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**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on their efforts in  
2013 to implement the outcome of the WSIS**

Submission by

**WIPO**

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (to the 17<sup>th</sup> session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)  
CONTRIBUTION IN 2013 TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF  
THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

December 17, 2013

This report has been prepared by the Secretariat of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and provides an update of WIPO's contribution, in 2013, to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). WIPO is committed to contribute to the development of an inclusive and development-oriented Information Society as set out in the WSIS objectives and the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action.

## WSIS ACTION LINE ACTIVITIES IN 2013

### 1. Action Line C3 "Access to information and knowledge"

WIPO works to promote a balanced international IP system as a means of rewarding creativity, stimulating innovation, and contributing to economic development and access to knowledge in the public interest. In June 2013, the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled ("Marrakesh VIP Treaty") was successfully concluded with the main goal of allowing access to information for those who need accessible format copies in order to read printed materials. WIPO's Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) monitors and reviews developments in international copyright law, and where appropriate, develops new approaches to important issues raised by market and technology developments. In 2013, WIPO's SCCR continued to discuss limitations and exceptions to copyright, in particular with regard to libraries and archives, and educational institutions, in order to facilitate access to information and the preservation of cultural works. WIPO, together with other intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and in cooperation with Creative Commons (CC), created an open license for IGOs in the form of a CC license. This initiative takes into consideration the benefits of making available material to the public at large under open licenses as a way to enhance accessibility to relevant information, while giving due regard to questions of immunity, jurisdiction and applicable law.

*Contributing to on-line access of technological information contained in patents in order to support science, technology and innovation:*

The Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI)<sup>1</sup> program facilitates access to scientific and technical journals through a public-private partnership between WIPO and partners in the publishing industry. It is also part of the Research4Life<sup>2</sup> partnership together with specialized programs from the World Health Organization (HINARI), the Food and Agriculture Organization (AGORA) and the United Nation's Environment Programme's (OARE). In 2013, The Research4Life partnership reached the milestone of 35,000 peer-reviewed journals and e-books, with ARDI offering access to nearly 10,000 journals and e-books from its 17 partner publishers. A similar partnership with five of the world's leading commercial patent database providers, which established the Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI)<sup>3</sup> program, allows access to commercial patent databases providing more sophisticated search and analysis tools in retrieving and assessing relevant technology. Both the ARDI and ASPI programs seek to reinforce the capacity of developing countries to participate in the knowledge economy and to support researchers in developing countries in creating and developing new solutions to technical challenges faced on a local and global level by providing access to least developed countries (LDCs) for free and to certain other developing countries at very low cost.

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<sup>1</sup> For further information see at <http://www.wipo.int/ardi/en/>

<sup>2</sup> For further information see <http://www.research4life.org>

<sup>3</sup> For further information see at <http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/programs/aspi>

Training and awareness-raising activities reinforcing these services were carried out within the framework of WIPO's project to establish Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs)<sup>4</sup>, which are intended to provide the local research and business community with expert assistance in accessing and effectively retrieving technological information from the many online resources such as patent, scientific and technical journal databases. In 2013, a total of 26 national and 5 regional training workshops were carried out in developing countries where the TISC project is being implemented. Since last year, an interactive e-tutorial on using and exploiting patent information is available both online and on CD-ROM and following its widespread promotion this year some 2,000 CD-ROMS of the e-tutorial were distributed globally. Moreover, an eTISC knowledge management platform which encourages the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices among TISCs nationally and internationally has grown to nearly 700 members within the space of a year. The eTISC also includes specially targeted e-learning modules and webinars.

Furthermore in 2013, several additional patent landscape reports (PLRs) were developed by WIPO<sup>5</sup>. The reports provide detailed instructions on how to search generic on-line patent databases for specific technologies and are important tools that build capacity in patent search expertise. In addition, a compilation of the reports was published online and includes links to PLRs prepared by other institutions.

*Enhancing on-line access to information concerning IP laws, regulations and treaties:*

WIPO Lex<sup>6</sup> is the Organization's on-line database of IP-related national laws and international treaties that provides free and universal access to relevant legal information on 195 countries (members of WIPO, the World Trade Organization or United Nations). After the Russian interface was launched in August 2013, WIPO Lex is now available in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish. The laws component of the database contains some twelve thousand classified legal texts. The treaties component of WIPO Lex, which was recently enhanced and made user-friendly, features some 170 multilateral and 530 bilateral IP-related treaties. Work continues on adding more treaties with a view to creating a most comprehensive global collection of treaties with intellectual property provisions.

