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Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)

**Twenty-First Session
Geneva, May 14 to 18, 2018**

PROJECT PROPOSAL FROM THE DELEGATIONS OF CANADA, MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON INCREASING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP, ENCOURAGING WOMEN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO USE THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SYSTEM

prepared by the Secretariat

1. By way of a communication dated March 16, 2018, addressed to the Secretariat, the Permanent Mission of the United States of America has submitted a project proposal entitled "Project on Increasing the Role of Women in Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Encouraging Women in Developing Countries to Use the Intellectual Property System", on behalf of the Delegations of Canada, Mexico and the United States of America, for consideration by the twenty-first session of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP).

2. The above-mentioned project proposal is contained in the Annexes to this document.

3. *The CDIP is invited to consider the Annexes to the present document.*

[Annexes follow]

**DEVELOPMENT AGENDA RECOMMENDATIONS 1, 10, 12, 19, 31
PROJECT PROPOSAL FROM THE DELEGATIONS OF CANADA, MEXICO, AND THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

PROJECT DOCUMENT

1. SUMMARY	
<u>Project Code</u>	DA_1_10_12_19_31_01
<u>Title</u>	<i>Increasing the Role of Women in Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Encouraging Women in Developing Countries to Use the Intellectual Property System</i>
<u>Development Agenda Recommendations</u>	1, 10, 12, 19, 31
<u>Brief Description of Project</u>	<p>The proposed project aims at strengthening the innovative capacity of the participating countries, focusing on increasing the participation of women inventors and innovators in the national innovation system by supporting them in using the IP system more effectively.</p> <p>In particular, the project will assist and support women inventors and innovators to broaden their awareness, knowledge and use of the IP system through better support programs, access to mentorships and opportunities to network.</p>
<u>Implementing Program</u>	Program 30
<u>Links to other related Program(s)/ DA Project(s)</u>	DA_8_01, DA_8_02, DA_19_30_31, DA_16_20_01 and DA_16_20_02, DA_16_20_03
<u>Links to Expected Results in the Program and Budget</u>	<p>III.2 Enhanced human resource capacities able to deal with the broad range of requirements for the effective use of IP for development in developing countries, LDCs and countries with economies in transition.</p> <p>IV.2 Enhanced access to, and use of, IP information by IP institutions and the public to promote innovation and creativity.</p> <p>III.6. Increased capacity of SMEs, universities and research institutions to successfully use IP to support innovation.</p>
<u>Project Duration</u>	48 months

<u>Project Budget</u>	<i>Total non-personnel costs: 415 000 Swiss Francs</i>
2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
2.1. <u>Introduction to the issue</u>	
<p>Women constitute about 49.6 per cent of the world's population and make a critical contribution to social and economic development of countries and to the success of enterprises around the world. Nonetheless, even in developed countries women still represent a minority among entrepreneurs, with e.g. only 17 per cent of startups in the United States of America in 2017 having at least one female founder. A number of factors contribute to this gender gap in entrepreneurship, including lack of support for women entrepreneurs. A research project conducted in 2008-2010 by the International Women Working Group on Women Business Incubation (IWWG), and supported by the InfoDev program of the World Bank, identified the lack of information, the lack of supportive networks and the lack of knowledge among the factors contributing to the gender gap with respect to business incubation.¹</p> <p>Intellectual property (IP) is an important factor in the success of many enterprises. The IP system plays a key role in nurturing the growth of innovators and innovation-driven small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). IP helps innovators protect their inventions or creations, as well as to monetize and commercialize their inventions or creations. Finding investors and forming partnerships often depends on having IP rights to a technology or product, especially for technology-oriented startups. However, research clearly shows that women engage in the IP system less than men. For instance, in 2015, only 29 per cent of patent applications worldwide had at least one woman inventor, and only 4.3 per cent came from women-only inventors, highlighting the extent of the gender gap in international patent filings.²</p> <p>Lack of access to or knowledge of opportunities, as well as the exclusion of women from information-sharing or professional networks, also helps explain the under-representation of women in the IP system.³ Other factors underlying the IP gender gap include: that women tend to focus less on the commercialization of their inventions in comparison to men; and that "women-only" networks typically have fewer members with patenting experience.⁴</p>	

