO website. Those pages have been made available in Korean and Portuguese in addition to the 6 official WIPO languages.

81. With a view to fostering sustainable economic growth (SDG 8) and innovation (SDG 9) in the long term, a trial was carried out in the Philippines in partnership with the IP Office of the Philippines (IPOP HL) of the WIPO Consumer Survey Toolkit, producing detailed information about consumer attitudes and behavior in relation to counterfeit goods and digital piracy. The data will help IPOP HL target public communications campaigns in an effective and cost-efficient manner, with a view to reducing the damage caused to legitimate trade by infringing activities. Further, a study was carried out and published on the WIPO website on the relationship between the availability of licensed audiovisual content and demand for unlicensed content in the English-speaking Caribbean.

c. Capacity building

82. During 2021, WIPO organized and participated in a number of virtual capacity-building events for judges and law enforcement officials of various Member States on the topics of IP enforcement and building respect for IP²⁵, at either the national, sub-regional or regional level. Furthermore, the Organization continued to assist Member States in customizing the training materials for law enforcement authorities *Investigating and Prosecuting IP Crime*. Two new customized versions (one for an African Member State and one for the Asia and Pacific region) have been prepared.

83. These capacity-building activities and tools contribute directly to SDG 8 (particularly target 8.3) by promoting WIPO's development-oriented approach to IP enforcement, an indispensable aspect of fostering innovation and technological progress and achieving full and productive employment. They also contribute to SDG 16 (particularly targets 16.3 and 16.6) by assisting national institutions in ensuring that their systems are as effective, transparent and fair as possible and equipped to tackle illicit trade and effectively enforce IP rights.

d. Legislative assistance

84. Over the course of 2021, WIPO provided legislative assistance to eleven Member States in this field in order to help to create a sustainable environment that respects IP and to ensure compliance with the obligations under Part III of the TRIPS Agreement. This work contributes to

²⁵ Details of these events are available at: <https://www.wipo.int/enforcement/en/activities/current.html>

the implementation of SDG 8 (particularly target 8.3) and SDG 9 (particularly targets 9.5 and 9.b) by promoting a favorable environment for economic growth, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, research, creativity and innovation. Moreover, the legislative assistance provided to Member States aims also at preventing or countering illicit trade in IP-protected goods, thus contributing to SDG 16 (particularly target 16.4).

XIII. DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

85. The Organization continued to provide support to WIPO's Member States in order to promote innovation, creativity and the effective use of the IP system for their economic, technological, social and cultural development. WIPO's development cooperation work continued to be guided by the principles of the Development Agenda and to contribute to the realization of the SDGs. Below is a summary of the main initiatives undertaken in 2021 that relate to the 2030 Agenda.

a. Cross-regional

86. In the context of the Committee on Development and IP (CDIP), WIPO hosted an International Conference on "Innovation in Green Technologies for Sustainable Development"²⁶ on November 22 and 23, 2021. Attended by more than 1,300 participants, the event concluded with speakers and the audience agreeing on the importance of supporting innovation in green technologies to ensure a safer and greener future for next generations while spurring economic growth. The discussions were relevant for most SDGs, but particularly 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15. Success stories of start-ups in the field of green technology were featured with the occasion of the Conference.²⁷ The case studies highlight how those companies use IP to leverage their assets, as well as the contribution of their innovative solutions to the achievement of the SDGs.

87. As part of the Organization's efforts to help achieve SDG 5 (see section I), WIPO fostered its work in promoting gender balance and empowering women participation in the field of IP. Following a decision by the CDIP based on a proposal by Mexico, a forum to raise awareness on the importance of empowering and increasing women's participation in the IP ecosystem was established in 2021, with the convening of a series of sharing sessions on "Closing the Gender Gap in IP".²⁸ Three sharing sessions were organized in 2021. They looked at the barriers that women face in accessing the IP system; explored the existing multi-stakeholder initiatives in this domain; and highlighted some good practices in IP service design, outreach and delivery, as well as IP training and IP community's culture. More than 600 participants from over 60 countries have attended the sharing sessions.

88. In addition, the DA Project on the "Registration of Collective Marks as a Cross-Cutting Economic Development Issue"²⁹ continued to make progress in its four beneficiary countries: Bolivia, Brazil, the Philippines and Tunisia. The project aims at building capacity and raising awareness about the potential benefits of the registration and use of collective marks among SMEs and local businesses in developing countries, as well as empowering local and national institutions to support businesses in this area. By supporting local producers and institutions, the project contributes to enhancing the work opportunities of local communities, their economic growth; spurring innovation; reducing inequalities; and strengthening institutions (SDGs 8, 9, 10 and 16).

