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**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system, international  
organizations and other stakeholders on their efforts in 2022 to  
implement the outcomes 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 26<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 2022 TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF  
THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS)

October 31, 2022

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 2022. 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 2022**

### 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. As of October 2022, the Treaty has 90 contracting parties,<sup>1</sup> covering 116 Member States, since the European Union ratified the Treaty as one bloc. 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 2014 by WIPO and a group of key partners. It is a multi-stakeholder alliance comprised of organizations that represent people with print disabilities, such as the World Blind Union; libraries for the blind, publishers, authors, and collective management organizations. Its mission is to help implement the objectives of the Marrakesh Treaty.

As of October 2022, ABC has achieved the following milestones:

- More than 750,000 titles in 80 languages are available for cross-border exchange, free of clearance formalities under the terms of the Marrakesh Treaty in ABC's Global Book Service, a fast growing database of accessible catalogues shared across national borders by libraries for the blind.
- Participating Authorized Entities (AEs) delivered over 90,000 accessible digital files from the ABC catalogue to persons with print disabilities in 2021.
- In April 2021, ABC launched a new application for beneficiaries, which gives the participating AEs' beneficiary patrons the ability to query and immediately download accessible format copies of titles contained in the ABC catalogue. To date, 32 AEs from 26 countries have joined this initiative. Through this new application, more than 343,000 accessible digital files are now available for immediate download by beneficiaries.
- More than 17,800 accessible educational titles have been produced in national languages by way of the ABC's Capacity Building initiative in the past eight years, through which ABC provides training and technical assistance in the production and distribution of books in accessible formats in developing countries.

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 2022, the SCCR continued to discuss limitations and exceptions to copyright, in particular with regard to libraries and archives, educational and research institutions, and people with disabilities other than those covered in the Marrakesh Treaty, in order to facilitate access to information and preservation of cultural works. To this end, the SCCR met in 2022 and asked the Secretariat to prepare and present at its next meeting in 2023 a toolkit on the topic of preservation, presentations on the subject of cross-border transfer of works, and a scoping study on the topic of research.

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<sup>1</sup> See [https://wipolex.wipo.int/en/treaties/ShowResults?search\\_what=N&treaty\\_id=843](https://wipolex.wipo.int/en/treaties/ShowResults?search_what=N&treaty_id=843)

*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 are facilitated by WIPO through two public-private programs: the Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI)<sup>2</sup> program which provides access to scientific and technical journals; and the Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI)<sup>3</sup> program which allows access to commercial patent databases comprising more sophisticated search and analysis tools for retrieving and assessing relevant technology.

The ARDI program is also part of the Research4Life<sup>4</sup> partnership which comprises the following specialized programs from UN partner agencies: the HINARI program of biomedical and health literature from the World Health Organization; the AGORA program of food and agriculture journals from the Food and Agriculture Organization; the OARE program of environmental science journals from the United Nations Environment Programme; and the GOALI program which offers access to legal journals and is administered by the International Labour Organization (ILO). The Research4Life programs provide online access to over 198,000 peer-reviewed international scientific journals, books, and databases from nearly 200 unique publishers to over 11,000 institutions in developing and least developed countries. The ARDI program itself offers access to nearly 58,000 publications.

The ASPI program is provided in partnership with nine 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 nearly 70 institutions.

Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs)<sup>5</sup> provide the local research and business community with expert assistance in accessing and effectively retrieving technological information from patent, scientific and technical journal databases and are supported by WIPO through training and awareness raising events. In 2021, a total of 24 national and 3 regional training workshops were carried out online in developing countries where the TISC project is being implemented. Moreover, 3,477 TISC staff participated in distance learning courses offered by the WIPO Academy in 2021. An interactive e-tutorial on using and exploiting patent information is available as a distance learning course offered by the WIPO Academy in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Chinese. The eTISC knowledge management platform encourages the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices among TISCs nationally and internationally, has over 900 registered users.

WIPO continues to improve access of patent information for more informed decision-making through the use of patent landscape reports<sup>6</sup> which describe the patenting and innovation activity in different areas of technology and by providing a unique searchable database including nearly 260 publicly available patent landscape reports from various technology areas. Moreover, publications describing tools and improving the skills of users in patent information include: Guidelines for Preparing Patent Landscape Reports<sup>7</sup>, a Manual on Free and Open Source Tools for Patent Analytics<sup>8</sup> describing open source tools for patent analytics purposes, as well as a Handbook on Patent Analytics further exploring open source

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

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.wipo.int/aspi>

<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.research4life.org>

<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.wipo.int/tisc>

<sup>6</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>7</sup> See [http://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo\\_pub\\_946.pdf](http://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_946.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> See <https://wipo-analytics.github.io/>

tools, including text mining and machine learning tools. The Manual and Handbook were both updated in 2022.