2. Action Line C5 "Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs"

One of the objectives of the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center is to promote a balanced legal framework for the protection of IP in the Internet Domain Name System (DNS). The WIPO Center strives to provide leadership in the development of dispute prevention and settlement, and options to address tensions arising from the unauthorized use of IP in the DNS. Building on its more than 13 years of experience with over 42,000 domain name-related disputes, the WIPO Center continues to liaise with DNS stakeholders, including trademark owners and representatives, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and registration authorities. This concerns in particular mechanisms for the protection of trademarks at top and second levels in the introduction and operation of further new generic top-level domains (gTLDs) foreseen for 2013 and beyond. In 2013, the WIPO Center also continued to work with administrators of country-code Top-Level Domains (ccTLDs) around the globe, applying electronic, paperless dispute resolution policies for such domains including for Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs).

<sup>4</sup> For further information see at <http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/programs/tisc>

<sup>5</sup> For further information see at [http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/programs/patent\\_landscapes/index.html](http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/programs/patent_landscapes/index.html)

<sup>6</sup> For further information see at <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/>.

3. Action Line C7 “ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life” paragraph 15: E-Government”

*WIPO’s support regarding IP registration related issues and e-governmental available services:*

In order to enhance the efficiency of IP registration related activities and improve e-services provided by IP institutions (e.g. national IP offices) to their stakeholders, WIPO carried out technical assistance to IP Institutions to help them participate effectively in the global IP system. In 2013, WIPO provided technical assistance products and services to Industrial Property offices from 53 countries, across all regions, of which 12 were LDCs, 36 were developing countries and 5 were countries in economic transition. In addition, two regional IP institutions in Africa, namely the African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO) and African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) were assisted in their modernization projects. The Program’s work also included several regional workshops focusing on key automation topics, training and sharing of national experiences and best practices. The Program’s assistance covered a comprehensive set of services, including technical advice and guidance; needs assessment; mapping of business processes; provision of IP administration software packages customized to specific national requirements; establishment of national IP databases; training of IP institutions staff and knowledge transfer; and e-communication with WIPO Treaties.

4. Action Line C8 “Cultural Diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content”

In April 2013, WIPO organized, jointly with the Andean Community, the Workshop on Access to Genetic Resources and the Protection of Traditional Knowledge from an Indigenous Perspective, which took place in Lima, Peru. The workshop allowed the participants, among other things, to review the WIPO TK Documentation Toolkit, which aims to assist traditional knowledge (TK) holders in identifying and defending their IP-related interests when their TK is documented or recorded, including through the use of ICTs. In May 2013, WIPO participated in the Tehran International Congress on Features, Characteristics and Cultural and Economic Contribution of Arts and Handicrafts held in Tehran, Iran, organized by the Organization for Culture and Islamic Relations, Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA). The congress explored ways and means of using the IP system to preserve and protection traditional handicraft assets, which are increasingly vulnerable to imitation and misappropriation. WIPO was also invited by the Sami Parliament of Norway to participate in the Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, which took place in Alta, Norway, in June 2013. The Preparatory Conference aimed to provide the world’s indigenous peoples with an opportunity to consolidate their positions, strategies and priorities for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples 2014. In June 2013, WIPO took part in the Chengdu International Conference on Intangible Cultural Heritage, held in Chengdu, China. This conference celebrated the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The reflection helped identify and analyze a number of the difficulties encountered during the ten years of implementation of the Convention. In November 2013, WIPO participated in the World Culture Forum (WCF), in Bali, Indonesia. The focus of the conference was on culture and development, and WIPO spoke on IP and traditional knowledge/traditional cultural expression issues.

Moreover in 2013, WIPO released the 2013 edition of the “WIPO Guide on Managing Intellectual Property for Museums” seeking to provide guidance on IP related to the functions of these institutions that play a crucial role in preserving and making available cultural heritage material.

WIPO also organized a successful Thematic Workshop, entitled “*The Internet: an Environment for Creativity*” in the context of the WSIS Forum 2013 in Geneva. Panelists representing various regions and interests shared their views on how the Internet, with its constantly evolving platforms, applications and services, is shaping the creation, distribution and consumption of creative material.

5. Action Line C9: Media

WIPO released in 2013 “The Legal Status of Video Games: Comparative Analysis of National Approaches” which addresses the legal analysis of this increasingly popular form of mass entertainment and powerful platform for innovative art.

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