

**INTRODUCTION OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF WIPO
TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE CDIP
NOVEMBER 9 TO 13, 2020**

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to present the eleventh Director General's report on the implementation of the WIPO Development Agenda (DA), contained in document [CDIP/25/2](#).

The report provides an overview of the implementation of the DA throughout the Organization's programs and activities in 2019, that have directly, or indirectly, contributed to the overall objectives of the WIPO DA. Hence, it showcases that in addition to the mainstreamed DA projects, the DA Recommendations are at the core of various activities carried out by the Organization.

In Annex I of the document, in addition to the status of the implementation of the 45 DA Recommendations, the document also links them to the Organization's Expected Results. The other two annexes provide an overview of the ongoing DA projects, and a summary of key recommendations made by the external evaluators on the completed DA projects.

I would like to highlight a few salient points from the 2019 Report.

First, in the area of capacity building, the Organization continued to be guided by the DA Recommendations contained under Cluster A,¹ and while delivering its development assistance, it takes into account the priorities and needs of Member States. Those activities included: development of national IP strategies; policy dialogue meetings; awareness raising and trainings for IP administration; trainings for IP right holders; provision of business solutions and databases on IP rights; and legal advice. In 2019, WIPO organized a total of 860 technical assistance activities in 132 developing and least developed countries, as well as countries in transition. The WIPO Development Sector alone organized 265 activities, covering all areas of IP.

Second, DA project mainstreaming continued to demonstrate visible result. Twenty-two projects have been mainstreamed into the regular work of the Organization. These projects

¹ Cluster A refers to Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

touch upon a wide variety of areas and topics. For example, as a consequence of the mainstreaming of the Project on Specialized Databases Access and Support, by the end of 2019, WIPO has established nearly 1,000 Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) worldwide. These TISCs provide a range of services such as specialized patent searches, which respond to more than 900,000 inquiries annually. Following the mainstreaming of the Project on IP Rights Education and Professional Training with Judicial Training Institutions, WIPO continued collaborating and coordinating with all relevant sectors to build an Organization-wide approach to judicial activities. In 2019, WIPO delivered national and regional capacity building activities to over 340 judges from 64 countries, covering multiple areas of IP rights and enforcement. Finally, after mainstreaming the Project on IP and Socio-Economic Development, WIPO continued to deliver development economic studies on different topics, at the request of Member States. These studies constitute a valuable resource to support evidence-based policymaking, particularly in developing countries.

Third, on collaborating with external stakeholders, WIPO remained engaged in the work of the UN system throughout 2019, by taking part in, and contributing to, conferences, events, processes and initiatives, within the scope of its mandate. In addition, in 2019, WIPO hosted its first International Conference on IP and Development, following the request by the CDIP to hold a series of such conferences. The topic of the 2019 Conference was “How to Benefit from the IP System”. It explored national, regional and international experiences on recent IP and development issues, and strategized on how to better benefit from the IP system. The event registered some 260 participants representing Member States, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), private sector, members of the academia and the civil society.

Last but not least, I would like to stress upon the relevance of WIPO’s public-private partnerships. The Accessible Books Consortium (ABC), WIPO Re:Search, WIPO GREEN, Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI) and Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI), are partnerships that create opportunities for sharing expertise and funding for the advancement of a number of important public policies that underlie the Organization’s mission.

These are just a few examples of the significant progress that the Organization achieved in 2019, by virtue of the commitment demonstrated by our Member States and their interest in the DA projects and activities.

In my future reports, I will strive to reflect more thoroughly on impact, going beyond just a litany of activities. Some of these will be applicable to work currently being undertaken, even as we begin work that will focus on support to your innovators, creators, entrepreneurs, SMEs and communities.

I would like to recall, that the DA recommendation 38 urges WIPO to strengthen its “capacity to perform objective assessments of the impact of the Organization’s activities on development”.

My report to this Committee could be used as a tool to showcase the progress and achievements reached in the course of the implementation of the WIPO DA, but also to demonstrate the benefits of its work to communities and businesses in the developing countries.

Lastly, your strong commitment and interest shown in DA projects and activities are vitally important. I ask for this to be continued so that we can work together to make a real and significant difference to our peoples and communities.

Thank you.