²⁶ <https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/2021/ip-development-conference.html>

²⁷ <https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/2021/ip-development-conference.html>

²⁸ https://www.wipo.int/women-and-ip/en/news/2021/news_0009.html

²⁹ The webpage of the Project is available here: <https://www.wipo.int/collective-marks/en/index.html>

b. Academy

89. The WIPO Academy continued to support the Organization's commitment to achieving the SDGs (in particular, SDGs 4, 5, 9, 10 and 17) by responding to the training needs of Member States. The distance-learning program expanded its service to introduce new certification programs to validate IP skill levels and competencies and new executive and specialized courses addressing key sectors. It also increased the number of languages in which the courses are offered. Continuing to respond to demand for virtual learning and training due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it offered over 350 sessions and delivered approximately 250 live lectures within the tutorials. The distance-learning program continued to serve as member of the UNSDG: Learn - Steering Committee, an initiative established by UNITAR to provide a common gateway to eLearning resources on the topics associated to SDGs. Recognizing the active role and potential of the youth in promoting IP education, 7 IP Youth Ambassadors were appointed.

90. The Academy's Joint Master's degree programs, which facilitate access to higher education in IP, saw over 227 participants graduate from eight degree courses in 2021. Through its partnerships with universities and national IP offices, approximately 1,430 participants benefitted from 21 WIPO Summer School programs. Under the Professional Development Program (PDP) of the WIPO Academy, in 2021, jointly with 19 partner institutions, 170 government officials from developing countries, countries in transition and least-developed countries benefitted from skills-development based advanced courses offered online. Out of 170 trainees (54% of which were women), 153 participants completed all phases and produced a total of 153 projects which are currently under implementation in their respective countries.

91. In 2021, the goal of localizing the WIPO Academy General Course on IP and other specialized courses, including the Arabic edition of the IP4Youth&Teachers Program, for national use, was achieved. In addition, the Academy's National IP Training Institutions (IPTI) project supports countries in developing their own national IP training capacity and empower them to design and deliver IP training that best meets their development needs. Since the inception of these projects, the nine established IPTIs have organized over 5,000 IP training activities for over 250,000 participants contributing to the capacity-building targets of SDG 17.

92. By ensuring even parity of men-women participants, the Academy's programs make a clear contribution to the implementation of SDG 5. In 2021, the participation of women was 54% compared to 46% by men. Further, the Academy continued to offer its accessible versions of the Academy's General Course on IP (DL-101) in all the UN languages and Portuguese. Designed to increase the reach of works giving greater opportunities for training and education to those with disability and to enable them to develop professionally (SDG 10), the course was attended by 864 visually impaired or otherwise print disabled participants in 2021.

c. African Countries

93. Assistance to Member States in this region continued to be in line with the WIPO-ARIPO-OAPI Agreement (WAO Agreement)³⁰. The Handbooks on conducting institutional IP audit and establishment of Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) in universities and R&D institutions under the WAO Agreement and the Harare Action Plan were finalized in 2021. In addition, a series of workshops were organized under the WAO Agreement, with the aim of informing enterprises about the fundamental aspects of the management of intangible assets to enhance the competitiveness of their businesses and reduce business risks.

³⁰ OAPI: African Intellectual Property Organization; ARIPO: African Regional Intellectual Property Organization.

94. During the reporting period, assistance to African countries also focused on the area of brands and designs. A regional web conference on designs was held to raise awareness about industrial designs among business communities, designers and artists in West African States. IP branding projects were also implemented in Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Madagascar and Mauritius to show case the benefit of an effective use of the IP system for development. The projects focus on defining a branding strategy for national stakeholders to commercialize their products, which may result in the enhancing of quality and design, and even in the registration of a trademark or collective mark, as in the case of basket weavers in Botswana. A regional webinar on the Lisbon System and social and economic system of GI protection was organized for Lusophone countries also in 2021. These activities contributed to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 10.