Two new patent landscape reports were published in 2022. The first on COVID-19-related vaccines and therapeutics (published in March 2022) aims to provide some preliminary observations on the use and response of the patent system during the pandemic, and technology areas of patenting activity. The second report is on hydrogen technologies in the field of transportation and was published in May 2022.

The WIPO Technology Trends report<sup>9</sup> is a new flagship publication addressed to industry, academia and policymakers, as well as general readers interested in innovation. Based on patent and non-patent data, it shows trends in different technologies, contextualizing them with case studies, insights and perspectives from leading experts, and policy considerations. The first WIPO Technology Trends report was published in January 2019 and focused on artificial intelligence. The second report in the series focused on Assistive Technology to support persons with functional limitations in participating in all aspects of life was published in March 2021. It covers assistive technologies in seven domains of mobility, including hearing, vision, cognition, communication, built environment and self-care. An interactive and accessible platform showing the technology readiness, number of patents, ease of adoption and expected impact on assistive technologies was also launched at this time. The two mentioned WIPO Technology Trends reports were downloaded over 278,000 times in the period from 2019 to the end of January 2022.

The WIPO Index of Specialized Patent Information Reports (INSPIRE) platform<sup>10</sup> provides up-to-date and targeted information on patent resources to national patent offices, Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs), as well as to the wider patent information user community, to make informed choices on which patent databases to access and use for patent search, examination and other services. WIPO INSPIRE includes detailed reports on patent databases, a coverage map illustrating the jurisdictions whose patent collections are included in various patent databases, and a comparison tool to allow side-by-side review of patent database content, functionalities and related services. There are now 40 patent database reports now available. WIPO INSPIRE was accessed by over 11,487 users during 2021.

The Patent Register Portal<sup>11</sup> is a gateway to online patent registers and gazettes and to legal status-related information from over 200 jurisdictions and patent information collections. Information on the Portal can be accessed on a searchable map and table, help files with detailed legal status-related information and search tips. It is available on the WIPO website where a short video on how to use the portal can be also viewed. In 2021, the Portal registered nearly 38,000 page views and over 113,000 downloads of the help files containing detailed legal status-related information and search tips for all available jurisdictions.

Two guides have been published, which offer a step-by-step approach and a number of practical tools. The first guide helps users determine whether specific inventions are protected by patents or if they are in the public domain and the second explains how to integrate public domain information and knowledge into product design and development. Both guides are available in all six UN languages. The guides are currently being developed into a digital training package supporting training modules on each of the practical tools included in the toolkit to be published by mid-2023.

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<sup>9</sup> See [https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo\\_pub\\_1055.pdf](https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_1055.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> See <https://inspire.wipo.int>

<sup>11</sup> See [https://www.wipo.int/patent\\_register\\_portal/en/index.html](https://www.wipo.int/patent_register_portal/en/index.html)

A methodology and toolkit for assessing training needs and mapping innovation value chains was developed specifically with key users in mind, including TISCs. The aim of the manual and toolkit is to enable the assessment of training needs for organizations involved with intellectual property management, technology transfer and commercialization/utilization. The resulting training needs assessment informs the design of an effective training program to address the identified gaps in skills and competencies. The manual and toolkit were published in February 2022.<sup>12</sup>

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

WIPO Lex, the Organization's portal to a global collection of IP laws, treaties and judgments, continues to provide the most comprehensive, authoritative and reliable source of IP legal information available on the web. WIPO Lex currently contains over 52,000 legal documents on IP, covering legislation from 200 States and entities, treaties and judgments.

The Judgments collection, which launched in September 2020, enhances the offering of WIPO-Lex by providing free access to leading judicial decisions related to IP. It now contains some 1,000 indexed decisions from 24 Member States and 1 regional jurisdiction, as well as information on the judicial structures for IP disputes in participating States.

WIPO Lex features public interfaces in the six official languages of the UN (English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish), and expands global access to the legal information through availability of automatic machine translation tools, including WIPO Translate.

