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Submissions from entities in the United Nations system, international organizations and other stakeholders on their efforts in 2023 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 27th 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.

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)
CONTRIBUTION IN 2023 TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF
THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS)

October 24, 2023

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 2023. 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 2023

Action Line C3 "Access to information and knowledge"

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)[1] program which provides access to scientific and technical journals; and the Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI)[2] 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[3] 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 203,000 peer-reviewed international scientific journals, books, and databases from nearly 200 unique publishers to over 11,500 institutions in 125 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. Around 70 institutions are registered to access the ASPI program.

Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs)[4] 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 2022, a total of 22 national and 3 regional training workshops were carried out online in developing countries where the TISC project is being implemented. Moreover, 3,200 TISC staff also participated in distance learning courses offered by the WIPO Academy in 2022. 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, as well as access to course resources and discussions among TISCs nationally and internationally, has over 1000 registered users.

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[1] See http://www.wipo.int/ardi/en/
[2] See http://www.wipo.int/aspi
[3] See http://www.research4life.org
[4] See http://www.wipo.int/tisc

WIPO continues to improve access of patent information for more informed decision-making through the use of patent landscape reports[5] 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[6], a Manual on Free and Open Source Tools for Patent Analytics[7] describing open source tools for patent analytics purposes, as well as a Handbook on Patent Analytics further exploring open source 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 20232022. The first on Graphite and its Applications focusing on the development of processing techniques for different types of graphite and its eventual application in different fields. A second report on the Production of titanium and titanium dioxide from ilmenite and related applications.

The WIPO Technology Trends report[8] is a WIPO 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. Work is currently ongoing in 2023 in the drafting of a third report in this series.

The WIPO Index of Specialized Patent Information Reports (INSPIRE) platform[9] 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 46,000 users in 2022 in comparison to 11,478 users in 2021, representing a 300 percent increase in usage.

The Patent Register Portal[10] 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. From January 2022 to October 2023, the Portal registered 31,000 page views and over 66,700 downloads of the 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.

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[5] For further information see at http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/programs/patent_landscapes/index.html
[6] See http://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_946.pdf
[7] See https://wipo-analytics.github.io/
[8] See https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_1055.pdf
[9] See https://inspire.wipo.int
[10] See https://www.wipo.int/patent_register_portal/en/index.html

Both guides are available in all six UN languages. The guides have now been developed into a digital training package supporting training modules on each of the practical tools included in the toolkit and published in June 2023.

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.[11]

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 17,000 legal entries 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 1,100 indexed decisions from 29 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 C8 "Cultural Diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content"

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, Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, and cultural institutions.

The *WIPO Training, Mentoring and Matchmaking Program on Intellectual Property for Women Entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities* (WEP) further expanded in 2023. The WEP Program supports women and community entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity related to traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions by strengthening the capacity of Indigenous and local community women entrepreneurs to make strategic and effective use of intellectual property tools in support of their communities' entrepreneurial activities.

The third global cycle of the WEP Program started in 2023 benefitting 21 women of IPLCs and their communities, in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Trade Center (ITC) and the International Trademark Association (INTA).
A regional cycle of the program was provided to 20 IPLCs Women Entrepreneurs from the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru in 2022 and 2023, and a regional WEP cycle benefitting 20 local community women entrepreneurs and their communities from the Central European and Baltic States (CEBS) started in March 2023.

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[11] See https://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4586

WIPO also launched a *Training, Mentoring and Match-Making Program on Intellectual Property and Traditional Medical Knowledge*, aiming at establishing and supporting an innovation ecosystem related to and based on, traditional medical knowledge.

On the normative side, a Special Session of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (the IGC) and a Preparatory Committee took place in September in preparation of the Diplomatic Conference to conclude an International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources in 2024.

In addition to a patent disclosure requirement, the new instrument under negotiation would invite countries to establish databases of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, subject to certain conditions.

Pursuant decisions by the IGC, the WIPO Secretariat issued an online survey on information systems, registers and databases of genetic resources (GRs), traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs) (results on https://www.wipo.int/tk/en/igc/consultations.html). The Secretariat also organized virtual technical meetings on information systems, registers and databases of GRs, TK and TCEs, whose objectives were to analyze and discuss the technical and practical issues relating to such information systems, in support of the WIPO's negotiations in relation to GRs, TK and TCEs.

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