95. In addition, a series of initiatives focusing on different IP-related issues were undertaken during the reporting period, such as: (i) Master's Degree on IP Programs; (ii) training of trainers project; (iii) harmonization of OAPI and ARIPO systems project; or (iv) regional event with the occasion of the World IP Day. These initiatives contributed to SDGs 1, 3, 8 and 16.

d. Arab Countries

96. Assistance to Arab countries continued to be of relevance for a number of SDGs, mainly 4, 5, 8, 9, 16 and 17. Projects and activities may be clustered in the three following categories: regional, sub-regional and national. At a regional level, a webinar dedicated to IP and SDGs was held with the aim to raise awareness on key issues related to IP and SDGs; a virtual coordination meeting of Heads of Industrial Property Offices reviewed the work done since the previous one and discussed IP developments; an information technology e-workshop on the WIPO systems for IP administration and online services for IP Offices was organized; and a virtual meeting was held to raise awareness on the importance of IP policies for developing innovation within universities.

97. At a sub-regional level, workshops and trainings were organized on different topics: (i) Trade secrets protection in the six Gulf Cooperation Council countries; (ii) administration of IPAS in order to provide better IP services through the effective utilization of the system and the automation of different IP administrative types; (iii) IP and Women Entrepreneurship; (iv) IP policy and strategic considerations related to the international circumstances and trends, best practices on using the IP system for development, and possible areas of cooperation, in the context of the IP Dialogue between Japan and selected Arab States; and (v) examination in the PCT national phase in countries where domestic situations had not allowed WIPO to carry out similar trainings for a long period of time.

98. At a national level, several projects continued to be implemented in the region. The Project on creating IP support service for technology oriented SMEs and start-ups seeks to help those entities become better users of the IP system. Morocco and Saudi Arabia joined the project in July 2021. The Project on the elaboration of guidelines for the examination of trademark applications for the Directorate of foreign trade and IP in Bahrain was launched in October 2021, with a view to help standardizing procedural decisions and hence reduce the possibility of mistakes and enhance the predictability of outcomes for users of the trademark registration system. Two projects on IP policies for universities continued to progress in Egypt and Jordan. The Project on IP Policy for "*Instititut Pateur Tunis*" also continued to be implemented with the objective of setting up IP policy for the IPT to encourage innovation. In addition, a series of Service Level Agreements and MoUs on different subject matters were signed in 2021, and national training and awareness-raising activities were carried out.

e. Asia and the Pacific

99. The assistance provided in the Asia and the Pacific region in 2021 pivoted to reach entrepreneurs and innovators directly using online technology and creating self-help tools, with the aim of helping establish an enabling environment for brand strengthening, technology transfer and overall better use of IP. This strategy entails supporting the enterprises and the technology generating entities (universities), their policies, structure, practice and work using IP as a tool to support outputs and outcomes in innovation.

100. Assistance activities to support entrepreneurs were designed to strengthen business development through the strategic use of branding knowledge, skills and tools. Some of the highlights achieved are the establishment of Branding Bureaus in beneficiary countries to provide support to domestic business communities; the strengthening of businesses through enhanced proactive and strategic use of IP in product branding and design; the further development of IP services through training and the creation of a “Hub and Spokes” structure; the support to selected businesses to develop fully-fledged branding strategies; and the enhancement of national and inter-country experience-sharing and knowledge management through a networked community of professionals and institutions. Countries benefitting from these initiatives were Bhutan, Cambodia, Iran, Laos PDR and Samoa.

101. Assistance activities to support technology-generating entities were designed to build capacity of technology managers, researchers and other actors to learn and use IP to actively engage in the process of transforming inventions and technologies into products, services and enterprises. Some of the main initiatives have focused on helping to build the IP components of the local innovation ecosystem through university innovation & technology support offices; developing expertise in IP-based technology management and commercialization in the academy, industry and government; and strengthening linkages and creating a networked community of innovation actors in the country and region. Countries benefitting from these initiatives were Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

102. Countries in this region also continued to receive capacity building support on a number of areas, such as: implementation and administration of institutional IP policies; patent information and landscaping skills; patent drafting and prosecution capacity; business-focused knowledge on IP (particularly patents); practical strategies to leverage patents and other related IP; IP management skills (at each stage of the innovation value chain); technology transfer office structure, functions and business model; funding mechanism for university-based R&D and innovation; platforms for university-industry- government linkages; and public-private partnerships (PPP) in technology-business collaborations.

f. Latin America and the Caribbean

103. The assistance to Member States in this region continued to contribute to the achievement of SDGs at several levels. First, support was provided to elaborate national IP strategies (NIPS) and facilitate the integration of IP into innovation, economic, social and cultural policies, contributing to SDGs 4, 5, 9 and 16. By December 2021, 24 out of 31 Latin American and Caribbean countries had worked with WIPO on the development of NIPS. During 2021, assistance was provided for the elaboration of five NIPS: two are under formulation (El Salvador and Guatemala) and one (Peru) is currently waiting for final approval. Assistance has also been provided for the implementation of two NIPS (Brazil and Paraguay). In addition, Mexico received assistance in the development of the first NIPS in the LAC Region specifically designed for SMEs, contributing to SDGs 8 and 9. Lastly, Panama has also received assistance for the formulation and establishing of an appropriate national legislative framework to stimulate innovation and technology transfer.

