

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)

**CONTRIBUTION TO THE
WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS)**

Proposed elements on intellectual property (IP) for inclusion in the WSIS Declaration of Principles

- Raising awareness of the essential role of intellectual property (IP) as a tool for knowledge creation in the digital age, and as a means to bridge the digital divide.
- Emphasizing the role of IP, and the international IP system, in assisting developing countries to encourage local innovation and content-creation and stimulate export of local content over the digital networks, while at the same time preserving their intellectual and cultural heritage and facilitating the accessibility of public domain information.
- Highlighting the importance of IP and the IP system in promoting cultural identity, and encouraging cultural expression while contributing to the protection of the integrity and authenticity of such expression. This is particularly important when national expressions of culture can be made available globally via digital networks. Stimulation of cultural expression will contribute to shared wealth in information and knowledge.
- Recognizing the common interests of rightsholders and digital network access providers (Internet Service Providers), and promoting cooperation between them.
- Promoting the use of rights management technologies to enable creators and rightsholders to make digital content available under conditions which respect individual privacy and respond effectively to users' needs, as well as to the needs of individuals and institutions in developing countries for access to digital information for development purposes.
- Enhancing understanding of IP through education and training, through national and regional initiatives, school and distance learning programs.
- Establishing an environment of respect for IP through legal, regulatory and policy frameworks at national levels. By adopting and implementing IP laws, and enforcing them through national legal systems, States can maximize the economic and social benefits of the Information Society, that promotes technological innovation and encourages investment in the knowledge economy.

– Promoting accessions to the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT), both of which came into force into 2002, in order to ensure that the legal framework is sufficiently robust to meet the challenges of the digital environment.

WIPO Contributions to the Plan of Action:

– To convene the WIPO Summit on Intellectual Property and the Knowledge Economy, in Beijing, China, April 24 to 26, 2003. The WIPO Summit will examine the key role of the IP system in stimulating creativity and innovation to foster economic growth and social well-being through wealth creation and business development. Themes to be discussed include: the contribution of creativity to human progress; leveraging the benefits of invention in the real and virtual worlds; promoting respect for IP rights; IP as a tool for economic, social and cultural development – forging partnerships to boost innovation and wealth creation; and respecting creators and inventors – enforcement of IP rights;

– The WIPO Digital Agenda (attached) will continue to serve as the blueprint for the Organization's activities in promoting the protection of intellectual property in the global digital environment, developing practical solutions to the challenges raised by the new technologies for the IP system, and for ensuring the participation of all countries in the formation of policies for the digital age;

– The WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) will launch policy discussions and information sharing on the main trends in copyright and related rights in such fields as applicable law in international copyright dealings, collective management of copyright, exceptions and limitations to copyright and related rights, technological protection measures and digital rights management, the economics of copyright, resale rights, the ownership of multimedia works, voluntary recordation systems, copyright protection of folklore and the responsibility of Internet service providers. Collectively these discussions will contribute to more effective protection, development, use, and management of literary and artistic works and other objects of protection in the digital environment;

– WIPO will continue to promote the WCT and the WPPT and provide assistance to its Member States on implementation of these treaties. WIPO will also provide a forum for discussion, as well as facilitating international consensus in respect of protection of broadcasting organizations and of audiovisual performances;

– Ongoing provision of automation assistance to developing countries, least developed countries and countries in transition to facilitate the generation, management, valuation and exploitation of IP for their socio-economic benefit;

– Complete the deployment of WIPONET, which provides Internet connectivity and IT services for intellectual property offices, with a focus on the needs of developing countries whilst providing an e-business platform for the future. The goal of WIPONET is to support the deployment of an adequate local ICT infrastructure, to establish Internet connectivity where it does not already exist and to enable WIPO to provide technical expertise, assistance in areas of legal advice, infrastructure development, capacity building, and training and e-business solutions for members of its registration unions. Its aim is to ensure that all 320 intellectual property offices in 178 countries have connected access to digital communications, IP information and WIPO's information collections. As of January 2003,

52 Offices had received the WIPONET kit, and a further 49 are preparing for deployment. 140 IPO's had received training, representing 114 countries.

- To make widely available the WIPO report, “Intellectual Property on the Internet: A Survey of Issues” (at <http://ecommerce.wipo.int/survey/index.html>);
- To make available, through the WIPO Worldwide Academy's Distance Learning Program, a specialized course on Intellectual Property and Electronic Commerce. The course is designed to provide an understanding of concepts and issues involving e-commerce and IP, and is targeted at professionals, academics, professionals, and university students in developing and developed countries. The course should be made available online during the course of 2003;
- To undertake studies of the economic contribution of copyright-based businesses and activities to national economies, to demonstrate the link between IP and foreign and domestic investment;
- To further develop the WIPO Digital Agenda, which sets out a series of guidelines and goals for WIPO aimed at developing practical solutions to challenges raised by new technologies on IP rights;
- To conduct regional meetings of WIPO Member States, to raise awareness among developing countries in particular concerning IP issues raised by e-commerce, as well as IP protection at the national level in the Internet domain name system, through country code Top-Level Domains (ccTLDs). These meetings are also aimed at broadening the participation of developing countries in the formation of e-commerce policies at an international level.

[End of document]