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## **Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO**

### **Fifty-Ninth Series of Meetings Geneva, September 30 to October 9, 2019**

#### ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. The observers admitted to attend the Fifty-Ninth series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and of the Unions administered by WIPO (the Assemblies) are listed in document A/59/INF/1 Rev.
2. Once an observer is admitted to attend the meetings of the Assemblies, it is also invited to attend, in the same capacity, meetings of committees, working groups, or other bodies subsidiary to the Assemblies, if their subject matter seems to be of direct interest to that observer.
3. Decisions concerning the admission of observers to the meetings of the Assemblies were last taken at the Fifty-Eighth series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, from September 24 to October 2, 2018 (document A/58/11, paragraphs 22 to 24).
4. Since then, the Director General has received requests, with the requisite information, from each of the following entities for admission to attend the meetings of the Assemblies as an observer:

A. INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS)

- (i) Consortium for Common Food Names (CCFN);
- (ii) International Generic and Biosimilar medicines Association (IGBA); and
- (iii) Knowmad Institute.

B. NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS<sup>1</sup> (NGOS)

- (i) Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society Ltd (ALCS);
- (ii) Brand Protection Group – Lebanon (BPG);
- (iii) Friends of the Creator Artistic Foundation (FCF);
- (iv) Myanmar Intellectual Property Proprietors' Association (MIPPA);
- (v) Native American Rights Fund (NARF); and
- (vi) Professional Union of Broadcasting Organizations (RATEM).

5. A brief description of each of the entities mentioned above – its objectives, structure and membership – appears in the Annexes to this document.

*6. The Assemblies of WIPO, each in so far as it is concerned, are invited to take a decision on the requests for admission, as observers, from the entities appearing in paragraph 4, of document A/59/3 Rev.*

[Annexes follow]

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<sup>1</sup> For the principles applicable in extending invitations to national NGOs, as observers, adopted by the Assemblies at their Thirty-Seventh series of meetings, from September 23 to October 1, 2002, see document A/37/14, paragraph 316.

PARTICULARS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) (ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE SAID ORGANIZATIONS)

Consortium for Common Food Names (CCFN)

Headquarters: CCFN was established in 2012 and has its headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, United States of America.

Objectives: The organization was formed for the purpose of coordinating and promoting activities designed to retain and preserve around the world the use of traditional and common names for food. It seeks to foster the adoption of an appropriate model for protecting both legitimate geographical indications and generic food names.

Structure: The governing bodies of CCFN consist of the Board of Directors, which has general charge and management of the affairs, funds as well as property of the organization, and the Executive Committee of the Board. The latter is comprised of three elected officers of CCFN plus the Treasurer and two additional Board Members elected by the Board, and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of CCFN within the policies established by the Board.

Membership: CCFN's membership is composed of 39 legal persons.

International Generic and Biosimilar medicines Association (IGBA)

Headquarters: IGBA was incorporated under Swiss Civil Law in 2015 and has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Objectives: IGBA's objectives are, *inter alia*, to provide their members a network to exchange information of common interest, to monitor global and regional issues affecting generic and biosimilar pharmaceutical companies and to support the development of policies that seek to improve access to safe and effective quality medicines. Furthermore, IGBA supports a balanced enforcement of intellectual property rights to safeguard fair competition.

Structure: The bodies of IGBA are the General Assembly, Management Committee, Standing Committees, Secretariat and Auditor. The General Assembly is the organization's highest authority and is composed of IGBA's members. It appoints the Management Committee members (the Directors) who are responsible for carrying out all acts that further the objectives of IGBA.

Membership: IGBA's membership is composed of 13 associations.

Knowmad Institute

Headquarters: The Knowmad Institute was established in 2018 and has its headquarters in Joachimsthal, Germany.

Objectives: The objective of the Knowmad Institute is to promote science and research, particularly through preparation of and participation in studies on human rights especially related to international drug policy, ethnobotany, special populations, new technologies and sustainable development.

Structure: The governing bodies of the Knowmad Institute are the Board of Executive Directors and the Shareholder Assembly which appoints and dismisses the managing directors.

Membership: The Knowmad Institute is composed of 23 individual members.