104. In addition, in the spirit of partnership and collaboration of the 2030 Agenda, partnerships were strengthened with multiple actors in this region.³¹ In support of SDGs 4, 9 and 17, trainings and other capacity building activities were organized in 2021. An advanced online training for patent examiners in the region was organized with the aim of developing specific competencies on patent examination in the field of biotechnology, strengthening and updating local examination skills. A workshop on substantive examination in the PCT national phase was also held for Caribbean countries, with the following objectives: (i) to develop skills of IPOs staff on the use of the examination work-products from other national phases; (ii) to foster work sharing that leverages on examination work between major offices and offices with limited examination resources; and (iii) to raise awareness of managers for the opportunities and implications of the increasing transparency of examination in the national phases due to the emerging of work-sharing platforms.

105. An ongoing project seeking to provide a “platform-thinking” approach to IP and innovation in the rapidly growing blue economy space for CARICOM Small Island Developing States (SIDS) made progress during 2021. In August 2021, a mapping exercise of all the innovation and entrepreneurial activities being carried out by institutions, companies and individuals in the Blue Economy space of the CARICOM was finalized. Three virtual workshops (August to December) were successfully completed and included ideation sessions with stakeholders to build capacity and provide skill sets, tools and methodologies for the protection and commercialization of IP, that can contribute to the economic growth in the blue economy sector.

106. In the area of gender equality and innovation (SDGs 5, 9 and 17), a new pilot training program has been developed on IP management for women in STEM³², with the aim of building skills among the participating women, enabling them to increase the value of their inventions and know-how through the leveraging of IP, and, to provide mentoring to incorporate IP into their development/business/innovation plans. Thirty-two women from Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic and Mexico have already participated. In addition, the Latin American Network of Intellectual Property and Gender was created by Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Peru, with the support of WIPO, in June 2021. Its main goal is to promote intellectual property at the regional level, with a gender perspective, and to reduce the gender inequality gap, as well as to facilitate the exchange of best practices among countries, share information and experiences on the subject and strengthen the gender agenda in Industrial Property. Argentina, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Uruguay have joined the Network. WIPO deployed the first regional online training on gender perspectives in the management and functions of IP Offices in Latin America.

g. Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

107. In 2021, the Projects on Transfer of Appropriate technologies to LDCs continued to make progress towards the objective of assisting these countries in addressing their development needs and building institutional capacity through the use of technical, scientific and patent information. Aside from helping to meet the countries’ particular development needs, these projects contribute to the achievement of different SDGs, such as 1, 5, 9 and 17. During the reporting period, the projects entered a crucial phase of preparation of business plans for the identified technologies. In Mozambique, the eventual application of anaerobic digesters for the conversion of waste into biogas and bio-fertilizers at the community level by farmers would have positive effects on environmental sustainability (SDG 15), food security (SDG 2), rural incomes and employment (SDG 8), and the identified fish incubator technology would assist food

³¹ Ibero-American Program on Industrial Property (IBEPI), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), the Inter-American Association of Intellectual Property (ASIP), the Industrial Property Offices Of The Regional Cooperation System on Aspects of Operational Information and Industrial Property (PROSUR), the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA).

³² Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

security and rural development (SDG 2) with longer-term benefits on decent work and economic growth (SDG 8). In Senegal, the technology identified for the drying of onions and mangoes would contribute to agriculture and food security (SDG 2), employment creation and economic growth (SDG 8), including by enhancing the export potential of these products. In Uganda, the identified technology on rainwater harvesting, for which the business plan is being prepared, would greatly contribute to improving access to water (SDG 6), and the alternative technologies to fired-bricks would contribute to addressing the challenges of housing (SDG 11).

