

Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)

Thirtieth Session
Geneva, April 24 to 28, 2023

REPORT ON WIPO'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND ITS ASSOCIATED TARGETS

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. The present document represents the annual report on the contribution of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their associated targets¹. The report responds to the decision taken by the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) at its 18th session, held from October 31 to November 4, 2016, requesting the Secretariat to present an annual report thereon at the Committee's first session of the year.
2. This is the seventh report submitted to the CDIP pursuant to that request. Based on the structure contained in the above-mentioned decision, the report provides an update for 2022 of the SDG-related:
 - (a) activities and initiatives undertaken individually by WIPO,
 - (b) activities undertaken by WIPO as part of the United Nations System, and
 - (c) assistance provided by WIPO to its Member States at their request.
3. As a specialized agency of the United Nations, WIPO continues to be fully engaged in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda within its mandate and is determined to support the achievement of the SDGs, in particular by promoting a balanced and effective IP system that encourages innovation and creativity and facilitates the flow of knowledge and technical expertise in and among countries. The Organization's Development Agenda continues to guide its contribution to the realization of the SDGs. Innovation, and therefore SDG 9, is at the heart of WIPO's mission and vision. Innovation and creativity, however, are key to achieving many

¹ The list of SDGs and associated targets is available here: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

other SDGs and related targets. WIPO's services, programs and assistance are hence relevant for the 2030 Agenda at multiple levels, as explained below.

I. ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN INDIVIDUALLY BY WIPO

4. This section of the report is structured as follows: for each SDG, the report highlights the main activities and initiatives undertaken by WIPO in 2022, and how they help to achieve the relevant targets. Often, WIPO's work contributes to more than one SDG. In those cases, the activities are reported under the one that is most closely linked, and a reference is made to other relevant SDGs.

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

5. In the area of **Brands and Designs**, WIPO undertook technical assistance and capacity building activities that contribute to achieving targets 2.4 and 2.5. Those activities aimed at assisting competent authorities and interested stakeholders (local communities and producers) in identifying, developing and protecting their appellations of origin and geographical indications, as well as improving their overall branding and commercialization strategies, in order to support the integration of local communities and producers in the global economy.

6. Those activities included in particular:

- Organization of, or participation in, national or regional events and trainings to explain the strategic use of appellations of origin and geographical indications to foster local and sustainable development and the benefits of the Lisbon System in securing their protection internationally, as well as to promote the use of the Lisbon System by local communities and producers.
- Legislative and policy advice to prospective and current members of the Lisbon System was also provided to explain the legal framework of the Lisbon System, assess the compatibility of domestic legislation with the Lisbon Agreement (1967 Act) and/or the Geneva Act (2015 Act), develop implementing regulatory provisions and/or further develop their legislative and institutional frameworks.
- Organization of technical assistance and capacity building activities for relevant authorities and interested stakeholders. Technical assistance included organizational and operational capacity programs and needs assessment activities; capacity building activities included assistance in the development and implementation of sustainable appellations of origin and geographical indications (e.g., the GI and branding projects on “*Seda de Cajonos*” in Mexico, “*Kampot-Kep (Sea) Salt*” in Cambodia, “*Madd de Casamance*” in Senegal, “*Riz de Kovié*” in Togo).

7. More specifically, the following results can be reported:

- As part of the WIPO COVID 19 Recovery Package, weavers of “*seda de Cajonos*” in the region of Oaxa Mexico – impacted by the COVID and absence of tourists in the region – are being assisted to strengthen the collective management of their geographical indication in view of securing a better positioning of their products on the market and diversifying them. Other projects have also been launched at the request of other countries under the WIPO COVID 19 Recovery Package in the field of GIs (e.g. Bangladesh, Cambodia, Chile, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Tonga, Uganda);

