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Standing Committee on the Law of Patents

Thirty-Sixth Session
Geneva, October 14 to 18, 2024

ADMISSION OF AN OBSERVER

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP), at its first session, held in Geneva from June 15 to 19, 1998, approved certain organizational and procedural matters, including granting observer status of interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (see document SCP/1/2, paragraph 6). Accordingly, it is within the power of the SCP to modify the status of *ad hoc* invitees and to extend invitations to other organizations.

2. The Annex to this document contains information on the ACT | The App Association, a non-governmental organization, which has requested to be granted *ad hoc* observer status in the sessions of the SCP.

3. *The SCP is invited to take a decision on the request for accreditation of the non-governmental organization referred to in the present document as an ad hoc observer.*

[Annex follows]

ACT | THE APP ASSOCIATION

Name of the Organization

ACT | The App Association

About the Organization

The App Association is a policy trade association for the small business technology developer community. Members of the App Association are entrepreneurs, innovators, and independent developers within the global app ecosystem that engage with verticals across every industry. We work with and for our members to promote a policy environment that rewards and inspires innovation while providing resources that help them raise capital, create jobs, and continue to build incredible technology. Across consumer and enterprise verticals, the App Association members build and leverage standards to innovate and compete, and rely on a balanced and reliable standards and patent ecosystem. The value of the ecosystem the App Association represents — which they call the app ecosystem — is approximately \$1.8 trillion and is responsible for 6.1 million American jobs, while serving as a key driver of the \$8 trillion internet of things (IoT) revolution.¹

Patent Protection Advocacy

The App Association advocates for strong patent systems that award innovation while preventing against weak, invalid, or abusive patent enforcement. In parallel with our support for high quality patent systems, we stress the importance of a competitive technical standards landscape through voluntary fair, reasonable, and non-discriminatory (FRAND) licensing commitments by standard essential patent (SEP) holders.

The app ecosystem's success, reliant on continued innovation and investment in connected devices and interfaces, hinges on the sufficiency of key legal frameworks that underlie them. Patents allow small business innovators to protect their investments in innovation, attract venture capital, and establish and maintain a competitive position in the marketplace. As more devices throughout the consumer and enterprise spheres become connected to the internet — often referred to as the IoT — App Association members' innovations will remain the interface for communicating with these devices. Small business viability directly correlates to fairness and predictability in the patent system. Therefore, strong national and global patent landscapes are important to our organization.

The App Association seeks to be granted *ad hoc* observer status to the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents so that it can represent its global membership of innovative small business software developers.

Organization Representative

Brian Scarpelli, Senior Global Policy Counsel

Priya Nair, Senior Intellectual Property Policy Counsel

¹ ACT | The App Association, State of the App Economy (2022), <https://actonline.org/wp-content/uploads/APP-Economy-Report-FINAL.pdf>.

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