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**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on
their efforts in 2016 to implement the outcome of the WSIS**

Submission by

World Intellectual Property Organization

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 20th 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 2016 TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF
THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS)

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This report has been prepared by The Secretariat of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to provide an update of WIPO's contribution to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) for 2016. WIPO continues to contribute to the development of an inclusive and development-oriented Information Society as set out in the WSIS objectives and the Geneva Plan of Action.

WSIS ACTION LINE ACTIVITIES IN 2016

Action Line C3 "Access to information and knowledge"

The Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled ("Marrakesh VIP Treaty" adopted in June 2013) entered into force on September 30, 2016, and the Marrakesh Assembly met for the first time on October 5, 2016. WIPO has continued to work to promote the Treaty and to raise awareness of its provisions targeted at allowing access to information by persons with print disabilities.

WIPO is committed to helping Member States take the fullest possible advantage of the Marrakesh Treaty. It is a leader of the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC), a multi-stakeholder alliance including organizations that represent people with print disabilities, such as the World Blind Union; libraries for the blind, publishers, authors, and collective management organizations. ABC was created to help implement the objectives of the Marrakesh Treaty in three areas:

- **Capacity building**, i.e., training and technical assistance in developing countries in the production and distribution of books in accessible formats;
- **Inclusive publishing**, i.e., promotion of accessible book production techniques with commercial publishers so that published e-books and other digital publications are usable from the outset by both sighted people and those with print disabilities; and
- **The ABC Book Service** (i.e., TIGAR) a database of accessible titles that can be exchanged across national borders by libraries for the blind. The database is located at WIPO's headquarters in Geneva.

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 2016, the 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 preservation of cultural works. To this end, a comprehensive update to the *Study on Copyright Limitations and Exceptions for Libraries and Archives*¹ was completed to provide a broad international survey of the current situation regarding library exceptions in all WIPO Member States. In addition, a similar survey was completed on education exceptions in all WIPO Member States in the *Study on Copyright Limitations and Exceptions for Educational Activities*².

On-line access to technological information contained in patents to support science, technology and innovation:

Access to scientific and technical journals and to commercial patent databases is provided by WIPO through two public-private programs: the Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI)³ program, which facilitates access to scientific and technical journals, and

¹http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=306216

² http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=

³ For further information see at <http://www.wipo.int/ardi/en/>

the Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI)⁴ program, which allows access to commercial patent databases comprising more sophisticated search and analysis tools for retrieving and assessing relevant technology. ARDI is also part of the Research4Life⁵ partnership together with specialized programs from the World Health Organization (HINARI), the Food and Agriculture Organization (AGORA) and the United Nations Environment Programme's (OARE) which provide online access to nearly 70,000 peer-reviewed international scientific journals, books, and databases from over 450 publishers to over 8,300 institutions in developing and least developed countries. The ARDI program offers access to nearly 28,000 publications to over 800 registered institutions. The ASPI program is provided in partnership with seven of the world's leading commercial patent database providers from around the world. The number of institutions registered to access the ASPI program is growing steadily and has increased to over 60 institutions.

Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs)⁶ 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 which are supported by WIPO through training and awareness raising events. In 2016, a total of 24 national and 2 regional training workshops were carried out in developing countries where the TISC project is being implemented. An interactive e-tutorial on using and exploiting patent information is available both online and on CD-ROM in English, French and Spanish. Moreover, an eTISC knowledge management platform which encourages the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices among TISCs nationally and internationally has grown to over 1600 members since its launch at the end of 2012. The eTISC also includes a growing number of specially targeted e-learning modules and webinars.

In 2015, WIPO also continued to work with other IGOs and Member States towards improved access of patent information for more informed decision-making. This work included producing further patent landscape reports⁷ which describe the patenting and innovation activity in different areas of technology. The reports describe the required search methodology and explain step by step how to search on-line patent databases for specific technologies. A patent landscape report on neglected diseases is being finalized, while work is starting on a report on marine genetic resources.

WIPO publications contributing to Action Line C3 by providing tools and improving the skills of users in patent information include: *Guidelines for Preparing Patent Landscape Reports*⁸ and a *Manual on Free and Open Source Tools for Patent Analytics* which are now forming the basis of highly-requested training on patent analytics for TISCs.

A new project within the framework of WIPO's Development Agenda was also started in 2016, which aims to provide practical support to inventors, researchers and entrepreneurs in identifying and using inventions in the public domain so as to generate new research outputs and products. This support is provided in the form of written guides, training materials and local experts.

WIPO also maintains databases of IP rights with a global coverage, notably containing patents, trademarks and industrial designs that are freely searchable via the internet. The challenge consists in gathering data from many diverse sources, in high volumes and in

⁴ For further information see at <http://www.wipo.int/aspi>

⁵ For further information see <http://www.research4life.org>

⁶ For further information see at <http://www.wipo.int/tisc>

⁷ For further information see at http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/programs/patent_landscapes/index.html

⁸ http://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_946.pdf

different formats and in making this data easily searchable by IP specialists and by the public at large: for example, almost 3 million new patent applications were published throughout the world in 2015. In order to make the data not only available to everyone but also understandable by everyone, WIPO is implementing a Machine Translation system specific to the IP domain to help users overcome the language barrier. 2016 has seen a major evolution in the quality of this system, called WIPO*Translate, by the successful implementation of the cutting-edge Neural Machine Translation technology (NMT). Finally, WIPO is sharing this expertise in Machine Translation with other UN agencies to assist them in bridging the language barrier gap for their users and their domain-specific documents in a similar manner.