➤ In the case of “*Madd de Casamance*”² (a wild fruit which is also a valuable source of nutrition for the community), it is also worth mentioning that the ongoing process of securing GI status is not only supporting the community’s environmental goals (SDG 15), it is also galvanizing the empowerment of young people and women (SDG 5). Young people, for example, are traditionally responsible for gathering the fruit. They use their earnings to finance their studies. Women, for their part, play a key role in processing and selling the juices, syrups and preserves derived from the fruit as well as in building the reputation of their products and establishing its value chain. In fact, these women took the first steps towards seeking GI status for “*Madd de Casamance*”. The request for registration of the GI was submitted to Senegalese authorities in November 2022 (project implemented with the financial support of Fund-in-Trust (FIT) China and in collaboration with UN Food and Agriculture Organization and French Development Agency/AFD). Other projects are also under implementation with FIT China (e.g. Cambodia, Côte d’Ivoire and Togo).

8. The above activities also contribute to the following SDGs and targets: 4.4; 5.5; 8.2; 8.3; 11.4; 15.6; 15.b; 17.16; and 17.17.

9. In the area of **Global Challenges and Partnerships**, the Organization contributed to the achievement of target 2.5 through the meetings of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC), which in 2022 met four times in accordance with the IGC’s mandate and work program for 2022-2023. In July 2022, the WIPO General Assembly decided to convene a Diplomatic Conference to conclude an International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources no later than 2024. The Organization continued to facilitate the process. This also contributes to the following SDGs and targets: 3.b; 8.2; 8.3; 14.7; and 15.6.

10. WIPO also continued to contribute towards targets 2.4 and 2.a through a range of WIPO GREEN programs. The year 2022 saw the launch of a new flagship publication (the Green Technology Book, at COP27), which examines the state of play of innovation and technology as solution providers in relation to climate change adaptation. The focus is on climate-change impact on agriculture and forestry, the water sector and coastal areas, and cities, especially in developing countries, where the effects are most heavily borne. The publication is a practical guide that showcases 200 currently available as well as cutting-edge technologies that are soon to be available. The Green Technology Book was created in cooperation with the partners Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) and the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASTR).

11. The chapter Agriculture and Forestry presents solutions that respond to climate change impacts on food security. It explores proven, frontier and horizon technologies ranging from local and indigenous techniques to urban farming, hydroponics and high-tech digital solutions. The sections look at technologies for climate-resilient plants, healthy soils, irrigation, livestock and forest protection. Because the right information at the right time can be vital, the chapter also looks at early warning systems and solutions for monitoring and forecasting climate change impact.

12. In addition, the WIPO GREEN Database of Innovative Technologies and Needs continued to provide a free, solution oriented, global innovation catalogue that connects sustainable solutions to needs related to environmental or climate change problems. In 2022, the number of registered database users grew to over 2,000. Since its 2013 launch, the platform has facilitated more than 1,000 connections among network members. The database has a section on Farming and Forestry with 12.851 entries.

² https://www.wipo.int/wipo_magazine/en/2020/02/article_0006.html.

13. Lastly, following a request from the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI Brazil) in 2019, WIPO GREEN initiated an [Acceleration Project in Latin America with a focus on Climate Smart Agriculture](#). Partners also included Chile's National Institute of Industrial Property (INAPI Chile), Argentina's National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI Argentina), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Commerce, and Cultural Affairs in Argentina. Originally implemented as a short-term activity, the project continued in a second phase in 2021-22 and will continue its third phase in 2023. New activities under the second phase include sectoral studies to identify major innovators, technologies and demands in specific areas, as well as matchmaking events for green technology businesses. There are currently 115 technology solutions and 70 needs uploaded to the [LAC Climate Smart Agriculture Collection](#) (cumulative) on the WIPO GREEN database. In addition, catalogues of needs and technologies were made in 2022 in all three countries. The second phase ended in 2022 with subsequent startup of the third phase with increased focus on matchmaking.