¹ World Bank, "Gateway to Economic Development through Women Empowerment and Entrepreneurship' InfoDev, International Women Working Group, April 2010, <https://www.infodev.org/infodev-files/resource/idi/document/Women%27s%20working%20group%20final%20report.pdf>

² The statistics are drawn from two studies conducted by the UK Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO) and WIPO, which evaluated the extent of the gender gap in patenting. The WIPO study examined approximately 9 million patent applications filed through the Patent Cooperation Treaty, and the UKIPO study examined 59 million patent applications from the Worldwide Patent Statistics database. See: Gema Lax Martinez, Julio Raffo, and Kaori Saito, 'Economic Research Working Paper No. 33- Identifying the gender of PCT inventors', Economics & Statistics Series, World Intellectual Property Organisation, November 2016, http://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_econstat_wp_33.pdf; UKIPO, 'Gender Profiles in Worldwide Patenting: An analysis of female inventorship', UK Intellectual Property Office Informatics Team, September 2016, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/514320/Gender-profiles-in-UK-patenting-An-analysis-of-female-inventorship.pdf.

³ See Martinez, Raffo, and Saito, 3; UKIPO, 'Gender Profiles in Worldwide Patenting: An analysis of female inventorship'.

⁴ See e.g., Sue V. Rosser, "The Gender Gap in Patenting: Is Technology Transfer a Feminist Issue?", *NWSA Journal*, vol. 21, no. 2, 2009; UNCTAD, 'A Survey on Women's Entrepreneurship and Innovation', *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*, 2014, 33- 35, http://empretec.unctad.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/UNCTAD_DIAE_ED_2013_1.pdf.

Interestingly, a study evidenced that female executives in the information technology industry were well-aware of a gender gap in patenting, whereas their male counterparts either did not believe such a gender gap exists, or did not believe it existed within their own institutions.⁵

Improving support for women inventors and entrepreneurs can therefore be considered essential to reducing the gender gap in innovation and entrepreneurship and ultimately reinforcing the contribution of women to social and economic development.

Certain countries have already taken active steps to improve support for women innovators and entrepreneurs through initiatives such as Mexico's SMEs Women's Program created by the National Entrepreneur Institute (INADEM) in collaboration with the National Institute for Women (INMUJERES) and the Victoria 147 platform established by Academy Victoria 147 in Mexico. The SMEs Women's Program provides micro, small and medium-sized enterprises led by women with access to preferential financing and business development, while the Victoria 147 platform offers training, incubation, acceleration, and networking features for women entrepreneurs and executives.

There are already a number of programs and resources at WIPO that provide support and services to innovators and creators in transitional, developing and least developed countries. For instance, the existing WIPO Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) program provides innovators in developing countries with access to locally based, high quality technology information and related services, helping them to exploit their innovative potential and to create, protect, and manage their IP rights.⁶ Currently, there are over 500 TISCs operating worldwide. TISCs are actively supported by national and regional industrial property authorities. Another example is the Inventor Assistance Program (IAP), a WIPO initiative in cooperation with the World Economic Forum, which matches developing country inventors and small businesses with limited financial means with patent attorneys, who provide pro bono legal assistance to secure patent protection.

However, the above-cited data suggests that there may be a need for more targeted services to help women inventors to receive assistance and support with respect to protecting and managing their IP, and more particularly patent rights. The present project proposes to use the existing WIPO programs as a resource and/or model for creating or expanding a network of women inventor support programs, or, where appropriate, to build additional capacity and expand services of the existing WIPO programs by creating specific support programs and events for women, in close coordination and collaboration with existing national associations of women inventors and innovators.

2.2. Objectives

The proposed project aims at strengthening the innovative capacity of participating countries, focusing on increasing the participation of women inventors and innovators in the national innovation system by supporting them in using the IP system more effectively to protect and commercialize their inventions through:

- (a) Gaining a better understanding of the problems faced by women inventors and innovators in using the IP system for creating IP based businesses and identifying possible solutions;

⁵ Rosser, 73-74.

