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

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**TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES:
INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS**

SWITZERLAND

The following communication, dated 17 September 2020 is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Switzerland.

1. Following documents IP/C/W/12/Add.3 of 13 September 1995, IP/C/W/34/Add.2 of 17 September 1996, IP/C/W/77/Add.3 of 30 September 1997, IP/C/W/109/Add.1 of 4 September 1998, IP/C/W/154/Add.2 of 8 October 1999, IP/C/W/203/Add.1 of 13 September 2000, IP/C/W/306/Add.3 of 18 September 2001, IP/C/W/377/Add.9 of 24 January 2003, IP/C/W/408/Add.4 of 14 November 2003, IP/C/W/426/Add.2 of 8 September 2004, IP/C/W/455 of 5 October 2005, IP/C/W/476 of 14 September 2006, IP/C/W/496 of 28 September 2007, IP/C/W/514/Add.4 of 17 October 2008, IP/C/W/536/Add.3 of 20 October 2009, IP/C/W/550/Add.2 of 20 October 2010, IP/C/W/560/Add.5 of 14 October 2011, IP/C/W/582/Add.4 of 25 October 2012, IP/C/W/593/Add.5 of 4 October 2013, IP/C/W/593/Add.5 of 4 October 2014, IP/C/W/610/Add.3 of 1 October 2015 and IP/C/W/617/Add.2 of 14 October 2016, IP/C/W/632/Add.5 of 6 October 2017, IP/C/W/647/Add.1 of 18 October 2018 and IP/C/W/655 of 20 September 2019, in which much of the description of the aims and organisational aspects of technical cooperation remains relevant, this report describes the activities of the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (hereafter "the IPI") in the field of technical cooperation between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020¹. Drafted in line with preceding reports, this document draws a distinction between multilateral and bilateral activities. It is the objective of the Swiss authorities to ensure optimal coordination of available resources, both at the multilateral and bilateral level, while avoiding duplication or the overlap of programmes.

**1 MULTILATERAL ACTIVITIES - TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO) AND THE WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION (WTO)**

1.1 Free-of-Charge Searches for WIPO on behalf of developing countries

2. Since 1987, the IPI has been participating in the WIPO Patent Information Services for Developing Countries (WPIS), set up by WIPO, and handled individual requests for patent information (state-of-the-art search reports). Additionally, since 1 January 2011, the IPI has been participating in the International Cooperation on Examination (ICE) part of WPIS. The IPI thus not only provides "state-of-the-art search reports", but also "search and examination reports". These types of reports are provided to facilitate national patent applications in the beneficiary countries. The programme supports the national patent offices in building up their competence in search and examination procedures, and helps to strengthen the patent system and legal certainty worldwide.

3. Between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, the IPI conducted, at the request of WIPO, free-of-charge searches for the following countries:

¹ Unless otherwise indicated.

Country	Number of searches
ICE-Searches:	
Kenya	7
WPIS-Searches:	
-	-
Total	7

2 BILATERAL ACTIVITIES

4. Many of Switzerland's technical cooperation bilateral activities are carried out by projects financed by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) through its Global Programme for Intellectual Property Rights (GPIPR). The GPIPR is implemented by the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI). The GPIPR supports developing and least developed countries as well as emerging economies in building up an efficient and effective protection of intellectual property rights to support economic development and facilitate the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

5. Within this programme and generally across projects, work is undertaken through the following determined components that endeavour to:

- a. advise on IP policy, strategy and legislation for all IP rights;
- b. improve IP administration and good governance;
- c. enable owners in the use of IP rights;
- d. improve enforcement of IP rights; and
- e. facilitate knowledge and technology transfer.

6. Intellectual property (IP) supportive regimes and systems are fundamental in creating sound framework conditions for sustainable trade. IP is central to promote innovation and the development of new goods, services and production methods. IP provides the incentives necessary to pursue further research and development, and creative works. Insofar, it is part of a sound foundation for a prosperous private sector, helpful for attracting international investors, as well as for protecting local knowledge.

