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Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on their efforts in 2014 to implement the outcome of the WSIS

Submission by

World Intellectual Property Organization (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 18th 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.

WIPO
WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)
CONTRIBUTION IN 2014 TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF
THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS)

December 1, 2014

This report has been prepared by the Secretariat of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and provides an update of WIPO's contribution, in 2014, 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 2014

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. Following the adoption of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled ("Marrakesh VIP Treaty") in June 2013, WIPO has been working to promote this instrument and to raise awareness for its provisions targeted at allowing access to information by persons with print disabilities.

WIPO has also recently launched another initiative that is complementary to its efforts to implement the Marrakesh VIP Treaty: the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC)[1]. ABC has made the previous stakeholder pilot project to foster access to accessible versions of printed works a permanent program at WIPO. One of its most important initiatives is the launch of a series of projects in developing countries to implement practical methods of increasing access to published works. Once the Marrakesh VIP Treaty comes into force, ABC's impact should increase tremendously with the ability to transfer accessible format works across borders.

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 2014, 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 preservation of cultural works. WIPO, together with other intergovernmental organizations[2] (IGOs) and in cooperation with Creative Commons (CC), created an open license for IGOs in the form of a CC license[3]. The license is the basis for open access policies to be implemented by International Organizations, enabling the making available of material to the public at large under open licenses as a way to enhance accessibility to relevant information.

The WIPO Academy also contributes directly to WSIS Action Line C3 through a set of well-established educational programs targeted for developing countries, least-developed countries and countries with economies in transition. The WIPO Academy has developed four main programs offering on-line and on-site general and advanced courses on intellectual property (IP) in many languages thus contributing to the upgrade of knowledge and skills in various areas of IP and to the promotion of the use of IP as a tool for

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[1] For further information see at http://www.accessiblebooksconsortium.org/portal/en/index.html
[2] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), United Nations (UN), World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) etc.
[3] http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/igo/

economic, social, cultural and technological development. These courses are offered on a regular basis to government officials, IP practitioners and students.

In 2014, about 40,000 beneficiaries from all over the world have been given the opportunity to acquire knowledge on IP, mainly through a variety of ready-to-use and instantaneous distance-learning courses in IP. These courses are complemented by regular Master's Degrees programs in IP law, training opportunities for teachers in IP, classroom-based courses and practical training modules.

Moreover, general and introductory distance-learning courses in IP are offered free-of-charge in all the UN languages. Advanced courses, though they require registration fees, are also offered free of charge to government officials from developing countries. Students, academicians and professionals from these countries are also offered preferential rates. In a move to further facilitate access to information and knowledge, the WIPO Academy, in 2014, has made the electronic registration system available to all programs through the establishment of the WIPO e-Learning Center.

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)[4] 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[5] 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) provides online access to over 44,000 peer-reviewed international scientific journals, books, and databases to over 7,700 institutions in developing and least developed countries. The ARDI program itself now offers access to nearly 20,000 publications to around 400 registered institutions. A similar partnership with five of the world's leading commercial patent database providers, which established the Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI)[6] program, allows access to commercial patent databases providing more sophisticated search and analysis tools in retrieving and assessing relevant technology. The number of institutions registered to access the ASPI program is substantially less, but growing steadily.

Training and awareness-raising activities reinforcing these services are carried out within the framework of WIPO's project to establish Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs)[7], 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 2014, a total of 16 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 2013, a French language version was also launched and is available online and on CD-ROM. Moreover, an eTISC knowledge management platform which encourages the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices among TISCs nationally and internationally

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[4] For further information see at http://www.wipo.int/ardi/en/
[5] For further information see http://www.research4life.org
[6] For further information see at http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/programs/aspi
[7] For further information see at http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/programs/tisc

has grown to over 1000 members since its launch 2 years ago. The eTISC also includes a growing number of specially targeted e-learning modules and webinars.

Furthermore in 2014, several further patent landscape reports (PLRs) were developed by the WIPO Secretariat[8]. The reports research and describe the patenting and innovation activity in different areas of technology.
They 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 and analytics. One new report covers in particular technologies related to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, concluded by WIPO in 2013. Examples of technologies covered by the report include digital rights management.

