



WIPO Roundtable on Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

Theme 1: Needs Assessment

Geneva, May 12, 2017

Introduction

- WIPO Convention: offering cooperation to Member States requesting legal Technical Assistance;
- 1974 UN-WIPO Agreement: calling for cooperation in providing Technical Assistance for development;
- 2007 Development Agenda: 45 recommendations;
- Strategic Goal no. III: facilitating the use of IP for Development.

Tools and Methodologies used by WIPO for needs assessment

- Direct and regular bilateral consultations with relevant IP national authorities (demand-driven process);
- National Country Plans/ Needs Assessment Reports prepared by WIPO-commissioned experts, including local/ regional experts;
- Available databases on IP status in member states: in WIPO/in member states/in other international/regional organizations;
- The Baseline Survey Questionnaire used for the development of national IP strategies;
- Regular Regional Coordination Meetings for Heads of IP Offices: better picture of varying needs among countries/groups of countries.

Awareness throughout the needs assessment process of the following:

- The development-oriented nature of required Technical Assistance;
- Country specific needs, depending on its level of development.

Challenges and Constraints

- Occasional lack of sufficient level of awareness among some IP stakeholders of the importance of needs assessment;
- Coordination challenges due to frequent turnover of senior management officials of the IP sector in some countries;
- Domestic Political/Security challenges in a number of countries;
- Problem of internal coordination in a number of countries on who would lead the needs assessment process at the national level.

In order to help overcome the above-mentioned challenges:

- Profound understanding of the social, cultural, political and economic background of each country, sub-region and region;
- Awareness raising activities among relevant IP stakeholders, in cooperation with national IP Offices;
- Ensuring institutional and policy continuity in national IP competent authorities despite frequent change in senior management posts;
- Coordination with Permanent Missions in Geneva to avoid complications occasionally arising from multitude of IP institutions.

Conclusion

Needs assessment process is characterized by the following:

- Neutrality and impartiality on the part of WIPO;
- Coordination and full partnership between WIPO and relevant national IP authorities (national ownership);
- Being cost-effective;
- Adoption of an integrated approach;
- Being result-oriented;
- Being development oriented, but also country specific and both demand and need driven.

Thank you for your kind attention!