

WIPO



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PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

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PROGRESS REPORT ON FINANCIAL AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE SYSTEMS AT WIPO

prepared by the Secretariat

1. In November 2006 the Director General made changes to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules (Regulation 1.6) concerning “Activities and Interests Outside the International Bureau”*. To give effect to these changes WIPO will establish a “financial disclosure declarations” system that will also include a conflicts of interest disclosure process. The system will be a key part of the general strengthening of the WIPO Integrity and Ethics system in order to make it more effective. This is referred to in the proposals for the Program and Budget for 2008/09 (Program 24: Internal Oversight).

2. In order to implement this policy WIPO proposes to:

- follow as much as possible the system currently being developed in the United Nations, as adapted for any other best practices that WIPO can identify;

* Staff Regulation 1.6:

“(g) All staff members at the level of D-1 and above, as well as other designated categories, shall be required to file a declaration in a designated form and disclosing designated types of interests in respect of themselves, their spouses and dependent family members. Such declarations shall be filed upon appointment and at designated intervals. Such declarations shall remain confidential.

“(h) Authorizations which the Director General may grant under the provisions of this Regulation may be made subject to such conditions as he deems appropriate, including, where necessary, the requirement to file a declaration as prescribed in paragraph (g), above.

“(i) The Director General shall establish procedures for requests for authorization and for the filing of financial disclosure declarations under this Regulation.”

- assess the operation of the revised new UN system; and the same for the system in place at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP);
- review systems such as that of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in order to ensure all international good practices are identified and applied for the WIPO procedures;
- develop draft office instructions and procedures before the end of 2007, on which consultations shall be held with Member States; and
- commence, by early 2008, Financial Disclosures and Declarations of Conflicts of Interest for all senior WIPO staff, and other staff who are selected because of specific risk factors.

3. In this context, the International Bureau would be interested to have information from Member States which have Financial and Conflicts of Interest Disclosure Systems in place in their Government.

4. The Program and Budget Committee is invited to take note of the information contained in this document.

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