

Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)

Nineteenth Session
Geneva, May 15 to 19, 2017

PROPOSAL OF THE AFRICAN GROUP CONCERNING THE BIENNIAL ORGANIZATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT

prepared by the Secretariat

1. In a communication dated March 6, 2017, the Permanent Mission of Senegal, in its capacity as coordinator of the African Group, transmitted to the Secretariat, on behalf of the African Group, a “proposal concerning the biennial organization of an international conference on intellectual property and development” for consideration during the nineteenth session of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP). This proposal is in response to a decision taken by the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) at its eighteenth session, following the consideration of document CDIP/18/3, entitled “Report on the International Conference on Intellectual Property and Development.”
2. The above-mentioned communication from Senegal is reproduced in the Annex to this document.
3. *The CDIP is invited to consider the information contained in the Annex to this document.*

[Annex follows]

PROPOSAL OF THE AFRICAN GROUP CONCERNING THE BIENNIAL ORGANIZATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT

The African Group is pleased to present its formal proposal for the attention of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) as announced during the 18th session, which was held from October 31 to November 4, 2016 (see paragraph 6.2 of the Chair's summary).

It is worth noting that this proposal is supported and driven by the highly positive outcomes of the conference organized on this topic in Geneva on April 7 and 8, 2016, as evidenced by the report contained in document CDIP/18/3 and by the positive comments of Member States.

It should be further noted that this proposal seeks to institutionalize the holding of an international conference on intellectual property and development during each WIPO budget cycle, incorporating it into the parallel program of the organization, within the framework of the Development Agenda and following on from the seminars organized.

The organizational and logistical arrangements for the implementation of this proposal take account of those approved by Member States for the conference organized in April 2016.

The terms of reference that are already agreed and available would be reused as follows.

MAIN TITLE

International Conference on Intellectual Property and Development

SUB-TITLE

The sub-title of the conference must flow from matters connected to intellectual property and to development and its practical ramifications. It should be approved during the first session of the CDIP, which meets during the first year of WIPO's budget biennium.

FREQUENCY

Every two years.

VENUE

WIPO headquarters in Geneva or in another country suggested by Member States.

DURATION

Two to three days.

DATES

The first half of the second year of the WIPO budget biennium.

TOPICS

The international conference will focus on the theme of the sub-title agreed by Member States during the first session of the CDIP which holds during the first year of WIPO's biennium.

The Secretariat will be invited to plan the program of the international conference and to draft the content for each theme in informal consultation with the group coordinators. The final program of the conference will be presented during the second session of the CDIP in the first year of the biennium for information.

FORMAT

The conference will hold during the first half of the second year of WIPO's biennium. Each session will include a moderator and three presenters for guided discussions, taking account of matters raised by the participants with the moderator and their observations before and during sessions. The working languages will be the six official languages of the UN and simultaneous interpretation will be provided in these six languages.

PRESENTERS

The Secretariat will be requested to select presenters based on geographical balance, appropriate expertise, and representation. Member States will be invited to submit names of possible presenters.

PARTICIPANTS

The international conference will be open to Member States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society. Participants may register online in advance or in person at the venue.

OUTCOMES AND PRESENTATIONS

A factual report will be produced by the Secretariat, summarizing the main discussions at the international conference, and will be presented to the CDIP at its last session during the second year of the WIPO biennium.

The web page with detailed information on the conference will be specifically created on WIPO's website. This web page will be used to make freely available all conference documentation including the program, written versions of presentations, audio and video files recording the conference proceedings, and the report. The web page will also be used to provide access to a live web cast of the proceedings.

The International Conference on Intellectual Property and Development of the 2018/2019 biennium

For WIPO's 2018/2019 budgetary cycle, the following is proposed:

- I. The sub-title of the conference will be on the theme: "How to make use of the system?"

II. The Secretariat will draft the program of the conference in consultation with Member States so that it can be discussed during the second session of the CDIP in 2018.

III. The seminar will be organized during the first half of 2019 at a venue to be chosen by Member States.

IV. The factual report will be presented during the second session of the CDIP in 2019.

This is the proposal of the African Group for a biennial international conference on intellectual property and development.

[End of annex and of document]