

WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
UNITED INTERNATIONAL BUREAUX FOR THE PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

GENEVA

BIRPI

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY

First Ordinary Session
Geneva, September 21 to 29, 1970

DRAFT REPORT
prepared by the Secretariat

Opening of the Session

1. The General Assembly of WIPO (hereinafter called "the General Assembly") held its first ordinary session at Geneva from September 21 to 28, 1970.
2. The following States, members of the General Assembly at the opening of the session, were represented: Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany (Federal Republic), Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Soviet Union, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, Upper Volta, Yugoslavia (38).
3. The States and organizations which were represented by observers are shown in the list of participants (document AB/I/INF/2.Rev.).
4. The session was opened by Mr. Edward Armitage (United Kingdom), Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole (see document AB/I/32, paragraph 5), acting as provisional Chairman of the General Assembly.

Agenda

5. The agenda was adopted as proposed in document WO/GA/I/1.Rev. and was later completed by a new item, "Headquarters Building."

Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

6. See document AB/I/32, paragraph 16.

Election of Officers

7. The General Assembly unanimously endorsed the proposals made by the Nominations Committee (see document AB/I/INF/3) and elected the following officials:

Chairman	:	Mr. Edward Armitage	(United Kingdom)
Vice-Chairmen	:	Mr. Eugene M. Braderman	(United States of America)
		Mr. Konimba Coulibaly	(Senegal)

8. Mr. Claude Masouyé, Senior Counsellor, Head of the External and Public Relations Division of WIPO, acted as Secretary of the General Assembly.

Appointment of the Director General

9. See document AB/I/32, paragraph 28.

Adoption of the 1971 to 1973 Budget

10. See document AB/I/32, paragraph 92.

Financial Regulations

11. See document AB/I/32, paragraphs 37 and 38.

Appointment of Auditors

12. See document AB/I/32, paragraph 41.

Approval of Measures Concerning the Administration of Certain International Agreements

13. Discussions were based on document WO/GA/I/2.

14. The Delegation of the United States of America stated that the fact that it was ready to approve the proposal that WIPO participate in the administration of the Convention for the Protection of New Plant Varieties should not be considered as a precedent indicating that its Government was ready to approve of international treaties which did not guarantee the strict application of the principle of national treatment. That principle was fundamental and was adopted by all other treaties administered by WIPO. The Director General indicated that the Convention for the Protection of New Plant Varieties recognized the said principle but only among its member States.

15. The General Assembly unanimously approved participation by WIPO in the administration of the International (Rome) Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations and of the Convention for the Protection of New Plant Varieties and noted with approval the other suggestions contained in document WO/GA/I/2.

Determination of the Working Languages of the International Bureau

16. Discussions were based on document WO/GA/I/3.

17. The Delegation of the Soviet Union, supported by those of Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, proposed that Russian be one of the languages in which the International Bureau conducts correspondence with States (document WO/GA/I/3, paragraph 7).

18. The Director General having stated that this was essentially a financial question, the General Assembly entrusted him, with a view to taking a decision on this point at a later date, with the preparation of a report on the financial consequences of the introduction of Russian as one of the

languages in which the International Bureau conducts correspondence with States. At the request of the Delegation of Germany (Federal Republic), it was decided that this report would also deal with the financial implications of the introduction, in the same circumstances, of the German language.

19. The Delegation of Finland suggested that the International Bureau conduct correspondence with States in English as well as in French in connection with the Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Unions, whereupon the Director General explained that none of the States members of these Unions was of English language or had requested the International Bureau to correspond with it in that language; it was possible, however, to make exceptions to this rule, and exceptions had indeed been made; for instance, the documents prepared for the purposes of the revision of the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks had been distributed in English as well as in French, and this procedure would continue to apply in the future.

20. Subject to what is stated in paragraph 18, above, the General Assembly unanimously approved the proposals contained in document WO/GA/I/3.

Terms of Appointment of the Director General

21. See document AB/I/32, paragraph 33.

Admission of Observers

22. See document AB/I/32, paragraph 44.

Headquarters Building

23. See document AB/I/32, paragraph 98.

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