108. Work has also continued to contribute to SDG 5 in LDCs. This includes the promotion of gender equality through the use of IP tools in LDCs as one of the priority areas. In 2021, the implementation of the flagship Project on Women Entrepreneurs continued. Designed to initiate, mentor and support women entrepreneurs, as well as MSMEs and SMEs, in using IP for product development and commercialization, after its success in Uganda the project has been replicated in Sudan and Cambodia in 2021. Seminars were attended by 84 women entrepreneurs, interested in learning on how to use the IP system for value addition and business growth. Work has also commenced to prepare an IP needs assessment to ascertain the use of IP tools by women entrepreneurs in Tanzania and to identify the difficulties they faced in using the IP system. The Project has also enabled the creation of a growing community of skilled women entrepreneurs who could inspire and motivate others in LDCs, and to strengthening South-South cooperation.

109. In addition, sectoral studies on crosscutting thematic issues on the use of IP to promote economic growth and development in LDCs continued. A study was produced to explore how IP tools can be harnessed to improve food security, income generation, poverty alleviation and export competitiveness in LDC. This contributes to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 12 and 15.

h. Transition and Developed Countries

110. Assistance to Transition and Developed Countries (TDCs) continued to contribute to the achievement for a number of SDGs, mainly 4, 5, 8, 9, 16 and 17. Promotion of the importance of, and assistance in, the development and implementation of long-term and comprehensive NIPS to meet the needs of Member States remained a priority in 2021. During this period, two countries adopted new NIPS (Belarus and Turkmenistan), three countries finalized the development of NIPS (Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina), and three initiated the development of new strategies (Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan). Assistance also focused on supporting and coordinating various IP teaching projects and activities on different topics, such as IP commercialization (SDG 4).

111. In line with SDG 5, roving webinars continued to promote gender equality, showcasing the role of women in the creative process. They were organized in different languages and brought together over 8,404 registrations and 4,080 attendees. WIPO also collaborated with the Patent Office of the Republic of Poland in raising awareness of local women communities on geographical indications, with a special attention to handicraft, by organizing two events focusing on geographical indications for local women communities in that country.

112. In support of SDGs 8 and 9, a series of activities were co-organized and coordinated in TDCs, such as the 15th International Conference on Innovation and Creativity in the Economy in Poland; Lithuania's first "Conference on Science-Business Collaboration: issues and perspectives"; or a Workshop on the Global Innovation Index in Georgia. A project for mapping and supporting the depth and diversification of services provided specifically to SMEs was carried out in Central European and Baltic States and Mediterranean countries. A project on techno parks aiming to fostering innovation and supporting technology development was launched in Caucasian, Central Asian and Eastern European Countries.

B. ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY WIPO AS PART OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

113. WIPO continued to contribute, within the scope of its mandate, to relevant discussions on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as a member or observer in various forums. WIPO provided technical contributions and 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 the SDGs. The Organization also contributed factual 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.

a. High-level political forum

114. The 2021 edition of the High-Level Political Forum was held from July 6 to 15, 2021. It included a three-day ministerial segment during which 42 countries carried out voluntary national reviews of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Forum addressed the theme "*Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*". Participants explored the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts, as well as policies and international cooperation that can help to control the pandemic and its consequences. They also addressed how to put the world back on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030, within the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.

b. Trade and health discussions

115. WIPO participated in numerous intergovernmental and interagency meetings in the areas of trade and health in relation to SDG 3, ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages. In the context of COVID-19, WIPO participated in World Trade Organization (WTO) TRIPS Council meetings where discussions took place on the TRIPS waiver proposal pertaining to access to COVID-19 vaccines, treatment, and equipment. At the TRIPS Council meetings in July and October 2021, WIPO made statements on technical assistance and capacity building activities in the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement and on how to feature its programs in the area of women and IP.

116. WIPO attended virtual sessions of the 74th World Health Assembly (WHA) from May 24 to 31, 2021 and the 149th World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board on June 2, 2021. The WHO's Resolution WHA73.1 on COVID-19 Response expressly calls on international organizations to be consistent with TRIPS flexibilities in relation to their work in facilitating equitable and timely access to medicines and vaccines for COVID-19. Additionally, WIPO participated in discussions at WHO bodies relating to a potential pandemic treaty, including the Special Session of the World Health Assembly from November 29 to December 1, 2021, and multiple formal sessions and intersessional meetings of the Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies (WGPR) throughout October and November 2021.

