TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES: INFORMATION FROM

OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

AFRICAN REGIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (ARIPO)

Addendum

At its meeting of 6 June 2019, 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 4 October 2019.

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This document presents a report on main cooperation programmes and activities undertaken by the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) from 1 October 2018 to 20 September 2019 which are relevant to the TRIPS Agreement and other IP components, following the invitation of the Chair of the Council for TRIPS in his letter of 28 June 2019 to provide updated information on such activities.

During the period at stake, the activities that ARIPO undertook in the framework of cooperation relevant to the TRIPS Agreement covered mainly the capacity building and awareness creation organized either solely or in collaboration with cooperating partners.

In capacity building ARIPO continued sponsoring students from Member States to undertake the Master Programme in Intellectual Property that is offered at the Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe, in collaboration with WIPO and the Japan Patent Office. ARIPO is also sponsoring a similar programme (MPhil) in Ghana (in collaboration with the Kumasi Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology) and in Tanzania (in collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam). In awareness creation, the flagship initiative undertaken in collaboration with WIPO is the organization of IP weeks in selected Member States.

Another important highlight worth noting is a high-level mission that was conducted in Eswatini from 13 to 15 May 2019 in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The objectives of the mission included the assessment of the implementation of the Intellectual Property Development Plan that was developed in 2015 with the technical support of WIPO; to deliver a presentation to the Cabinet of the Kingdom of Eswatini on "IP and Development and the role of the IP Office"; and to create awareness on IP among Senior Government Officials.

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 Training initiatives and awareness creation; Assistance to National Intellectual Property Offices in ARIPO Member States; and publications.

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**Annex [[1]](#footnote-1)**