⁶ <http://www.wipo.int/tisc/en/>

- (b) Identifying mechanisms for providing more targeted support to women inventors and innovators to enable them to make more effective use of the IP system;
- (c) Creating Women Innovator Resource Centers (“WIRCs”) that would provide relevant IP and related support services to women inventors and innovators in an “all-women” environment. Such services could include patent search, locating partners, allocating mentors, preliminary legal advice, conducting outreach to universities and research centers as well as schools to promote science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and the relevance of IP to these fields.
- (d) Establishing or expanding a network of women inventors and entrepreneurs that will provide continuous support to inventors and innovators in the country or region. Organizing regular national and/or regional networking events for women inventors and innovators;
- (e) Establishing or expanding Women’s IP mentorship programs that would provide mentoring to new inventors and innovators in the country or region, as well as outreach to schools and universities;
- (f) Establishing or expanding a legal support program for women inventors in order to assist them with protecting their IP in the country or region; and
- (g) At the end of the pilot, creating a toolkit and/or a compilation of best practices/lessons learned in order to assist other countries to establish or expand women innovator support programs.

2.3. Delivery Strategy

The project objectives will be achieved through the following outputs and activities:

Output 1 – Better understanding of the extent and scope of problems faced by women inventors and innovators and possible solutions gained.

Activities:

- (a) Undertake a literature review of the situation of women inventors, innovators and entrepreneurs on their access to and use of the IP system for protecting and commercializing their inventions.
- (b) Collect good practices, models and examples of programs and initiatives designed to support women inventors and innovators.
- (c) Collect individual stories of women inventors and innovators on their experiences in protecting and bringing to market their inventive and innovative output.

Output 2 – Established national base line in four participating countries.

Activities:

- (a) Undertake an assessment of each participating country to identify the challenges and obstacles faced by women inventors and innovators in their access to and use of the IP system, in protecting and commercializing their inventions, and in bringing their patent-based product to market and/ or in creating a start-up.

- (b) Identify national focal points, stakeholders, relevant institutions, organizations and individuals active in the field, as well as potential mentors, leading women inventors and innovators, women's networks, lawyers willing to provide free legal support, etc.

Output 3 – Increased awareness of stakeholders on the role of the IP system in protecting and commercializing inventions.

Activity: Develop appropriate awareness raising programs adapted to the needs and requirements of the different categories of stakeholders.

Output 4 – Developed materials for training women inventors and innovators.

Activities:

- (a) Develop a guide on the IP issues in bringing a patent-based product to market and/or in create a start-up.
- (b) Develop relevant presentation materials for use in workshops.
- (c) Collect existing material in WIPO that could be relevant for creating a training package.

Output 5 – Increased capacity to provide IP support services to women.

Activities:

- (a) Select one institution, center or organization in each participating country and create a unit or establish a focal point dedicated to supporting women inventors and innovators.
- (b) Undertake capacity building programs through trainings for the identified centers to provide support to women inventors and innovators.

Output 6 – Network of leading women inventors and entrepreneurs established in the selected countries; core group within the network identified to function as mentors.

Activities:

- (a) Create a roster of volunteer women inventors and entrepreneurs and identify among them those willing to mentor and provide assistance to other women inventors and innovators.
- (b) Establish, as needed, partnerships with universities or other stakeholders so as to expand the pool of potentially available mentors.
- (c) Organize networking events to create opportunities for women inventors and innovators to meet and share experiences, identify common problems and discuss solutions.

Output 7 – Established network of leading lawyers in the selected countries who agree to provide free legal support services.

Activity: Create a roster of volunteer lawyers and determine their role in supporting women inventors and innovators in making more effective use of the IP system.

Output 8 – Developed toolkit that can be used for conducting a similar project in other countries.

Activity: At the end of the project, develop a toolkit including: (i) the methodology followed in the implementation of the project, (ii) the lessons learned, and (iii) the materials developed during the project, for use in other similar projects.