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

WIPO Lex[9], the Organization's global online database, offers free access to the most comprehensive collection of intellectual property (IP) laws and treaties. It includes almost 200 country profiles containing more than 12,000 laws and regulations covering a wide range of IP areas (patents, utility models, industrial designs, trademarks, geographical indications, copyright, traditional knowledge, trade secrets and more). At the same time, WIPO Lex features 750 multilateral and bilateral IP-related treaties. The database is available in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish. The collection of laws contains legal documents in 81 national languages, with Aymara and Quechua recently incorporated. In 2014, more than 2.7 million users from all the countries of the world visited WIPO Lex.

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 14 years of experience with some 45,000 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, currently undertaken by ICANN, and operation of new generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs). In 2014, 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).

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:

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[8] For further information see at http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/programs/patent_landscapes/index.html
[9] For further information see at http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/.

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 2014, WIPO provided technical assistance products and services to Industrial Property offices from 52 countries, across all regions, of which 11 were LDCs, 34 were developing countries and 4 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"

WIPO has been actively engaged in the WSIS Forum and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), contributing to the discussion on cultural production, changes in the market and new roles played by users. In June 2014, WIPO Secretariat organized a successful thematic workshop on *"Media and the Internet: New Creation and distribution channels reshaping the market"* at the WSIS Forum in Geneva. In September 2014, WIPO Secretariat organized two workshops at the IGF in Istanbul, namely, *"The Business of Creativity: User Generated Content and IP"* and *"Creating, Protecting, and Providing Access to Digital Culture"*. WIPO also participated in a number of other relevant events, such as the IGF Best Practices Forum on *"Creating an enabling environment for the development of local content"*.

WIPO's contributions have helped to clarify many relevant topics, including the effects of digital technologies on the ways content and information are created and distributed; the economic, legal and social implications of the direct engagement of users in the creation and distribution of content and information; the social and economic impact/importance of user-generated content (UGC) and platforms enabling its distribution (e.g. Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, Flickr, Wikipedia, new applications using available data, such as public transport info or sports event schedules).

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

The WIPO Secretariat in 2014 participated in a series of three regional capacity-building workshops co-organized with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kenya (March), Thailand (June) and Samoa (August). The workshops aimed to improve the understanding of IP issues of participants, and to raise awareness of the norm-setting process taking place within the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) and the work of the WIPO Secretariat on traditional knowledge (TK) issues.

In June 2014, the WIPO Secretariat took part in the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) Economic Cooperation Work Programme (ECWP) Policy Workshop on IP and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions. The objective of the workshop was to increase knowledge of the potential role of IP principles and systems in the protection of TK, TCEs and GRs, in order to assist ASEAN member states to develop policy responses to prevent misappropriation and to ensure that any benefits from commercialization were appropriately shared.

In September 2014, the WIPO Secretariat participated in the Public Forum on the Social and Economic Value of Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions and in the Focus Group Meeting, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The focus of the forum was on the harnessing of TK for economic development where the WIPO Secretariat presented on IP and traditional knowledge/traditional cultural expression issues. Also in September 2014, the WIPO Secretariat took part in the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The WIPO Secretariat also organized a WIPO training workshop on IP and commercialization of TK and TCE-based products, in New York.

The objective of the workshop was to enhance the capacity of women craft makers to understand and make use of IP tools to better market, commercialize, and protect their tradition-based handicraft against misuse and misappropriation, through the establishment of an effective IP strategy. In October 2014, WIPO organized and spoke at the National Workshop on genetic resources (GRs), associated traditional knowledge (TK) and their relationship with IP, in Bogota, Colombia. The objective of the workshop was to build capacity on IP issues for government officials dealing with access and benefit sharing (ABS). In December 2014, the WIPO Secretariat organized a Practical Workshop for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities on Intellectual Property and Traditional Knowledge, held at WIPO headquarters with the objective of increasing awareness and basic IP knowledge among skilled indigenous peoples' and local communities' representatives, with a view to enhancing their participation in the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) process and other national and regional processes.

The WIPO Secretariat in 2014 also released the publication *"Intellectual Property and Folk, Arts and Cultural Festivals - A Practical Guide"* which identifies the main intellectual property (IP) challenges faced by festival organizers and outlines some practical elements of an effective IP management strategy.

5.   Action Line C9: Media

Following the release of the report on *"The Legal Status of Video Games: Comparative Analysis in National Approaches"* in 2013, WIPO participated in and organized events focused on the clarification of legal issues and the promotion of this increasingly popular form of mass entertainment and powerful platform for innovative art. In 2014, WIPO also continued its efforts in the implementation of the Development Agenda Project on *"Strengthening and Development of the Audiovisual Sector in Burkina Faso and certain African Countries"*.

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