

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

Sixty-Fourth Series of Meetings
Geneva, July 6 to 14, 2023

**PROPOSAL OF THE GROUP OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES
(GRULAC) ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE WIPO COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

submitted by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC)

In a communication to the Secretariat received on July 7, 2023, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC) 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 BY THE GROUP OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE WIPO COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND THE ALLOCATION OF ITS VACANT SEATS

Background:

1. In accordance with Articles 8(1)(a) and 11(9)(a) of the WIPO Convention, the Coordination Committee (CoCo) shall be composed of the following Member States:
 - a. Member States party to the WIPO Convention that are themselves members of the Executive Committee of the Paris Union or of the Executive Committee of the Berne Union or of both Executive Committees.
 - b. A quarter of the Member States party to the WIPO Convention which are not members of any of the Unions administered by the Organization and which are appointed by the WIPO Assembly.
 - c. Switzerland, as the Member State in whose territory WIPO has its headquarters.
2. In accordance with Articles 14(4) of the Paris Convention and 23(4) of the Berne Convention, the election of Member States to the executive committees shall consider equitable geographical distribution and the need for all Member States that are party to the particular agreements established concerning the unions to be among the Member States composing the executive committees.
3. Due to the accession of 24 Member States to the Paris and Berne Unions since 2011, the CoCo currently has a total of 90 seats available, of which only 83 have been allocated due to the lack of consensus among Member States on the best way to allocate the vacant seats, which currently amount to 7. In this regard, GRULAC recalls that it is one of the three regional groups that has not received an additional seat in the CoCo since 2001.
4. The Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC) reaffirms the terms of Articles 14(4) of the Paris Convention and 23(4) of the Bern Convention and is of the conviction that the CoCo and the allocation of its vacant seats should aim at an equitable geographical distribution of its seats.
5. GRULAC is of the conviction that an equitable geographical distribution in the context of multilateralism is one that equitably distributes decision-making capacity and influence in WIPO among each and every one of the regional groups, in such a way that there is a balance among them. In this regard, the allocation of vacant seats in the CoCo should help to reduce the existing imbalances.
6. GRULAC is also convinced that equitable geographical distribution in such terms is beneficial to the Organization, since it fosters dialogue and consensus in decision-making.
7. In this understanding, GRULAC considers that the current distribution of CoCo seats is far from an equitable geographic distribution, and that an allocation of its vacant seats based on the relative size of the regional groups is also far from equitable, since in the long term it will lead to imbalances in decision-making capacity and influence in favor of the regional groups that have more members in their ranks.

GRULAC proposes:

That the composition of the CoCo and the allocation of its vacant seats respond to an equitable geographical distribution, in such a way as to distribute equitably the decision-making capacity and influence in WIPO among each and every one of the regional groups, lessening existing imbalances and fostering dialogue and consensus in decision-making.

[End of Annex and of document]