7. While IP offices may be the main direct beneficiaries of the programme in most cases, other actors also benefit and gain opportunities through the interventions under the GPIPR, such as ministries of agriculture, customs or police agencies, judiciary institutions, universities, IP-related organisations and associations, SMEs and local producers.

8. The GPIPR has been operational since June 2018.

2.1 Albania

9. During the reporting period, a new bilateral project was formulated with Albania.

10. The Albanian–Swiss Intellectual Property Project (ALSIP) started in March 2020 and will run until February 2024. The overall goal of the project is "to contribute in such a way that entrepreneurs, creators, researchers and producers in Albania benefit from effective protection of IP objects". ALSIP's two main institutional partners and beneficiaries are the General Directorate of Industrial Property (GDIP) (Ministry of Finance and Economy) and the Copyright Directorate (Ministry of Culture), along with several other partners of the national IP system. The ALSIP project is a project under the GPIPR. The following activities were undertaken within the reporting period:

Under Component A, "Improved IP legislation and effective implementation of the national IP strategy contribute to better framework conditions for investment and innovation":

- Coordinating with the Government of Albania and WIPO on updating the National IP Strategy of Albania (2021-2025).

Under Component B, "Well-functioning intellectual property rights (IPRs) registration and administration entities provide efficient and user-friendly services":

- Baseline of needs for an exchange of experience and training for the GDIP (Industrial property) and the Copyright Directorate (CMO oversight) with Swiss peers.

Under Component C, "IPR entities, private and academia representatives are strengthened in the promotion of acquisition, use and transfer of IPRs to potential users":

- Translating the "Guide to Assessing Conditions and Impacts of Geographical Indications" into Albanian.

Under Component D, "Enforcement of IPRs is strengthened":

- Supporting a publication on Enforcement of Copyright for judiciaries in Albanian.

Under Component E, "Awareness of Knowledge and Technology Transfer (KTT) and IPR commercialization as part of innovation process is increased":

- Activities under this component are presently under discussion and in the process of being planned.

2.2 China

11. During the reporting period, a group of research directors from Chinese universities participated in a workshop on patents and innovation at the IPI, as part of a training programme organised by the University of Applied Sciences and Arts North-western Switzerland.

2.3 Colombia

12. The Colombian–Swiss Intellectual Property Project (COLIPRI) – Phase 2 started in October 2019 and will run until 30 September 2023. The overall goal of the project is "to contribute in such a way that entrepreneurs, creators, researchers and producers in Colombia benefit from an improved intellectual property system". COLIPRI Phase 2's two main institutional partners and beneficiaries are the Delegatura de Propiedad Industrial at the Superintendencia de Industria y Comercio (SIC) and the Dirección Nacional de Derecho de Autor (DNDA). The COLIPRI Phase 2 project is a project under GPIPR. The following activities were undertaken within the reporting period:

Under Component A, "The national IP Policy has been updated, is being implemented and enforced according to its action plan":

- Mandating a written consultancy for updating the outdated (2008) National IP Strategy: first draft of new National IP strategy and action plan available and consulted with interest groups;
- Conducting a legal gap analysis on industrial design legislation and compatibility with the Hague system;
- Facilitating experience-sharing among institutions with jurisdictional functions: SIC (industrial property), DNDA (copyright) and Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario – ICA (plant varieties) in order to strengthen jurisdictional functions.

Under Component B, "IPRs registration and administration entities provide efficient and user-friendly services":

- Organizing a virtual training and experience-sharing between Swiss and Colombian patent examiners in the fields of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, genetic resources (Nagoya Protocol), Chemistry and Computer-implemented inventions;

- Virtual strategic coaching for the SIC's Industrial Property Department (Distinctive Signs, New Creations, CIGEPI - Centro de Información Tecnológica y Apoyo a la Gestión de la Propiedad Industrial) on internal processes, effectiveness and promotion of its services.

Under Component C, "IPR entities, academia and private sector representatives promote acquisition, use and transfer of IPRs to potential users":

- Conducting a virtual awareness-raising seminar on Geographical Indications for the cocoa sector (70 participants);
- Creating new virtual course modules to be delivered by the Colombian Intellectual Property Training centre: a course on industrial design and a course on geographical indications.