Four (4) countries which have existing national associations of women inventors and innovators will be selected for this project. The selection of three pilot countries, in addition to Mexico, will be based on the following criteria:

1. Existence of a national framework for IP protection;
2. Demonstrated interest and ability of the local beneficiaries, including IP offices and universities, to engage effectively in the implementation of the project;
3. Business and legal environment conducive to the formation of new technology-based companies;
4. Existing patent activity by local applicants; and
5. Availability of resources to continue the work after the conclusion of the project.

In addition, the pilot countries will be selected with a view to ensuring geographical balance and diversity in socio-economic development.

Member States interested in participating in the project as pilot countries will submit a proposal containing the following elements:

- (a) Indication of a program or association for women inventors and innovators, or a business support organization for women, or an organization that supports women, that is willing and able to engage in this project;
- (b) Indication of a lead agency or institution responsible for coordinating country-level activities in coordination with the WIPO Secretariat (e.g., Ministry responsible for women's affairs, national IP office, national technology transfer or technology commercialization authority, research and/or educational institutions, women's business support organization); and
- (c) Capacity of the lead agency/institution and other stakeholders to continue with the implementation of the proposed strategies, once the current project is concluded.

The above-mentioned selection process will enable the project team (lead agency/institution at country level and WIPO project management team) to assess the commitment and the actual capacities of prospective candidates to invest time and resources in the process.

2.4. Potential risks and mitigating measures

Risk 1: Sustained collaboration with national authorities and focal points is key in determining the level of support provided from the pilot countries, smooth running of activities and timely implementation of the project.

Mitigation 1: In order to mitigate risks, the project manager will undertake careful consultations and request full involvement of local partners in the implementation of activities.

Risk 2: Conditions in a selected pilot country may impede the project implementation.

Mitigation 2: Due discussions should be pursued. Should such discussions be unsuccessful, the project in the country may be suspended or postponed.

3. REVIEW AND EVALUATION

3.1. Project Review Schedule

The project will be reviewed once a year with a progress report submitted to the CDIP. At the end of the project, an independent evaluation will be carried out and its report will be submitted to the CDIP.

3.2. Project Self-Evaluation

<i>Project Outputs</i>	<i>Indicators of Successful Completion (Output Indicators)</i>
1. Better understanding of the extent and scope of problems faced by women inventors and innovators and possible solutions gained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Delivery of a review of the existing literature on the situation of women inventors, and innovators and entrepreneurs. II. Delivery of a catalog of best practices, models and examples of programs and initiatives designed to support women inventors, innovators in the access to or use of the IP system. III. Collection of a set of individual stories of women inventors and innovators on their experiences in protecting and bringing to market their invention and innovative outputs.
2. Established national base line in four participating countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Delivery of four (4) national situation reports (one in each of the pilot countries) identifying challenges and obstacles faced by women in their access to and use of IP system. II. Focal points identified in each of the four (4) pilot countries together with a list of stakeholders, relevant institutions, organizations and individuals active in the field.
3. Increased awareness of stakeholders on the role of the IP system in protecting and commercializing inventions	Four (4) events such as, conferences, roundtables, seminars or web-based groups, organized in the pilot countries (one in each).
4. Developed materials for training women inventors and innovators	Delivery of a guide on the IP issues in bringing a patent-based product to market and/or in creating a start-up; a presentation material for use in workshops and, a compilation of existing relevant material in WIPO.

5. Increased capacity to provide IP support services to women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Four (4) institutions/centers/organizations (one in each pilot country) identified with a dedicated unit and/or focal point, to support women inventors/innovators. II. Four (4) training programs completed (one in each pilot country) in the identified centers.
6. Network of leading women inventors and entrepreneurs established in the selected countries; core group within the network identified to function as mentors	Establishment of a roster of leading women inventors, innovators and entrepreneurs in each of the pilot countries and from amongst those a core group willing to be mentors.
7. Established network of leading lawyers in the selected countries who agree to provide free legal support services	Establishment of a roster of those willing to provide legal support in each of the pilot countries.
8. Developed toolkit that can be used for conducting a similar project in other countries	Publication of a toolkit which includes the methodology followed in the implementation of the project, lessons learned and the materials developed during the project.