On-line access to information concerning IP laws, regulations and treaties:

The Organization's intellectual property online database WIPO Lex was launched in 2010 and continues to provide the most comprehensive, authoritative and reliable source of IP legal information available on the web. The WIPO Lex database contains over 13,000 legal acts, covering national IP and IP-related legislation of 197 States and entities, and 750 international treaties on IP matters. WIPO Lex features public interfaces in the six official languages of the UN (English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish).

The WIPO Lex collection is continuously developing in close cooperation with the national IP offices and universities around the globe to ensure that the legal information is up to date and is free of charge for all users. Furthermore, WIPO Lex is taking measures to make the database more user friendly for visitors that access the collection through different devices. WIPO Lex has become a global service, increasing every year as the database grows and improves in order to meet the needs of IP professionals, academics, and students worldwide.

On-line distance learning courses:

The WIPO e-Learning platform for IP courses at basic and advanced levels offers distance-learning education in up to seven languages, through a state-of-the-art online environment.⁹ WIPO's rich portfolio of courses on IP caters to different target audiences: inventors and creators, business managers and IP professionals, policy makers and government officials of IP institutions, diplomats, students and teachers of IP and the civil society. Courses combine traditional face-to-face and distance learning methodologies, explaining how to stimulate innovation, creativity and development. For instance, a distance learning course on Collective Management of Copyright and Related Rights (DL 501)¹⁰ has been launched recently, both for legal practitioners and policy makers. In addition, the WIPO Academy Distance Learning Program is providing Accessible IP Courses, a new service to facilitate access for persons who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled.¹¹

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

One of the activities of the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center (WIPO Center) is to promote a balanced legal framework for the protection of IP in the Internet Domain Name System (DNS). The WIPO Center provides 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 16 years of experience with some 36,000 domain name-related disputes, the WIPO Center continues to liaise with DNS stakeholders,

⁹ See the complete WIPO Academy Catalogue for 2016 at:
http://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_467_2016.pdf

¹⁰ <https://welc.wipo.int/acc/index.jsf?lang=en>

¹¹ https://welc.wipo.int/index_en.php

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 ICANN's introduction and operation of new generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs). In 2016, the WIPO Center 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).

Action Line C7 "ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life" paragraph 15: E-Government"

IP registration related issues and e-government services:

In order to enhance the efficiency of IP registration related activities and improve e-services provided by IP institutions (e.g. national and regional IP offices) to their stakeholders, WIPO carried out technical assistance to IP Institutions to help them participate effectively in the global IP system. In 2016, nearly 80 IP Offices are receiving such technical and capacity building assistance. Of these, 19 are in LDC countries and two are regional IP institutions, namely the African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO) and African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) with a total of 36 member states.

The Program's assistance includes technical advice and guidance; needs assessment; mapping of business processes; establishment of online services (online filing and search of IP rights); provision of IP administration software packages customized to specific national requirements; establishment of national and regional IP databases; training of IP institutions staff and knowledge transfer; and integration with global IP systems for patents, trademarks and designs.

Action Line C8 "Cultural Diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content"

WIPO has been actively engaged in the WSIS Forum and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), contributing to the discussions on cultural production, changes in the market and new roles played by users. In May 2016, WIPO organized a thematic workshop on *Software Licensing: Navigating a Sea of Options*¹² at the WSIS Forum 2016. WIPO's contributions have helped to clarify many relevant topics, including the effects of digital technologies and how content and information are created and distributed.

Support the IP management of intangible cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs):

WIPO organized two international Seminars on IP and Genetic Resources (GRs), TK and TCEs in Geneva. -one on *Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources* (May 26 to 27, 2016) and another on *Intellectual Property and Traditional Knowledge* (November 24 to 25, 2016). Both events gathered a large audience and facilitated a broad exchange of experiences and views. Information on the Programs, speeches and interventions has been made available on the WIPO website.

Action Line C9: Media

WIPO continued its efforts in 2016 to implement the Development Agenda Project on *Strengthening and Development of the Audiovisual Sector in Burkina Faso and certain African Countries*. The proposed Project seeks to enhance the understanding and strategic use of the IP system as a key tool to foster production, marketing and distribution in the

¹² <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2016/Agenda/Session/131>

African audiovisual sector. In addition, the WIPO SCCR continued its discussions on a future treaty to protect broadcast signals against piracy. Radio and TV broadcasters play a critical role in developing and sustaining informed, inclusive and interconnected societies. They are instrumental to the creation and dissemination of a variety of materials, including informational, educational and entertainment content.

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