2.4 Ghana

13. The Swiss-Ghanaian Intellectual Property Project – Phase II (SGIP-II) was launched in January 2016. The project's overall goal is to contribute to Ghana's socio-economic development by promoting the use and protection of intellectual property rights (IPRs). Like SGIP-I, SGIP-II is financed by SECO, while the IPI serves as the implementing agency for the project.

14. SGIP-II has four Components. The activities undertaken under each Component during the reporting period are listed below:

Under Component A, "An enabling IP environment in place and an improved service provision for IP users":

- The project delivered the following trainings to the staff of the Ghanaian Industrial Property Office (GHIPO):
 - October/November 2019: Patents
 - November 2019: Trademarks
- In May 2020, a comparative analysis of several IP systems was carried out and delivered to the GHIPO.

Under Component B, "Targeting research institutions and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to increase the commercialisation of their IPRs":

- These activities have been completed.

Under Component C, "Improving the protection and enforcement of IPRs for higher economic benefits for right holders and safeguarding consumers from substandard goods":

- The project further developed a Public Education and Awareness strategy with the Ghanaian Copyright Office, though this task has not yet been completed;
- A study surveying the economic impact of copyright on the Ghanaian economy was further developed during the year and the editing process is expected to be finalized in August 2020.

Under Component D, "Increasing the legal protection of geographical indications (GIs) to better market traditional products for the benefit of rural and artisanal communities":

- Outreach to selected producers and potential trainers was conducted during the reporting period. It is expected that the work on GI registration will begin during the next reporting period.

2.5 Indonesia

15. The second phase of the Indonesian-Swiss Intellectual Property Project (ISIP-II) is financed by SECO, was started in May 2017, and has a duration of four years. The overall objective of the ISIP-II responds to the priority of the Indonesian Government to strengthen Indonesia's creative economy sector. The following is an overview of the project components including a shortlist of major activities that have been implemented in this reporting period:

Under Component A, Build capacities of IP-related private sector organisations on the protection and commercialization of IPRs and the development of Indonesia's creative economy":

- A postgraduate course on Geographical Indications at the University of Padjadjaran (UNPAD) was established and implemented, attended by 18 self-funded participants from academia and the private sector. The course is now integrated into the UNPAD curriculum and will be repeated annually;
- Capacity building on managing royalties was provided to eight Indonesian music Collective Management Organisations (CMOs), the national music CMO (LMKN) and the national literature CMO (PRCI): the CMOs found a consensus regarding a fair royalty collection and redistribution system and finalised draft regulations to be submitted to the ministry;
- A training was provided for the coordinating body of all IP centres at 120 Indonesian universities (ASKII) as well as for the Innovation Promotion Association (INNOPA) on IP and Commercialisation of IP. The IPRs module developed was actively used and distributed to all IP and technology transfers centres at Indonesian universities (Sentra KI), and cooperation with the WIPO was initiated;
- An IP training course was conducted for the Polytechnic Institutes of Indonesia (50 participants) to familiarize the institutes with the importance of IP protection and build capacities on IP commercialization.

Under Component B, "Technical and capacity-building assistance to the DGIP to better serve intellectual property rights (IPRs) users":

- A patent examiner course on biotechnology patents was conducted by an IPI expert for the patent division of the DGIP (changed to a virtual course due to COVID-19).

Under Component C, "Strategic support for Indonesian Geographical Indications (GIs) to sustainably increase their economic value and reinforce the capacity of the GI producers association":

- The Amed Salt (GI) Festival was conducted to open the "Amed Salt Centre". The festival was attended by approx. 2000 people (incl. high level presence and media), leading to direct revenues for the producers during the festival and one additional investment contract;
- An online application (GI traceability system) was developed and implemented for Sikka Ikat (GI).