<i>Project Objective</i>	<i>Indicators of Success in Achieving Project Objective (Outcome Indicators)</i>
Increased use by women inventors and innovators of the IP system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. 50% of women who attended the training programs reported that their understanding of the IP system has improved. II. The WIRCs established in each of the participating countries provided IP services to at least 10 women inventors or innovators or conducted outreach to three (3) universities or schools or facilitated three (3) mentoring opportunities.

[Annex II follows]

4. TOTAL RESOURCES BY RESULTS (IN SWISS FRANCS)

(a) Year 2019

Project outputs	2019		Total		Total
	Personnel	Non-personnel	Personnel	Non-personnel	
Better understanding of the extent and scope of problems faced by women inventors and innovators and possible solutions gained		50000		50000	50000
Established national base line in four participating countries		40000		40000	40000
Increased awareness of stakeholders on the role of the IP system in protecting and commercializing inventions		100000		100000	100000
Developed materials for training women inventors and innovators		20000		20000	20000
Total					210000

(b) Biennium 2020-2021*

Project outputs	2020		2021		Total		Total
	Personnel	Non-personnel	Personnel	Non-personnel	Personnel	Non-personnel	
Increased capacity to provide IP support services to women		50000		50000		100000	100000
Network of leading women inventors and entrepreneurs established in the selected countries; core group within the network identified to function as mentors		10000		10000		20000	20000
Established network of leading lawyers in the selected countries who agree to provide free legal support services				10000		10000	10000
Total		60000		70000		130000	130000

(c) Year 2022*

Project outputs	2022		Total		Total
	Personnel	Non-personnel	Personnel	Non-personnel	
Developed toolkit that can be used for conducting a similar project in other countries		60000		60000	60000
Evaluation		15000		15000	15000
Total		75000		75000	75000

* Subject to approval by the Program and Budget Committee.

5. IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

(a) Year 2019

Output	Activity	Quarters 2019			
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th
1	Undertake a literature review of the situation of women inventors, innovators and entrepreneurs on their access to and use of the IP system for protecting and commercializing their inventions.	x	x	x	-
1	Collect good practices, models and examples of programs and initiatives designed to support women inventors and innovators.	x	x	x	-
1	Collect individual stories of women inventors and innovators on their experiences in protecting and bringing to market their inventive and innovative output.	x	x	x	-
2	Undertake an assessment of each participating country to identify the challenges and obstacles faced by women inventors and innovators in their access to and use of the IP system in protecting and commercializing their inventions, bringing their patent-based product to market and/or in creating a start-up.	-	x	x	x
2	Identify national focal points, stakeholders, relevant institutions, organizations and individuals active in the field, as well as potential mentors, leading women inventors and innovators, women's networks, lawyers willing to provide free legal support, etc.	-	x	x	x
3	Develop appropriate awareness raising programs adapted to the needs and requirements of the different categories of stakeholders.	-	-	-	x
4	Develop a guide on the IP issues in bringing a patent based product to market and/or in creating a start up.	x	x	x	x
4	Develop relevant presentation materials for use in workshops.	x	x	x	x
4	Collect existing material in WIPO that could be relevant for creating a training package.	x	x	x	x

(b) Biennium 2020-2021

6	Create a roster of volunteer women inventors and entrepreneurs and identify among them those willing to mentor and provide assistance to other women inventors and innovators.	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
6	Establish, as needed, partnerships with universities or other stakeholders so as to expand the pool of potentially available mentors.	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
6	Organize networking events to create opportunities for women inventors and innovators to meet and share experiences, identify common problems and discuss solutions.	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7	Create a roster of volunteer lawyers and determine their role in supporting women inventors and innovators in making more effective use of the IP system.	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

(b) Year 2022

Outputs	Activity	Quarters 2022			
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
8	At the end of the project, develop a toolkit including: (i) the methodology followed in the implementation of the project, (ii) the lessons learned, and (iii) the materials developed during the project, for use in other similar projects.	X	X	X	-
	Evaluation Report	-	-	-	X

[End of Annex II and of document]