14. WIPO Green initiatives also contribute to SDG 13, in particular 13.1 and 13.3.

15. In addition, the Organization's work on **Cooperation for Development** during 2022 also contributed to targets 2.a and 2.b. The Division for Asia and the Pacific launched a series of conversations on fixing the agro-food system, combating climate impact and sustainability, in the context of the Entrepreneurs Online Network (EON) initiative. Further, a GIs Training Project for selected Arab Countries was implemented. The objective of the project was to help relevant beneficiaries, representing various stakeholders from the participating countries, understand how to protect and use GIs for promoting national quality products linked to origin in national, regional and international markets.

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

16. In the area of **Brands and Designs**, WIPO contributed to the achievement of target 3.3 through different means, such as its activities in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) on International Nonproprietary Names for Pharmaceutical Substances (INNs). Following the conclusion, in 2018, of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that enables the exchange of information contained in the WHO INN Global Data Hub and the WIPO Global Brand Database (GBD), the two organizations pursued their liaison to provide Member States with up-to-date information on newly proposed and recommended INN names, thereby contributing to SDG 3. The replacement of previous paper circulars and hard carriers (CD-ROMs) for electronic communications further contributes to SDG 13.

17. Trademark examiners in WIPO Member States may now search the GBD for INN names in an accessible format and by using different filters that facilitate the textual comparison between INNs and verbal marks. With the help of this new tool, they will be able to fulfill the public interest in keeping these names free and available for use by pharmacists and medical practitioners around the world, thus preventing medication errors.

18. At the other end, information on existing trademarks that have been properly granted for use on pharmaceutical products is key in avoiding counterfeiting in this crucial area for global health and well-being. National Pharmacopeia Commissions and Experts in the naming of pharmaceuticals can also use the trademark data in the GBD to avoid proposing or recommending new INN names that may cause confusion with existing trademarks, therefore contributing to enhanced pharmacovigilance and more reliable medicines. In response to the sanitary emergency caused by the spread of the COVID-19 virus, three Special Editions and Addenda, containing 30 proposed INN names to be used as active ingredients of vaccines against variants of the SARS-CoV-2 severe acute respiratory syndrome, were published on the WIPO GBD as Lists No. 126 to 128, in January, May and September 2022.

19. In the area of **Global Challenges and Partnerships**, the Organization's activities continued to contribute to targets 3.3. and 3.b. Since 2011, WIPO Re:Search – a public-private consortium founded by WIPO and BIO Ventures for Global Health (BVGH) – has catalyzed research and development (R&D) for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), tuberculosis (TB) and malaria through the sharing of intellectual property assets, including compounds, technologies, laboratory capacities and expertise. WIPO Re:Search has facilitated 185 research collaborations and established research and development (R&D) fellowships funded by the Australian government, supporting nearly 30 scientists from Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs). Over the past decade, there has been a marked increase in R&D for NTDs. Although WIPO Re:Search came to a close on December 31, 2022, WIPO will continue its work in global health, maintaining NTDs as a priority area.

20. The COVID-19 pandemic sparked vigorous debate on the interlinkages between IP and global health and the role of innovation in the health sector. To this end, WIPO launched the Mission Imagination series: a series of conversations with leading global health experts who are working to improve public health and innovation systems. The inaugural episode featured [Dr. Peter Hotez](#), who led the development of Corbevax, an affordable and accessible COVID-19 vaccine. The second episode featured [Dr. Richard Hatchett](#), CEO of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), who provided insights into the science behind prepared for emerging infectious diseases, and future epidemic and pandemic threats.

21. WIPO also continued to provide inputs, as required, to discussions at the WTO TRIPS Council, and deliberations of the WHO Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other instrument on pandemic preparedness and response on the role of intellectual property in supporting access to medicines (contributing to target 3.b.). The platform PAT-INFORMED also continued to contribute to target 3.8 during 2022. Launched in 2018, it provides a search engine and open-access database to facilitate easy access for procurement agencies and the public about the patent status of medicines. In 2022, WIPO's Infrastructure and Platforms Sector conducted re-write of the code behind the Pat-INFORMED database, to address technical problems and make it more user friendly. The new technical platform was launched in July 2022.