[Annex II follows]

PARTICULARS CONCERNING NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) (ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE SAID ORGANIZATIONS)

Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society Ltd (ALCS)

**Headquarters:** ALCS was founded in 1977 and has its headquarters in London, United Kingdom.

**Objectives:** ALCS collects money for secondary uses, such as photocopying, retransmission or digital reproduction, of its members' works and distributes the revenues to its members. The organization also campaigns on behalf of writers for the recognition and respect of writers' rights, including the fair payment for the use of their works. Furthermore, ALCS keeps its members informed regarding recent developments in copyright law and other issues that might affect them.

**Structure:** The main body of ALCS is the Board of Directors, consisting of nine individuals of which one is the executive director who serves as Chief Executive and Company Secretary.

**Membership:** ALCS represents approximately 97,000 author members and membership is open to all types of writers and their successors in the print and audiovisual sectors.

Brand Protection Group – Lebanon (BPG)

**Headquarters:** BPG was established in 2003 and has its headquarters in Ajaltoun, Lebanon.

**Objectives:** The core objective of BPG is to protect intellectual property rights and to preserve the rights of consumers against fraud and illicit competition. To that end, BPG raises awareness of counterfeit activities and carries out studies about various products and economic sectors, which are affected by smuggling, forgery, counterfeiting and illicit competition.

**Structure:** The governing bodies of BPG consist of the General Assembly as the supreme decision making body, the Administrative Board, which represents the organization, and the Task Committees dealing with issues such as government relations and communication.

**Membership:** BPG's membership is composed of 21 legal persons.

Friends of the Creator Artistic Foundation (FCF)

**Headquarters:** FCF was formally incorporated in 2017 and has its headquarters in Oleh, Delta State, Nigeria.

**Objectives:** The objectives of FCF are, *inter alia*, to create awareness of copyright, to document intellectual property infringement cases in Nigeria and to promote intellectual property rights through campaigning and other means.

**Structure:** The main governing body of FCF is the Board of Trustees, which is responsible for the policy-making and day-to-day operations of the organization and is comprised of five persons, including a Chairman and Secretary. It is elected by the Members of the organization during a General Meeting for a term of eight years.

**Membership:** FCF has currently 28 individual members.

### Myanmar Intellectual Property Proprietors' Association (MIPPA)

Headquarters: MIPPA was formally established in 2014 and has its headquarters in Yangon, Myanmar.

Objectives: The objectives of MIPAA are, *inter alia*, to increase intellectual property knowledge in Myanmar, encourage the creation of new intellectual property assets and to cooperate with intellectual property organizations from foreign countries.

Structure: The governing bodies of MIPPA are the Annual General Meeting of its members, the Central Executive Committee and the Executive Committee. The Central Executive Committee consists of 15 persons and is chaired by MIPPA's President.

Membership: MIPPA has approximately 390 individual members.

### Native American Rights Fund (NARF)

Headquarters: NARF was established in 1970 and has its headquarters in Boulder, Colorado, United States of America.

Objectives: NARF is a national legal defense fund, operating exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, and dedicated to asserting and defending the rights of Indian Tribes, tribal organizations and individual Indians in the United States of America. NARF's five priorities are: preservation of tribal existence, protection of tribal natural resources, promotion of Native American human rights, accountability of governments to Native Americans, and the development of Indian law and educating the public about Indian rights, laws and issues.

Structure: The governing bodies of NARF are the 13-member Board of Directors composed of Native people and the Board's Executive Committee, which includes always the Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer.

Membership: NARF is not a membership-based organization.

### Professional Union of Broadcasting Organizations (RATEM)

Headquarters: RATEM was founded in 2001 and has its headquarters in Istanbul, Turkey.

Objectives: RATEM is a collective management organization acting on behalf of radio and television broadcasting organizations regarding the exercise of their related rights on their broadcasts. As such, RATEM's objectives are, *inter alia*, to protect the joint interest of related right holders, ensure the administration of rights granted and the distribution of the collected fees to the right holders.

Structure: The bodies of RATEM are the General Assembly, the Board of Directors, the Auditing Board, the Technical-Scientific Board, and the Board of Honor. The Board of Directors consists of a minimum of nine members elected by the General Assembly. RATEM is represented by the Chairperson of the Board of Directors.

Membership: RATEM has 780 national, regional and local broadcasting members.

[End of Annex II and of document]