



WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

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HAGUE AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS

Accession to the 1999 Act: African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI)

1. On June 16, 2008, the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) deposited with the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), its instrument of accession to the Geneva (1999) Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs.
2. The instrument of accession was accompanied by the following declarations:
 - a declaration as referred to in Article 4(1)(b) of the 1999 Act, to the effect that international applications may not be filed through the Office of OAPI;
 - a declaration as referred to in Article 7(2) of the 1999 Act, that, in connection with each international application in which OAPI is designated, and in connection with the renewal of any international registration resulting from such an international application, the prescribed designation fee shall be replaced by an individual designation fee. The amount of the individual designation fee will be the subject of a further information notice;
 - the declaration referred to in Article 11(1)(a) of the 1999 Act, whereby the maximum period for the deferment of the publication of an industrial design where OAPI is designated in an international registration is 12 months from the filing date or, where priority is claimed, from the priority date;
 - the declaration referred to in Article 16(2) of the 1999 Act, whereby any change in ownership of an international registration, recorded in the International Register in respect of OAPI and in respect of any or all of the industrial designs that are the subject of the international registration, shall not have effect with respect to OAPI until the Office of OAPI has received a copy of the deed of change of ownership¹;
 - a declaration as required under Article 17(3)(c) of the 1999 Act, specifying that the maximum duration of protection provided for by the legislation of OAPI in respect of industrial designs is 15 years;

¹ Please note that the said document must be provided by the holder directly to the Office of OAPI and not through the International Bureau. The holder should provide such document as soon as he has received the notification of the recording of the change in ownership in the International Register by the International Bureau.

3. The 1999 Act and the declarations thereunder will enter into force in respect of OAPI on September 16, 2008.

4. The accession to the 1999 Act by OAPI brings the number of Contracting Parties to this Act to 28 and the total number of Contracting Parties to the Hague Agreement to 50. A list of the Contracting Parties to the Hague Agreement, indicating the date on which Contracting Parties became bound by the 1934 Act, the 1960 Act and/or the 1999 Act, is available on WIPO's website, at the following address: *www.wipo.int*.

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