22. In addition, WIPO's **Arbitration and Mediation Center** continued to provide dispute resolution advice and case administration services to facilitate contract negotiations between parties or to help them resolve disputes in the area of life sciences, contributing therefore to target 3.3. As part of WIPO's COVID-19 related services and support, in 2022 the Center published the Guide on WIPO ADR Options for Life Sciences Dispute Management and Resolution.

23. Further, as part of the Organization's **Cooperation for Development** work, a series of meetings and events contributed to targets 3.3 and 3.8:

- Sub-regional Meeting on Intellectual Property, Public Health and COVID-19 for Selected Arab Countries, on June 28 – 29, 2022. The objectives of the meeting were : raising the awareness and better understanding of the linkages between global health and intellectual property; helping capacity building on the role of innovation and IP tools in developing COVID-19-related vaccines and therapeutics; providing participants with better understanding of the intersection between intellectual property, trade and health policies for innovation and access to medical technologies; increasing their capacity for searching patent databases and for using retrieved patent information in the field of medical technologies; and addressing the flexibilities under the international treaties with regards to IP and public health.
- Sub-regional Webinar for GCC Countries on “The Role of Intellectual Property in Vaccines, Therapeutics and Diagnostics, During Global Epidemic Conditions”, held online, on December 5 - 6, 2022. The objective of the webinar was to enable a better

understanding of the complex linkages between global health and intellectual property and to help capacity building on the role of innovation and IP tools in developing COVID-19-related vaccines and therapeutics.

- A COVID-19 Webinar on “Intellectual Property and Public Health” for Algeria and Tunisia, held on April 27 - 28, 2022. The objectives of the webinar were to provide better understanding on the intersection between intellectual property, trade and public health policies for innovation and access to medical technologies and to increase capacity for searching patent databases and for using retrieved patent information in the field of medical technologies. This activity focused on WIPO intensifying its cooperation with WHO and WTO, as well as addressing the flexibilities under the international treaties with regards to IP and public health.
- Hybrid seminar on *Public Health and Intellectual Property – Current Issues, Needs and Solutions*, organized in cooperation with the Patent Office of Latvia, to tackle the main current issues and challenges at the nexus of intellectual property and the health sector, and particularly at how IP could be used as a tool to help solving them. The event also gave opportunity to innovative startups from the medical field to share their unique experiences of leveraging IP in their inventions and businesses as a whole and therefore also contributed toward SDG 8 and 9.

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

24. The Organization’s contribution to SDG 4 continued to be led by the **WIPO Academy**. The activities of the Academy in 2022 supported the achievement of different targets within this goal. First, the Professional Development advanced courses aim at enhancing practical skills and knowledge of government officials from developing countries, countries in transition and least-developed countries in relevant IP fields, contributing hence to target 4.7. In 2022, a total of 271 government officials from relevant ministries and institutions benefitted from 16 Professional Development advanced courses offered jointly with 16 partner institutions. Out of the total of 271 participants, 232 completed all phases of the curriculum. 184 projects which are under implementation were produced by participants in 2022. In addition, 56% of participants were women and 52% ranged from the age 35 to 45, contributing hence to SDG 5 and targets 4.4 and 4.5.

25. The Academy’s eight joint Master’s Degree Programs also contributed to targets 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 and 4.7. The year 2022 saw 251 graduates, 55% of which were women. Other seminars and university partnerships contributing to these targets have been: the WIPO-WTO Colloquium for Teachers of IP, with 29 participants and 16 observers; 50 IP Latin America (IPIILA); 170 IP Innovation for Asia (IPIRA); WIPO Seminar at University of Indonesia and Universitas Padjadjaran, with 1,960 students participating; WIPO Academy seminar on IP for 36 students at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (Qatar) in 2022; LLM in IP of University of Alicante; and LLM Program of University of West Indies.

