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**Council for Trade-Related Aspects of
Intellectual Property Rights**

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**TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES: INFORMATION FROM
OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

AFRICAN REGIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (ARIPO)

Addendum

At its meeting of 7-8 June 2016, the Council for TRIPS agreed to invite intergovernmental organization observers to the Council to update the information on their technical and financial cooperation programmes relating to the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.

The present document reproduces the information which has been received from the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) by means of a communication dated 17 October 2016.

**TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES
RELEVANT TO THE TRIPS AGREEMENT**

1. The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) was established on 9 December 1976 at a Diplomatic Conference held in Lusaka, Zambia. ARIPO was created to pool together resources of its Member States for the promotion, development and harmonization of intellectual property laws and policies and to ensure that it contributes to the social, economic and technological development of its Member States. To date, ARIPO has 19 Member States: Botswana, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Organization is based in Harare, Republic of Zimbabwe.
2. ARIPO was granted an observer status on a meeting by meeting basis by the WTO Council for TRIPS at its meeting of 8 to 9 June 2010. The WTO Council for TRIPS has from then been inviting ARIPO to attend its meetings.
3. This document presents a brief report on main cooperation programmes and activities undertaken by ARIPO in 2016 which are relevant to the TRIPS Agreement and other IP components, following the invitation of the Chairman of the WTO Council for TRIPS of 27 July 2016 to provide updated information on such activities.
4. Pursuant to its mandate enshrined in its constitutive text (the Lusaka Agreement of 9 December 1976), ARIPO organizes activities and programmes either solely or in conjunction with its partners such as WIPO and others. These programmes and activities are mainly aimed at assisting ARIPO's Member States and Africa as a whole in intellectual property matters. One of the highlights in this regard is the Roving Seminars ARIPO conducts in Member States. This year's overall theme is: "*Fostering Creativity and Innovation for Economic Growth and Development in Africa*". In order to ensure Member States fully benefit from those seminars, ARIPO gives them the opportunity to propose fields for intervention depending on their needs in intellectual property in general including aspects of the TRIPS Agreement.

5. The following matrix provides details on technical and financial cooperation activities relevant to the TRIPS Agreement and other IP components undertaken by ARIPO, and they cover Awareness and Training initiatives; Assistance to National Intellectual Property Offices; Improvement of Intellectual Property Legal Framework; and IP related Publications.

ANNEX¹

1 AWARENESS AND TRAINING INITIATIVES

Activity	Location and date	Brief description
National Workshop on the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), Malawi	Blantyre, Malawi, 25-26 January 2016	The workshop was organized by WIPO in cooperation with the Department of the Registrar General, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Malawi. ARIPO provided a resource person to train the staff of the Malawi Intellectual Property Office on the application procedures as per its different protocols and provide technical assistance on Patent Drafting. The workshop attracted participants from various Government Ministries, Universities and the Private Sector.
WIPO/ZIPO National Seminar on Copyright and Related Rights, Zimbabwe	Harare, Zimbabwe, 28-29 January 2016	The two-day Seminar was co-organized by WIPO and the Zimbabwe Intellectual Property Office (ZIPO) in collaboration with ARIPO which provided the venue and facilitation of the Seminar. The objective of the Seminar was to train stakeholders on enforcement of copyright, licensing, challenges in the creative industry sector, amongst other issues relevant to the copyright-based industries.
Seminar on the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) in South Africa	Pretoria, South Africa, 1-3 March 2016	The Seminar was organized by WIPO in cooperation with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) of South Africa for the benefit of 20 newly recruited CIPC patent examiners. ARIPO provided a resource person who trained the patent examiners on technical issues about examination as well as Patent Drafting among others.
National Workshop on the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), Mozambique	Beira and Maputo, Mozambique, 18-21 April 2016	The Seminar was organized by WIPO in cooperation with the Industrial Property Institute (IPI) of Mozambique. ARIPO provided a resource person who presented the procedures of ARIPO regional system for protection of patents and utility models. The ARIPO expert also trained the IP Office staff on patent drafting.
National Seminar on the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) in Rwanda	Kigali, Rwanda, 17-18 August 2016	The Seminar was organized by WIPO in cooperation with the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) for the benefit of users of the PCT in Rwanda. ARIPO provided a resource person who trained participants on the procedures of ARIPO regional system for protection of patents and utility models. The ARIPO expert also trained the IP Office staff on patent drafting.
Sub-Regional Workshop on the Development and Effective Use of Intellectual Property Statistics for ARIPO Member States	Harare, 14-16 September 2016	The Workshop was organized by WIPO, Japan Patent Office (JPO), in cooperation with ARIPO and the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe. Participants were drawn from ARIPO Member States. ARIPO urged participants who included Registrars General to accurately keep, update and regularly provide IP statistics. Participants also learned how to use the IP data to holistically develop Intellectual Property (good planning, budgeting, etc.).

