

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

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

#### **JOINT PROPOSAL OF THE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC GROUP (APG) AND THE AFRICA GROUP ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE WIPO COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

*submitted by the Asia and the Pacific Group (APG) and the Africa Group*

In a communication to the Secretariat received on May 16, 2023, the Asia and the Pacific Group (APG) and the Africa Group, submitted the enclosed joint 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]

## Submission of the Asia and the Pacific Group (the APG) and the Africa Group

### Composition of the Coordination Committee (CoCo)

1. The APG and the Africa Group note 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.
2. The APG and the Africa Group further 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. The APG and the Africa Group recall that the number of allocated seats on the CoCo has stayed at 83 since 2011. The APG and the Africa Group further recall that during the 62nd WIPO Assemblies in 2021 it was explained in document A/62/5, the new composition of the Coordination Committee was to consist of 89 members, an increase above the current membership of 83. However, in the absence of agreement on how to best allocate the remaining six additional seats of the WIPO Coordination Committee, consensus among Member States had been that the WIPO Coordination Committee should exceptionally remain at 83 members. The 62nd WIPO Assemblies further 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 2023, 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.
4. The APG and the Africa Group note that due to the accessions of six countries (Afghanistan, Brunei, Kuwait, Samoa, Cabo Verde and Kiribati) to the Paris Union and accessions of eighteen countries (Afghanistan, Burundi, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Mozambique, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda and Vanuatu) to the Berne Union since 2011, the composition of the CoCo should now have 90 members with effect from July 2022.
5. The APG and the Africa Group reiterate 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](#)). In particular, the Africa Group and the APG are the most underrepresented in the CoCo. The APG and the Africa Group note that, based on the CoCo’s composition in paragraph 1, the increase in the number of seats in the

CoCo since 2011 has arisen mostly from accessions from the APG and the Africa Group, given the 16 accessions from the APG and 5 from the Africa Group, along with 2 from Group B and 1 from CACEEC to the Paris and Berne Unions that have taken place since then (as illustrated in Annex B).

6. 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 as well as the accessions to the Paris and Berne Unions since 2011 from the respective WIPO regional groups, while reaffirming that every regional group should be represented in the CoCo. The APG and the Africa Group reiterate that this allocation is not only timely, but necessary in light of Article 14(4) of the Paris Convention and Article 23(4) of the Berne Convention on equitable geographical distribution.

*Annex A & B follow*

Annex A

**Allocation of Seats in the CoCo among Regional Groups for Biennium<sup>1</sup>**

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 <sup>2</sup>	71.88%	35.85%	44.44%	31.58%	45.45%	32.61%	NA	-
4.	Group percentage of WIPO Members <sup>3</sup>	16.58%	27.46%	4.66%	9.84%	17.10%	23.83%	NA	100%
5.	Group percentage of CoCo Membership <sup>4</sup>	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 <sup>5</sup>	13.76	22.79	3.87	8.17	14.19	19.78	NA	83
7.	<b>Differential (between Row 6 and Row 2)<sup>6</sup></b>	<b><u>-9.24</u></b>	<b><u>3.79</u></b>	<b><u>-0.13</u></b>	<b><u>2.17</u></b>	<b><u>-0.81</u></b>	<b><u>4.78</u></b>	NA	-

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

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

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

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

<sup>6</sup> 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.

**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	<b>Total number of new accessions to the Paris and Berne Unions since 2011 (row2 + row4)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>

[End of Annex and of document]