

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

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PROPOSAL OF THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN AND BALTIC STATES GROUP (CEBS)
ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE WIPO COORDINATION COMMITTEE

submitted by the Central European and Baltic States Group (CEBS)

In a communication to the Secretariat received on June 20, 2023, the Central European and Baltic States Group (CEBS), submitted the enclosed proposal in the framework of Agenda Item 7, "Composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee, and of the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions"

[Annex follows]

Proposal on behalf of the Central European and Baltic States Group on the allocation of the vacant seats for the election of the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee

1. During the 2019 WIPO Assemblies, Member States decided that “the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly will undertake consultations with Member States on the allocation of the vacant seats at the WIPO Assemblies in 2021, for the election of the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee, and of the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions, at the same WIPO Assemblies.” Based on the recent accessions, the composition of Coordination Committee should consist of 90 members as to date. Therefore, 7 additional vacant seats are to be allocated as compared to the 83 seats filled during the WIPO Assemblies in 2021.
2. The CEBS Group also takes note that Article 14(4) of the Paris Convention and Article 23(4) of the Berne Convention states that “in electing the members of the Executive Committee, the Assembly shall have due regard to an equitable geographical distribution and to the need for countries party to the Special Agreements established in relation with the Union to be among the countries constituting the Executive Committee”.
3. Until date no agreement has been reached and the composition of the WIPO Coordination Committee. With 83 seats and their uneven allocation across the regional groups and as a resumption of consultations with a view to take account of the developments and changes made to the composition of regional groups, the discussions about the composition of CoCo, based on geographical equitability, are

necessary in light of Article 14(4) of the Paris Convention and Article 23(4) of the Berne Convention.

4. The CEBS Group notes that according to Articles 8(1)(a) and 11(9)(a) of the WIPO Convention, the CoCo is composed of the following categories of members:
 - a. the elected ordinary members of the Executive Committee of the Paris Union and of the Executive Committee of the Berne Union;
 - b. Switzerland, as the State on whose territory the Organization has its headquarters, as an *ex officio* member; and
 - c. one-fourth of the States party to the WIPO Convention that are not members of any of the Unions administered by WIPO, which are designated by the WIPO Conference and which serve as *ad hoc* members of the WIPO Coordination Committee.

5. The CEBS group would like to indicate that:
 - All current CEBS Members have for long time been parties to both the Paris as well as the Berne Conventions;
 - The CEBS Group – with allocation of 6 seats remains among the most underrepresented regional groups in the CoCo;
 - The underrepresentation of CEBS Group is even more visible, taking into account the accession to the group of two countries (Georgia and Ukraine) since 2011; however, due to these changes, neither the increased allocation for CEBS Group nor decreased allocation of seats to the groups, which have been decreased in number of countries, have been reflected;
 - The CEBS Group is in second place in the total number of ratifications of WIPO Treaties. At the same time, the

CEBS Members States account the biggest number of ratifications per country in average;

- A continuous growth of registrations made from CEBS countries throughout various IP systems has been reported in the last two decades.

6. The CEBS Group further reiterates that the **current allocation** in the CoCo is neither fairly proportioned nor representative of the relative size of regional groups in WIPO (as illustrated in Annex A and Annex B of document A/64/9, attached to this document). The CEBS Group is one of the most underrepresented regional groups in the current composition of CoCo. Based on the above-mentioned information, increased representation of the CEBS Group should be considered as a necessary step to ensure a balanced representation of all regional groups, based on current criteria.
7. Furthermore, the CEBS Group believes that not only the membership in Paris Convention and Bern Convention, which defines the total number of seats in CoCo shall be taken into account when deciding the regional composition of the CoCo. This criteria seems no longer relevant, taking into account that, like in the case of Group B, CACEEC or GRULAC, all members from the CEBS Group have accessed both Conventions. While these criteria have for long served as a motivating factor to encourage WIPO Member States to access WIPO instruments, it can no longer serve as a parameter determining composition of CoCo.
8. In view of the above, the seven unfilled CoCo seats should be allocated to better reflect the WIPO Membership and the relative size of WIPO regional groups, while reaffirming that every regional group should be represented in the CoCo. The

CEBS Group therefore believes that it is underrepresented in the Coordination Committee and deserves additional seats.

Annex A**Allocation of Seats in the CoCo among Regional Groups for Biennium¹**

S/No	Item	Group B	Africa Group	CACEEC	CEBS	GRULAC	APG	China	Total
1.	Total Members in group	32	53	9	19	33	46	1	193
2.	Current allocated seats for CoCo	23	19	4	6	15	15	1	83
3.	Percentage of the group Members represented in the CoCo ²	71.88%	35.85%	44.44%	31.58%	45.45%	32.61%	NA	-
4.	Group percentage of WIPO Members ³	16.58%	27.46%	4.66%	9.84%	17.10%	23.83%	NA	100%
5.	Group percentage of CoCo Membership ⁴	27.71%	22.89%	4.82%	7.23%	18.07%	18.07%	NA	100%
6.	Number of CoCo seats if according to proportion of WIPO Membership based on 83 CoCo seats ⁵	13.76	22.79	3.87	8.17	14.19	19.78	NA	83
7.	Differential (between Row 6 and Row 2)⁶	<u>-9.24</u>	<u>3.79</u>	<u>-0.13</u>	<u>2.17</u>	<u>-0.81</u>	<u>4.78</u>	NA	-

¹ This Annex is based on the table contained in document A/59/12 dated 24 September 2019, WO/GA/51/17 dated 24 September 2019 and A/62/13 dated 17 December 2021 . It has been updated to include Nauru (a Member of the APG) which has joined the WIPO Membership since the 2019 WIPO Assemblies.

² Based on: (number of current allocated seats for regional group in the CoCo)/(total number of Members in regional group) x 100%

³ Based on: (number of Members in regional group)/(total number of WIPO Members) x 100%

⁴ Based on: (number of current allocated seats for regional group in the CoCo)/(total number of seats in the CoCo) x 100%

⁵ Based on: (group percentage of WIPO Membership) x (total number of seats in the CoCo)

⁶ Based on: (number of CoCo seats if according to proportion of WIPO Membership based on 83 seats) - (current allocated seats for CoCo). A negative number means a regional group is overrepresented by that amount of seats on the CoCo.

Annex B

Increase in membership of the Paris and Berne Unions since 2011

S.No	Item	Group B	Africa Group	CACEEC	CEBS	GRULAC	APG	China	Total
1	Number of Members in Paris Union	32	50	9	19	33	35	1	179
2	Accessions to the Paris Convention since January 2011	0	1* *Cabo Verde	0	0	0	5* *Afghanistan, Brunei, Kiribati Kuwait, Samoa	0	6
3	Number of Members in Berne Union	32	47	9	19	33	39	1	181
4	Accessions to the Berne Convention since January 2011	2* *New Zealand (accession to the Paris Act), San Marino	4* *Burundi, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Uganda	1* *Turkmenistan	0	0	11* *Afghanistan, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu	0	18
5	Total number of new accessions to the Paris and Berne Unions since 2011 (row2 + row4)	2	5	1	0	0	16	0	24

[End of Annex and of document]