| Activity | Location and date | Brief description |
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| 1. **CAPACITY BUILDING AND AWARENESS CREATION INITIATIVES** (*including organization of workshops, symposia and conferences*) | | |
| 3rd Symposium on Copyright and Related Rights (1st Regional meeting for African Heads of Copyright Offices) | Nairobi, Kenya, 10 – 14 June 2018 | The 3rd edition of the Symposium was organized in the framework of the Tripartite Agreement among WIPO, ARIPO and OAPI that was executed in 2018 during the 58th Sessions of the WIPO Assemblies. Participants came from 45 Countries across Africa.  One of the outcomes of the meeting is the adoption of the Nairobi Strategic Plan for the Development of Copyright and Related Rights in Africa, a the strategy that will guide every African Country to achieve the development of an effective and efficient Copyright system. |
| High Level Round Table on Geographical Indications | Yaoundé, Cameroon, 4 – 5 June 2019 | The Conference was jointly organized by WIPO, ARIPO and OAPI. The Conference, which is also an initiative in the framework of the Tripartite Agreement, was organized under the theme: "*Geographical Indications in Africa: Territorial Development, Economic Integration and International Trade*". The China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) also provided assistance in the organization of the Conference. Participants to the Round Table came from ARIPO and OAPI Member States.  One of the main outcomes of the round table is the Declaration of Yaoundé that highlights items and activities to be implemented at the national level to develop systems of protection and valorisation of Geographical Indications (GIs) and other distinctive signs of products of origin related to the quality for the benefit of local producers and local development. |
| IP Week | Accra, Ghana, 6 – 10 May 2019 | The IP week is an initiative that is part of the Cooperation Agreement between WIPO and the two African regional Organizations (ARIPO and OAPI) which is aimed at strengthening the capacity of selected Countries that have taken steps to harness the IP system to accelerate their economic transformation. The IP Week has been conceived as a 5-day national event that targets two groups of stakeholders in back to back workshops dedicated to capacity building and introduction of various IP tools available in various areas of economic activity.  The Countries that were selected this year are: Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.  Workshops in that regard have been jointly organised by WIPO and ARIPO in Ghana, Kenya and Rwanda.  In Ghana, over 110 participants attended the event; they came from SMEs (textile/fashion sector, manufacturing/food processing and agribusiness as well as universities and Research Institutions. In Kenya and …  The IP Week in Rwanda attracted 98 participants from SMEs, Research Institutions and handicraft sector.  In Kenya, over 100 participants from SMEs and Universities and Research and Development Institutions attended the workshops.  As a follow up to these workshops, projects will subsequently be initiated in those two priority areas in consultation with the national IP Offices and the relevant stakeholders. |
| Nairobi, Kenya, 18 – 21 June 2019 |
| Kigali, Rwanda, 24 – 28 June 2019 |
| The Africa regional Intellectual Property enforcement training for judicial instructors | Gaborone, Botswana, 23 – 26 April 2019 | The training was co-organised by ARIPO and the Companies and Intellectual Property Authority of Botswana (CIPA) with support from the United States Department of Justice (USDoJ) and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) for Judicial Instructors from ARIPO Member States and Observer States. 46 participants from the Judiciary and Law Enforcement agencies attended the Training. |
| Seminar on the role of Intellectual Property in media broadcasting | Harare, Zimbabwe, 12 March 2019 | This one-day Seminar was organised by ARIPO and the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) for the benefit of the ZBC staff members. The Seminar is part of the Agreement that was signed in 2017 between ARIPO and ZBC with the aim of creating awareness of the large public on Intellectual Property among other objectives. |
| WIPO-ARIPO Regional Meeting on developing the Regional Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) Network | ARIPO Headquarters, Harare,  19 – 20 September 2019 | The meeting was jointly organised by WIPO and ARIPO, with support from the Japan Patent Office. The meeting aimed at making follow up on developments in the regional TISCs that following the ARIPO Regional TISC Action Plan that was adopted drawn up in the Meeting of 2018 and adopted by the ARIPO in November 2018, and discussing the next steps with regard to Action Plan. |
| Patent Drafting Course | ARIPO Headquarters, Harare,  2 – 6 September 2019 | The training course was organized by WIPO in cooperation with ARIPO, with the support from the Japan Patent Office (JPO).  The particularity of the 2019 edition of the Course is the important number of participants from Universities and Research and Development Institutions from 16 ARIPO Member States and other African Countries (Ethiopia, Niger, Nigeria and South Africa). Other participants were patent examiners from IP Offices, officers from Technology Transfer Offices, IP Attorneys and agents, as well as officers from Science and Technology Offices in ARIPO Member States and observer States.  In total 34 participants attended the Course. |
| Seminars on the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) | Masvingo & Harare, Zimbabwe,  9 – 11 April 2019 | These Seminars are jointly organized by WIPO and ARIPO and are aimed at raising the awareness among the PCT users, (patent agents, academia, IP officials and inventors/innovators) on the benefits of using the PCT system for the protection of inventions, and to provide information on the registration procedures and patent protection through the system. The seminars afford also an opportunity to provide information on ARIPO and the procedures of its regional system for protection of patents and utility models, and information on industrial property in general.  In Masvingo and Harare (Zimbabwe), 56 participants attended the Seminars.  In Namibia, around 30 participants attended the Seminar and were mainly staff members of the IP Office and few from Law Firms and Universities.  In Luanda, Angola, 30 participants from Angola IP Office, Mozambique, Cap Verde and Sao Tome and Principe attended the Seminar.  In Nampula, Mozambique, 30 participants benefited from the Seminar. |
| Windhoek, Namibia, 20 – 22 May 2019 |
| Luanda, Angola, 9 – 11 July 2019 |
| Nampula, Mozambique, 27 – 28 September 2019 |
| Offering sponsorship to students to undertake the Master of Intellectual Property (MIP programme) | Africa University, Mutare, Zimbabwe  Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology in Kumasi, Ghana  University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania | The MIP programme is jointly organized by ARIPO, WIPO and partner Universities with the support of the Japan Patent Office.  The programme was initiated to develop a critical mass of Intellectual Property experts for the development of the Intellectual Property system in Africa.  The 11th cohort graduated in June 2019. Another intake (12th cohort) is expected to graduate in the course of the year 2020.  So far, the programme has produced 324 IP graduates from 26 African Countries from the 1st to the 11th cohort from ARIPO Member States and other Countries in Africa.  In 2018, the programme was extended to the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology in Kumasi, Ghana. This year (2019), the programme has been extended to the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. |
| 1. **ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICES** | | |
| High Level Mission to Eswatini | Mbabane, Eswatini, 13 – 15 May 2019 | The mission jointly conducted by ARIPO and WIPO and it aimed at assessing the implementation of the Intellectual Property Development Plan (IPDP) of the Kingdom of Eswatini that was developed in 2015 with the technical support of WIPO; discussing the findings of the WIPO Follow-up mission undertaken in 2018; delivering a presentation for the Cabinet on "IP and Development and the role of the IP Office"; and creating awareness among Senior Government Officials and the newly established IP Inter-Ministerial Committee on IP and mechanisms for the implementation of the IPDP in the Kingdom of Eswatini. |
| 1. **PUBLICATIONS** | | |
| Publication of Guiding tools to assist Member States; and other publications | ARIPO, Harare, End 2018 – 2019 | In end 2018 and during 2019, the following publications were registered:   * *Guide to contracts, Literary works* * *African Journal of Intellectual Property – AJIP – Volume 3, Issues 1 & 2* (jointly published twice a year by ARIPO and the Africa University) * *ARIPO Model Law on Copyright and Related Rights* * *Guidelines on Ratification/Accession and Domestication of International Instruments on Copyrights and Related Rights* |

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1. In English only. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)