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**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on  
their efforts in 2018 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 22<sup>nd</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 2018 TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF  
THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS)

December 14, 2018

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 2018. 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 2018**

### 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 to date has 47 members. 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.

The Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) was launched in June 2014 and it seeks to implement the Marrakesh VIP Treaty at an operational level. This WIPO-administered Treaty makes possible the production and exchange of accessible books across national boundaries for the benefit of people who are blind, have low vision or are otherwise print-disabled. ABC is a public – private alliance led by WIPO and it includes organizations that represent people with print disabilities, such as the World Blind Union; libraries for people with print disabilities; and organizations representing authors, publishers and collective management organizations, including the International Authors Forum, the International Publishers Association, and the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organizations. ABC carries out activities in three areas, namely:

- **Capacity Building** – training and funding provided by ABC in 12 developing countries for the production of books in accessible formats. Since the start of capacity building, over 5000 accessible educational books have been produced in national languages through training and funding provided by ABC;
- **ABC Global Book Service** - a global library catalogue of over 415,000 titles in accessible formats in 76 languages that enables libraries serving the print-disabled to share items in their collections, rather than duplicating the costs of converting them to accessible formats. Currently, 46 libraries for people with print disabilities, known as "authorized entities" have joined the ABC Global Book Service;
- **Accessible Publishing** - encourages publishers to adopt "born accessible" practices through its promotion of the ABC Charter for Accessible Publishing and the annual ABC International Excellence Award for Accessible Publishing, which recognizes leadership and achievements in advancing the accessibility of digital publications. Hachette Livre, France and the DAISY Forum of India were the winners in 2018.

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 2018, the SCCR agreed on an Action Plan that is guiding the work on limitations and exceptions for the rest of the 2018-19 Biennium. This action plan encompasses various activities related to all the areas, namely, libraries, archives, museums, education and research institutions, and people with other disabilities. It includes activities ranging from the preparation of studies to the organization of regional seminars.

WIPO also continues to implement and strengthen its Open Access policy to facilitate the distribution and re-use of document and material published inhouse or posted on its website.

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

Two public-private programs provide access to scientific and technical journals and to commercial patent databases: the Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI)<sup>1</sup> program, which facilitates access to scientific and technical journals, and the Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI)<sup>2</sup> 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 Research4Life<sup>3</sup> partnership together with the following specialized programs: HINARI from the World Health Organization; AGORA from the Food and Agriculture Organization; OARE from the United Nations Environment Programme; and from 2018, the GOALI administered by the International Labour Organization. These programs provide online access to nearly 85,000 peer-reviewed international scientific and legal journals, books, and databases from over 200 unique publishers to over 8,700 institutions in developing and least developed countries. The ARDI program offers access to nearly 28,000 publications to over 1,100 registered institutions. The ASPI program is provided in partnership with eight (a new partner joined in 2018) 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 65 institutions.

Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs)<sup>4</sup> 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. At the end of 2018, over 730 TISCs have been established in national networks in 78 countries. During the year, a total of 26 national and 3 regional training workshops were carried out to reinforce the sustainability and impact of TISCs in these countries. An interactive e-tutorial on using and exploiting patent information is available both online and on CD-ROM is now available in English, French, Spanish and also in Russian. Moreover, an eTISC knowledge management platform which encourages the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices among TISCs nationally and internationally continues to grow with over 2,300 members. The eTISC also includes a growing number of specially targeted e-learning modules and webinars.

In 2018, 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 a patent landscape report<sup>5</sup> analyzing and comparing the patent applications and scientific literature on marine genetic resources in the ASEAN region, using open source tools for the analysis. In addition, a Handbook on patent analytics<sup>6</sup> is under preparation, addressing challenges in patent analytics and work with patent and scientific literature data, as well as open source tools for patent analytics, including geocoding, text mining and machine learning tools. The Handbook is expected to contribute to Action Line C3 by providing tools and improving the skills of users in patent information, in the same way that the *Manual on Free and Open Source Tools for Patent Analytics*<sup>7</sup> did, and to be used as a resource for highly-requested training on patent analytics for TISCs.

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.wipo.int/ardi/en/>

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.wipo.int/aspi>

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.research4life.org>

<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.wipo.int/tisc>

<sup>5</sup> See [https://wipo-analytics.github.io/asean\\_marine/intro.html](https://wipo-analytics.github.io/asean_marine/intro.html)

<sup>6</sup> See <https://wipo-analytics.github.io/handbook/>

<sup>7</sup> See <https://wipo-analytics.github.io/>

The unique searchable database of patent landscape reports (PLRs), including a dedicated area on information and telecommunications (ICT) technologies continued to increase in content in 2018<sup>8</sup>.