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 particular trademarks, in the DNS.<sup>13</sup> Building on its two decades of experience covering some 60,000 domain name-related disputes (covering some 108,000 domain names), 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 includes close monitoring of ICANN's review of rights protection mechanisms applicable at the top and second levels in new generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs), including the planned review of the WIPO-created Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP). In recent years, the WIPO Center continued to work with administrators of country-code Top-Level Domains (ccTLDs) around the globe, in 2020 expanding its services to include dispute resolution policies for the .AC, .CN (and .中國), .IO, .SH, and .UA (including .COM.UA) domains, in 2021 for the .BH and البحرين (Bahrain) domain, and the .SA and السعودية (Saudi Arabia) domain,<sup>14</sup> with electronic, paperless case administration also added in the .CH, .LI, and .MX domains.

The WIPO ALERT database is a secure online platform, hosted by WIPO, through which authorities and government-approved entities can share lists of websites which deliberately infringe copyright. Such illegal websites are largely financed by legitimate advertising, which may have been placed without awareness of the illegal nature of the sites concerned. Advertised brands may suffer damage to brand value by appearing in an illegal context. Consumers may also be misled as to the legal status of sites which show advertisements for

<sup>12</sup> See <https://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4586>

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

<sup>14</sup> See <http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/domains/ccTld/> and [https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo\\_pub\\_1069.pdf](https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_1069.pdf); see also Domain Name webinars at: <https://www.wipo.int/amc/en/events/webinar.html>

reputable brands, but which may harbor malware and unsuitable content. The users of WIPO ALERT are firms operating in the online advertising supply chain, in particular those using programmatic advertising systems to place advertisements online. Through WIPO ALERT, firms can, at the pre-bid stage, automatically check whether the website offering advertising space is listed as deliberately infringing copyright. If it is, the transaction can be halted and the flow of money to illegal operators reduced.

To contribute to understanding of the potential role of the domain name system in relation to the enforcement of copyright, the BRIP Division published a study in August 2022 on “The Role of the Domain Name System and its Operators in Online Copyright Enforcement” (WIPO/ACE/15/7).<sup>15</sup>

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 2022, 90 IP Offices are receiving such technical and capacity building assistance. Of these, 17 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 was actively engaged in the WSIS Forum and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), contributing to the discussions on the importance of IP for the youth in line with the theme of World Intellectual Property Day 2022, and the impact of new digital technologies on cultural production in the digital environment. In particular, WIPO in 2022 organized a session during the WSIS Forum on “Intellectual Property (IP), Youth and ICTs: Innovating for a better future” that showcased how young innovators in the ICT ecosystem are making a difference in their societies by contributing to sustainable development.

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

WIPO continued to extend technical assistance and information in the relevant field to countries, cultural institutions as well as Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs). Among the activities completed since the last report, two Webinars in English and one in Spanish have been organized on how IPLCs could use IP tools to promote and protect their culture, including in the context of documentation. The 2021-2022 WIPO Training, Mentoring and Matchmaking Program on IP for Women Entrepreneurs from IPLCs (“WIPO WEP”) benefitting 23 Women Entrepreneurs initiated in 2021 with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Trade Center (ITC) and the International

<sup>15</sup> See [https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=576777](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=576777). The study was made possible by Funds-in-Trust provided by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea.

Trademark Association (INTA) as partners, and with the support of UN Women, continued in 2022 with a one-to-one mentoring and matchmaking phase, including three technical advice sessions for participants having expressed similar challenges. A specific WIPO WEP is scheduled to start before the end of the year with a training phase benefitting selected IPLCs Women Entrepreneurs from the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

To name other activities, a Virtual Training Program on Cultural Documentation and Intellectual Property Management for Indigenous Peoples from the Arctic Region was organized from 6 to 16 December 2021 benefitting participants from Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland; Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States of America. In the context of the WIPO Photography Prize 2022 for IPLCs, a Virtual Training on Photography and Copyright was provided on June 22 for young IPLCs photographers from Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Gabon, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Oman, Philippines, Tanzania, Tunisia and the United States of America.

#### Action Line C9: Media

WIPO has started a project to strengthen the music sector in West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) countries. Working with governments and stakeholders, the project aims at creating public awareness, practical know-how and legal expertise to unleash the enormous potential of the digital music market in the region. In parallel, 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.

WIPO also undertakes the *Development Agenda Pilot Project on Copyright and the Distribution of Content in the Digital Environment* focusing on the Latin American audiovisual sector. The project provides information and awareness about the audiovisual digital market, the stakeholders, recent trends, and the practical application of copyright rules. While providing a general view of the whole region, the study focuses on six countries: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay. The pilot project also provides a clear picture about the status of audiovisual works in public domain in Latin America, noting the possible interest and challenges in exploring such content online.

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