¹ In English only.

Activity	Location and date	Brief description
Roving Seminars in ARIPO Member States ²	<p>Gaborone, Botswana 14-18 March 2016</p> <p>Kampala, Uganda 28 March-1 April 2016</p> <p>Windhoek, Namibia 14-18 April 2016</p>	<p>The Roving Seminars covered a number of topics but mainly ARIPO experts trained the staff of the national IP Offices on ARIPO procedures as well as technical matters especially patent drafting.</p> <p>In a nutshell, the topics included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and Promotion of Patents, Utility Models, Industrial Designs, Trademarks and Computer Software; • Protection and Utilization of New Varieties of Plants, Geographical Indications, Traditional Knowledge and Handicraft for Economic Development; • Registration, Commercialization and Monetization of Patents, Utility Models, Industrial Designs, Trademarks and Geographical Indications; • Protection and utilization of Traditional Knowledge, Expressions of Folklore and Genetic Resources; • Copyright and Related Rights for Development; • The National, Regional and international IP Legal System and Registration of IP Rights; • The Role of Intellectual Property in Business, with specific Emphasis on Manufacturing, Branding, Youth innovation and Commercialization of Research Results; • Protection of New Varieties of Plant and Geographic Indications to enhance Agricultural Productivity and Origin-Based Products.
Capacity Building by the ARIPO Academy: Offer sponsorship to students to undertake the Master of Intellectual Property (MIP programme)	Africa University, Mutare, Zimbabwe	<p>The MIP programme is jointly organized by ARIPO, WIPO and Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe.</p> <p>The programme was initiated to develop a critical mass of Intellectual Property experts for the development of the Intellectual Property system in Africa.</p> <p>The 8th cohort graduated in 2016. Another intake (9th cohort) is expected to graduate early next year.</p> <p>So far, the programme has graduated 221 students since its launch in 2008 from the following countries: Angola (1); Botswana (11); Burundi (2); Cameroon (4); Eritrea (1); Ethiopia (3); Ghana (18); Kenya (18); Lesotho (9); Liberia (2); Malawi (14); Mauritius (1); Mozambique (5); Namibia (13); Nigeria (9); Rwanda (4); Sierra Leone (3); South Africa (4); Sudan (1); Swaziland (2); Tanzania (19); The Gambia (4); Uganda (16); Zambia (8); and Zimbabwe (49).</p>

² In 2014 and 2015, the Roving Seminars covered the following countries: Swaziland (24-28 March 2014); Mozambique (21-25 April 2014); Liberia (28 April-2 May 2014); Sierra Leone (19-23 May 2014); The Gambia (4-8 August 2014); Sudan (October 2014); Rwanda (9-11 March 2015); Kenya (16-20 March 2015); Zambia (11-15 May 2015); Lesotho (26-29 May 2015); Ghana (10-14 August 2015).