2.6 Iran

16. The Iranian-Swiss Intellectual Property Project (IRSIP) is both financed and implemented by the IPI. The project started in January 2020 and has a duration of four years. The overall objective of the IRSIP is to strengthen the Iranian intellectual property system to improve business competitiveness and commercialization of intellectual property assets, and to make a positive impact on Iran's economic development. The following is an overview of the project Components including a shortlist of the activities that have been implemented in the reporting period:

Under Component A, "Laws, rules, strategies, and procedures to support the protection and commercialization of IPRs and the development of the creative economy are strengthened":

- During the reporting period, three virtual trainings were conducted for the Iranian Copyright Office on the topic of Collective Management Organizations (CMOs) in which Swiss experiences on the topic were shared and policy advice was provided to the other party.

Under Component B, "Iran's IP protection system is improved for its users":

- Tailor-made virtual trainings were provided by an IPI expert to the patent examiners of the Iranian Intellectual Property Centre (IPC) on the specific topics requested by them.

Under Component C, "The economic value, business competitiveness, and sustainability of registered Iranian GIs are recognized and demonstrated":

- The criteria and methodology for the selection of the two GI pilot projects were developed by a Swiss and an Iranian expert.

- In a high-level virtual meeting consisting of the Iranian IPC, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism, Ministry of Cooperatives and Labour as well as the experts and the project team, the project approach and its selection methodology were introduced.
- A questionnaire was developed by the project experts and sent to the GI producers associations as a means of collecting secondary data while traveling restrictions are in place. The data was collected on-site by the national consultant, with coaching provided by the Swiss expert.

2.7 Myanmar

17. The Myanmar-Swiss Intellectual Property Project (MYSIPP) is a project under GPIPR, started in January 2020 and has a duration of three years until December 2022. The overall objective of the MYSIPP is to contribute to the establishment of an IP system in Myanmar, which is an essential component to create favourable conditions for sustainable trade. The following is an overview of the project components including a shortlist of activities that have been implemented in the reporting period:

Under Component A, "Legal Support to the Intellectual Property Department/Office":

- The implementing regulations on Industrial Design as well as Trademarks have been commented on by IPI experts.

Under Component B, "Office Management Support to the Intellectual Property Department/Office":

- Discussions with stakeholders are being held and activities under this component are being planned.

Under Component C, "Strengthening IP Education at Yangon University" the activities will start in the next reporting period.

Under Component D, "Awareness on Geographical Indications in the coffee sector":

- A virtual training on the use of Geographical Indications in the coffee sector has been conducted for 15 members of the Myanmar Coffee Association.

2.8 Peru

18. The Peruvian-Swiss Intellectual Property Project (PESIPRO) is a project under GPIPR, started in June 2019 and has a duration of 2,5 years until December 2022. The overall objective of the PESIPRO is to strengthen the use of selected IPRs in Peru in order to contribute to higher competitiveness, enable further added value of Peruvian products, and to have an overall positive impact on Peruvian economic development. The following is an overview of the project components including thereunder a shortlist of activities that have been implemented in the reporting period:

Under Component A, "Building the capacity of the Peruvian IP Office Indecopi, producers of GI products, as well as trade and export institutions to improve the valuation of Peruvian GI products":

- A virtual training has been conducted for 125 participants from institutions and organisations in the Peruvian coffee business on how to maximise IP tools for coffee (with a focus on Geographical Indications);
- A delegation of the Indecopi was received in Switzerland and trained on different aspects of Geographical Indications, including participation in the Advanced InterGI Seminar, a module with WIPO, and sessions at the IPI;
- The new Peruvian regulation on Geographical Indications was commented on by IPI experts.

Under Component B, "Raising the awareness of creative economy associations and related government agencies on the use and benefits of copyright protection":

- A series of short videos (tutorials) was developed for creators and associations of several creative industry sectors.

Under Component C, "Providing advice to Peruvian SMEs, increasing their awareness of the use of patent protection, and increasing the number of patent applications from the private sector":

- The existing outreach programmes of the Indecopi that are used to familiarize the private sector with patents were analysed and commented on by IPI experts. Recommendations on how to improve outreach programmes were delivered.