Two projects within the framework of WIPO's Development Agenda are ongoing: one 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 has now produced two practical guides on this subject; the other project, which was started in early 2018, aims to establish a framework for more effectively targeting capacity building activities in the field in technology transfer through the development of a comprehensive capacity building needs assessment methodology, which would allow the needs of key role players in the categories of funders, developers, managers and users of IP within the "innovation value chain" to be more effectively identified and addressed.

WIPO also maintains databases of IP rights with a global coverage, notably PATENTSCOPE for patents, the Global Brand Database for trademarks, and the Global Design Database for industrial designs that are freely searchable via the internet. The challenge consists in gathering data from many diverse sources, in high volumes and in different formats and in making this data easily searchable by IP specialists and by the public at large. 2018 continued to see the addition of new national collections in those databases as well as Webinars and user's guides provide guidance to the users in order to make the data not only available to everyone, but also understandable by everyone. WIPO translate - WIPO's in-house developed neural machine translation system - has been shared with more UN agencies contributing in bridging the language barrier gap for their users and their domain-specific documents in a similar manner. In collaboration with IFPMA and 20 leading research-based biopharmaceutical companies, WIPO launched the Pat-informed database in October 2018, with the goal of simplifying the work of drug procurement agencies by facilitating the access to status information of the patents hold by the pharmaceutical companies.

*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 15,000 legal acts, covering national IP and IP-related legislation of 205 States and entities, and 777 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).

*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.<sup>9</sup> 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 Software Licensing, Including Open Source (DL 511)<sup>10</sup> available in English, French and Spanish has been developed, both for legal practitioners and policy

<sup>8</sup> See [http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/programs/patent\\_landscapes/plrdb.html](http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/programs/patent_landscapes/plrdb.html)

<sup>9</sup> See the complete WIPO Academy Catalogue for 2016 at: [http://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo\\_pub\\_467\\_2016.pdf](http://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_467_2016.pdf)

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

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.<sup>11</sup>

#### Action Line C5 “Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs”

A core activity of the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center (WIPO Center) is to promote a balanced legal framework for the protection of IP, especially in the Internet Domain Name System (DNS). The WIPO Center provides leadership in the development and administration of dispute prevention and settlement, and options to address tensions arising from the unauthorized use of IP, in particular trademarks, in the DNS.<sup>12</sup> Building on its near 20 years of experience, including having managed 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 domain name registration authorities. This includes close monitoring of ICANN’s review of trademark-based rights protection mechanisms in the global DNS, and also concerning new and future additional generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs). In 2018, the WIPO Center continued to work with administrators of country-code Top-Level Domains (ccTLDs) around the globe, expanding its services to include dispute resolution policies for .AI (Anguilla), .GE (Georgia), and .PY (Paraguay)<sup>13</sup> especially including the promotion of electronic, paperless case administration.

#### 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 continued to provide technical assistance to IP Institutions. End 2018, 84 IP Offices are using one of WIPO’s business systems, enabling them to effectively participate in the global IP system. Of these, 17 are in LDC countries and three are regional IP institutions, namely the African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO) and African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). 31 IP Offices are participating in the WIPO Centralized Access to Search and Examination system and 17 IP Offices are using the WIPO Digital Access Service for priority documents.

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 2018 at the IGF in Paris it organized an open forum session on “How to enable local production and local contents” in collaboration with the European

<sup>11</sup> See [https://welc.wipo.int/index\\_en.php](https://welc.wipo.int/index_en.php)

<sup>12</sup> See <http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/domains/>

<sup>13</sup> See <http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/domains/cctld/>

Broadcasting Union (EBU) and UNESCO; and also took part in an IGF Best Practice Forum session on Local Contents.

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

In 2018, the WIPO Secretariat continued to extend technical assistance and information in the relevant field to developing countries, countries in transition as well as indigenous peoples and local communities' members. Among the most significant initiatives, twelve workshops and/or seminars have been organized at the national or regional level. Those events aimed to provide practical and technical information on key concepts, international, regional and national experiences, policy options, legal mechanisms and tools available or under consideration for the IP protection of TK and TCEs to government officials and indigenous peoples' and local communities' representatives.

#### Action Line C9: Media

WIPO continued its efforts in 2018 to implement the Development Agenda Project on *Strengthening and Development of the Audiovisual Sector in Burkina Faso and certain African Countries*. Furthermore, in November 2018 the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) approved the Proposal for a Pilot Project on Copyright and the Distribution of Content in the Digital Environment. The 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 Latin American 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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