26. In 2022, the Academy continued to offer its accessible versions of the General Course on IP (DL-101) in all the UN languages and Portuguese, contributing to targets 4.4. and 4.5. A total 864 visually impaired or otherwise print-disabled (VIPs) participants undertook the course. This course, designed to bring greater opportunities for IP training and education to those with disability, responds to the Marrakesh Treaty, which makes the production and international transfer of specially adapted books for people with blindness or visual impairments easier. In addition to the subject matter of copyright flexibilities the knowledge of IP aims to enable them to develop professionally, which also contributes to SDG 10.

27. With a view to providing an unlimited service to VIP’s in the same manner as other eLearners, the WIPO Academy also completed the customization of an Accessible Training

Portal (ATP) with learning and teaching functionalities to accommodate persons with disabilities and to allow them to learn and teach online. The ATP will offer 3 ABC courses in 4 languages (EN, FR, ES and AR) and DL101 in 7 languages (EN, FR, ES, AR, ZH, RU and PT).

28. In collaboration with the Copyright Sector, three additional ABC courses offered by invitation included NGO Course in Accessible Book Production, STEM Course in Accessible Book Production and Publishing Concepts Course. Publishing in four languages (English, French, Spanish and Arabic) is scheduled to start in April 2023.

29. The technical enhancement of the Academy's eLearning platform with an Accessible Training Portal has been in development for the last two years and is a milestone towards ensuring equal access to all levels of education for persons with visual impairment. The launch of an Accessible Training Portal will also offer access to the most popular WIPO Academy IP course: the DL-001 - Intellectual Property Primer, in all UN languages and Portuguese.

30. In addition, in support of target 4.c, the WIPO Academy continued to support developing countries and LDCs to create their own self-sustaining national and regional IP training institutions that could respond to local training demands aligned with national development goals. In 2022, two new IPTIs were established in Saudi Arabia and Dominican Republic and more than 380 IP experts from 20 countries were trained in teaching and substantive technical skills to perform as trainers of these IPTIs. In addition, in 2022, the WIPO Academy supported IPTIs in the design and implementation of more than 30 IP capacity-building programs benefiting entrepreneurs and creators wishing to understand the value of their IP for the benefit of their businesses, so that they are equipped to turn their talent and ideas into innovative and creative products and services that create jobs, spur growth and lift up people and communities. This contributes towards the achievement of target 4.4.

31. In the area of **Brands and Designs**, WIPO contributed to the achievement of targets 4.4 and 4.7 by organizing and participating in technical assistance and capacity building activities for relevant authorities and stakeholders, particularly in developing countries, LDCs and economies in transition, in the fields of trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications, thus enhancing the human resource capacities able to deal with the broad range of requirements for the effective use of IP. This also contributes to the following SDGs and targets: 5.5; 9.4; 9.a; and 10.a.

32. In particular, it contributed to targets 4.4 and 4.7 through the implementation of the Development Agenda "Project on Intellectual Property, Tourism and Gastronomy: Promoting the Development of Tourism and Gastronomy through Intellectual Property", which continued to progress in Cameroon, Malaysia, Morocco and Peru. The project sought to promote the knowledge and use of IP related to culinary traditions (food and beverages) for use in the tourism sector. Other relevant SDGs and targets are: 8.9; 9.4; 9.a; 10.a; 16.3; and 16.6.

33. The implementation of the WIPO-ECOWAS Pilot Project for Designs, aiming at enhancing design knowledge in the public, in particular through the development of a mobile design application in cooperation with Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, also contributes to SDGs 4, 8 and 9.

34. In addition, under the Resolution Supplementary to the Singapore Treaty, WIPO shares, on a multilateral basis, information and experience on legal, technical and institutional aspects regarding the implementation of the Treaty and how to take full advantage of the opportunities and benefits resulting therefrom. During 2022, WIPO provided this type of assistance to Brazil, Ethiopia, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkmenistan. Such activities support SDGs 4 and 16.