2.9 Serbia

19. The second phase of the Serbian-Swiss Intellectual Property Project (SSIP II) financed by SECO was launched in July 2017. The project aims at strengthening the use of intellectual property rights in Serbia. This is in order to contribute to the achievement of higher competitiveness, to increase the added-value of Serbian products, and to positively impact on Serbia's economic development.

20. The protection of GIs is of particular interest to the Government of Serbia.

21. Selected areas of cooperation include:

- Increasing the demand of IP users to protect and capitalise on their IPRs;
- Improving the legal and institutional framework as well as the enforcement of GIs, in order to facilitate the economic and social benefits of producers and consumers;
- Strengthening capacities for the market valorisation of GI products to better market traditional products for the benefit of rural and artisanal communities.

22. The following activities were undertaken during the reporting period:

Under Component A, "Improved GI legal and institutional framework to facilitate the economic and social benefits of GI producers and consumers":

- A module on certification of geographical indications was created by the project. 140 people who participated in the first year of the certification academy were trained online in improving the practice and policy of GI governance and quality control. A comprehensive analysis on the status and potential of non-agricultural GIs including a legal and institutional capacity assessment was conducted; an inventory scan of the most potential products and their SWOT was concluded;
- The guidelines for the implementation of the flexibility rules targeting food business operators, inspections and other small traditional producers of milk and dairy were drafted.

Under Component B, "Strengthened capacities for market valorisation of GI products":

- A number of promotion activities, trade fairs and social media marketing campaigns for a dozen Serbian Geographical Indications took place.
- With the support of the project, Original Serbian Association of GI producers has:
 - developed a new marketing and communication strategy;
 - started online sales and a marketing campaign;
 - communicates through social networks – Instagram and Facebook;
 - started an online shop on the website;
 - started a home delivery logistical network during the COVID-19 crisis;
 - developed a new packaging design.

Under Component C, "The demand of key IP users to protect and capitalise on their IPRs is increased":

- Multimedia testimonials by Serbian SMEs on their IP strategy were prepared in order to raise awareness among the local companies on the use of IP.

2.10 South Africa

23. The Swiss-South African Intellectual Property Project (SSAIP) is a project under GPIPR. The project will have a duration of four years (2020-2023). The project's overall objective is to contribute to South Africa's socio-economic development through promoting the use and protection of intellectual property rights (IPRs).

24. Four outcomes will contribute towards achieving the projects' overall objective:

- National IP Policy is strengthened through consultations and workshops and sui generis Geographical Indications (GI) system developed;
- IPRs registration and administration entities provide efficient and user-friendly services;
- SMME-supporting agencies and IPR entities promote protection and use of IPRs to potential users of IPRs; and
- Increased commercialisation of IPRs as part of the innovation process.

25. The SSAIP has only recently been agreed upon by all parties, therefore no project activities have taken place during the reporting period. The Project Agreement has been signed and the local partner identified. The start of implementation of activities is planned for October 2020.

2.11 Response to COVID-19 in Technical Cooperation Projects

26. Switzerland was likewise impacted by COVID-19 and stricter measures were imposed from the middle of March 2020 to stagnate transmission rates, whereby non-essential shops were closed and public gatherings were limited. Notably, international travel to and from Switzerland also became subject to carefully-assessed restrictions. These measures have been eased progressively by taking into account the number of infections in the country and by closely monitoring the global situation.

27. During this time, the IPI and SECO responded swiftly and communicated at all points with its partner countries to establish the situations in their respective countries, to reassess activities, and to efficiently come up with solutions to ensure the continuation and progress of the projects.

28. As part of these undertakings, many trainings and other capacity development activities were carried out virtually across a range of formats and online platforms. These activities were successful and positive feedback was received. Activities were tailored to take into account the nature of task, such as the degree of work outside of the usual office space, internet connection and related IT tools available, and language requirements.

29. No project had to be suspended nor were any activities unnecessarily impeded as a result of the continued and effective exchange between project partners.

30. Moreover, the challenges presented by COVID-19 allowed for innovative solutions to be found and communication between partners to be strengthened in a joint endeavour to move forward.