117. In addition, the WTO, WHO and WIPO made available translations of the updated Study on Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation in all the United Nations Languages³³. The publication examines the interplay among the policy domains of health, trade, and IP, and how it affects innovation and access to medical technologies, such as medicines, vaccines, and

³³ <https://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4511>

medical devices. The updated special insert of the study on COVID-19 was published in October 2021³⁴. In their meeting of June 15, 2021, the Directors General of WHO, WIPO and WTO agreed to enhance and focus support in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic within the existing trilateral cooperation framework³⁵. In particular, they agreed to organize a series of capacity-building workshops and to implement a joint platform for tripartite technical assistance. The first workshop was held on September 27, 2021.

118. In relation to trade and development matters, WIPO also strengthened its cooperation with the International Trade Center (ITC) in relation to the Global Trade Helpdesk which is a multi-agency initiative jointly led by ITC, UNCTAD, and the WTO. The initiative aims to simplify market research for companies and MSMEs by integrating trade and business information into a single online portal. WIPO provided information to be integrated into the platform concerning the protection of IP rights for SMEs.

c. Gender, science and innovation

119. WIPO's New York Office organized several events on the importance of Science, Innovation and Gender Equality (SDG 5), in collaboration with a number of UN Member States and other UN Agencies, IGOs or NGOs. These included the following: (i) 6th International Day of Women and Girls in Science - Beyond the Borders: Equality in Science for Society; (ii) Gender Equality in Science, Technology and Innovation: Towards an Inclusive STI Ecosystem; (iii) "The Future of post-COVID Innovation Finance – Global Innovation Index" and "Gender Equality in Science, Technology and Innovation: towards an inclusive STI ecosystem and connectivity for all", organized on the margins of the 6th UN Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals; and (iv) "Empowering Young Entrepreneurs through the IP System".

d. World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS)

120. The WSIS Forum 2021 took place virtually from January to May 2021. WIPO organized a session on "*Global Trends in Assistive Technology: Emerging assistive technology, inclusive design and accessibility features of mainstream products*". The session considered trends in emerging assistive technology and enabling technologies identified in the WIPO Technology Trends on Assistive Technology, and how ICT assistive technology and software can support persons with functional limitations, including elderly and ageing populations. It also highlighted the intersection between accessibility and copyright (including the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled).

e. Climate change

121. WIPO continued to participate in the UNFCCC process by monitoring the discussions taking place on technology development and transfer. WIPO participated virtually as an Observer in the 17th and 18th meetings of the Advisory Board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and the 22nd and 23rd meetings of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC). WIPO also participated virtually in the 26th meeting of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP 26).

³⁴ https://www.wipo.int/policy/en/news/global_health/2021/news_0005.html

³⁵ https://www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/articles/2021/article_0006.html

122. The MoU between WIPO and IRENA was renewed in order to continue joint efforts towards promoting innovation and the transfer and diffusion of climate change technologies which relate to renewable energy and, in this context, to promote the understanding and use of the IP system.

f. Internet Government Forum (IGF)

123. The 16th annual IGF meeting took place from December 6 to 10, 2021. WIPO and the Patent Office of the Republic of Poland co-organized an event on “Videogames and their Uniting Power: Everything you need to know about enabling environments and new trends”. The event showcased the role of IP as key enabler for the video game industry which has shown its resilience by continuing to expand during the COVID-19 pandemic.

g. Other contributions

124. WIPO continued to provide critical input and information to a wide range of UN/IGO reports and processes to promote greater awareness of WIPO’s products and services. This included, inter alia, (i) annual submission to the WTO TRIPS Council on WIPO’s technical assistance; (ii) submission to the CSTD Priority themes for 2020-2021 on “Harnessing blockchain for sustainable development” and “Using science, technology and innovation to close the gap on SDG 3 on good health and well-being”; (iii) submission to the 2021 Compendium of UN Activities on Artificial Intelligence; (iv) submission to the Report of the UN Secretary-General to the General Assembly on “Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development” and “Science, Technology and Innovation for Development”; (v) annual submission to the Report of the UN Secretary-General to ECOSOC on the Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of outcome recommendations of the World Summit on the Information Society; (vii) the preparation of the annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on STI for SDGs in the framework of the UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism; and (viii) the UN Flagship Report on Financing for Sustainable Development.

C. ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY WIPO TO ITS MEMBER STATES AT THEIR REQUEST

125. During 2021, the Secretariat did not receive any request from Member States seeking assistance specifically related to the attainment of the SDGs.

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