2 ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICES

Activity	Location and date	Brief description
Launch of the ARIPO Industrial Property (IP) back files Digitization Project, ARIPO Headquarters, Harare	ARIPO Headquarters, Harare, Zimbabwe, 7-11 March 2016	The Project was co-funded by WIPO through the Fund-In-Trust of the Government of Japan and is implemented by Venturecom, a company based in Harare, Zimbabwe. The project is part of a bigger project to modernize the ARIPO ICT infrastructure and those of Member States in order to establish an online communication and information exchange with the latter.
Training on the operations of the Harare Protocol (ARIPO Protocol on Patents) and Banjul Protocol (ARIPO Protocol on Trademarks) for the National Office of the Republic of Sao Tome & Principe	Sao Tome & Principe, 11-13 April 2016	Sao Tome & Principe joined ARIPO only in 2014 through accession to the Harare Protocol on Patents. In 2015, the Country acceded to the Banjul Protocol. ARIPO organized in collaboration with the Sao Tome & Principe National Industrial Property Office (SENAPI), an intensive training in order to capacitate the SENAPI staff on the processing of ARIPO applications and other technical matters. More particularly, the Training included among other topics the Introduction to the ARIPO Industrial Property Protocols and linkages with international IP systems especially the TRIPS Agreement, the PCT and the Budapest Treaty.
Hosting the delegates of the Kenya Industrial Property Tribunal at ARIPO Headquarters, Harare, Zimbabwe	ARIPO Headquarters, Harare, Zimbabwe, 12-15 April 2016	The objective of the visit of the delegation was to learn about to ARIPO procedures and benefit from the expertise of ARIPO staff. As a result, a framework for further cooperation with Kenya Industrial Property Tribunal was signed. Through this framework, ARIPO will assist the Kenya Industrial Property Tribunal in initiatives related to the enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in Kenya.
Building the capacity of Officers from Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) at the ARIPO Headquarters	ARIPO Headquarters, Harare, Zimbabwe, 19-29 April 2016	In a bid to assist ARIPO Member States in building the capacity of their staff working in Intellectual Property Offices, ARIPO hosts at different times and upon request officers from Member States who stay at the Headquarters for a number of days. It is in that regard that the Secretariat received two members of the URSB staff to undergo a two-week training of the ARIPO procedures and other technical matters relevant to their work as staff of a national IP Office, especially in handling Intellectual Property Rights applications.
Study visit for ARIPO Member States to USPTO, United States of America	Alexandria, Virginia, US, 19-23 September 2016	The study visit was jointly organized by USPTO and ARIPO for the benefit of some ARIPO Member States. Two ARIPO Member States (Zambia and Lesotho) and an official from ARIPO Secretariat conducted the study tour. The objective of the study tour was to learn how well-established Copyright Offices work in order to assist ARIPO Member States improve their Copyright management.

3 IMPROVEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Activity	Location and date	Brief description
Marrakesh Treaty, Beijing Treaty, TAG, WIPO Connect, Administration and Management Workshops in Botswana	Gaborone, Botswana, 25–29 July 2016	<p>The workshops were co-organized by WIPO, ARIPO and the Botswana Company and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA) as well as other Cooperating Partners (International Federation for Reproduction Rights (IFRRO). Beneficiaries were from Copyright Offices and Collective Management Organisations of ARIPO Member States and two Observer Members.</p> <p>The objectives of the workshops included addressing issues and options for national implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty and the Beijing Treaty both related to Copyright. As a result, the Government of Botswana acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty while other Member States have expressed their commitment to accede to the Treaty and other instruments.</p>
Review of the Namibian Draft Regulations under the Industrial Property Act at the ARIPO Headquarters	ARIPO Headquarters (Harare, Zimbabwe), 15-16 August 2016	It is within ARIPO's mandate to provide technical assistance to Member States either upon its own initiative or upon request. It is in this regard that ARIPO assisted the Government of Namibia through thoroughly reviewing the draft Regulations for the implementation of the Namibian Industrial Property Act adopted in March 2012.

4 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Activity	Location and date	Brief description
Publication of Guiding tools to assist Member States	ARIPO, Harare, 2016	<p><i>Comparative Study on Copyright Laws of ARIPO Member States and their adherence to International Instruments on Copyright and Related Rights.</i></p> <p>The aim of this tool is to assist ARIPO Member States to harmonise their laws and also to improve their national legislations.</p> <p><i>Copyright Awareness Raising Guide for ARIPO Member States.</i></p> <p>The objective of this publication is to assist member States to be systematic when they are developing and implementing awareness initiatives.</p> <p><i>Guidelines for the Domestication of the Marrakesh Treaty.</i></p> <p>Upon realization that the majority of persons who are blind and visually impaired live in developing countries and least developed countries, ARIPO found imperative to publish this tool which will help member states to persuade decision makers and expedite the process of ratification of/ accession to the Marrakesh Treaty and domesticate it.</p>