35. In the area of **Traditional Knowledge**, WIPO's work contributed to the achievement of targets 4.4, 4.5 and 4.7 through WIPO's *Photography Prize for Indigenous Peoples and Local Community Youth*, launched in August 2021 and awarded in April 2022. It aimed to celebrate the creativity of young members of Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities, raise their awareness on how copyright can be used to protect their creativity expressed in photographs,

and encourage them to express themselves on climate change issues. In addition to awards provided to the three winners of the Photography Prize and an exhibition at WIPO Headquarters in June and at the Ethnographic Museum of Geneva in July and August including the 30 shortlisted entries, a Virtual Training on Photography and Copyright was provided on June 22, 2022 for the young photographers. This also contributes to the following SDGs and targets: 8.6; 11.4; and 13.3.

36. In addition, a series of WIPO webinars on *How to Protect and Promote Your Culture*, inspired by the WIPO Traditional Knowledge Division publication *Protect and Promote Your Culture* and primarily addressed to Indigenous Peoples and local communities, was launched in 2021 and completed in 2022. Eight webinars in English and Spanish have been organized on the use of patents, geographical indications, collective and certification marks, and copyright. This also contributes to the following SDGs and targets: 1.4 and 11.4.

37. WIPO also continued to contribute to targets 4.4 and 4.7 through its activities in the field of **Building Respect for IP**. Particular emphasis was placed on promoting awareness about IP, particularly amongst young people. For example, the Senegal Citizen Journalism project introduced secondary school students to the principles of IP and the importance of respecting it. Students then became IP Ambassadors to disseminate the message among other students, as well as their families. In addition, the IP Clubs project was developed in cooperation with the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) in schools in Botswana, Malawi and Zimbabwe. The project's purpose was to train teachers on IP rights so they could undertake learning exercises and creative projects focused on respect for IP with their students, thus establishing means of ensuring a long term, sustainable and continuous approach to educating the youth on IP and its value for society in that region.

38. Other activities in this area that contribute to the SDG 4 included:

- Dubbing into the Thai language the "*Pororo the Little Penguin*" animations on industrial property. The animated series is now available in eight languages on the WIPO YouTube channel.
- Awareness-raising websites for children on copyright and trademarks were launched in Portuguese, accessible at www.respeitoaPI.org, in cooperation with the WIPO Brazil Office.
- A project to conduct online surveys of consumer attitudes and behavior in relation to counterfeit goods was undertaken among consumers in six ASEAN countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam, Philippines, and Singapore).

39. The activities of WIPO's **Arbitration and Mediation Center** also contributed to the realization of targets 4.4 and 4.5. The WIPO "ADR Young group" offered a networking and training forum for young professionals in the IP and dispute resolution communities. Membership was free of charge and open to professionals from anywhere in the world under 40 years old with a background on IP and ADR. Through the WIPO Academy, the WIPO Center offered an online course on WIPO Arbitration and Mediation. The WIPO Center provided ADR training for women in IP and technology and also supported the Equal Representation in Arbitration Pledge.

40. The Organization continued to support targets 4.1 and 4.4 through its work in the field of **Copyright and Creative Industries**. Under the WIPO Covid-19 Response Package initiative, a pilot project was designed on improving access to education materials particularly by primary and secondary school students. The project is intended to respond to challenges faced by schools and students during the pandemic and contribute to achieving quality primary and secondary education by developing countries and LDCs. In addition, a Mentorship program for the youth focused on "*The comic in Peru, its creation, design and copyright protection*" was organized jointly with INDECOPi from April 25 to 29, 2022. The week-long mentorship course

was organized for emerging comic developers, with the aim of providing them with insights on pursuing a career in comics using the available copyright tools and market opportunities. The invitation was extended to young students of higher education (technological and/or university), in the age range of 17 to 23 years old. The program aimed to transform the passion of youth for comic books into relevant skills and opportunities capable of earning employment, remuneration, i.e. supporting youth's career direction as comic writers/artists. Mentorship programs were also organized for the youth and young professionals of other developing countries and LDCs in the music, visual arts and publishing industries to enhance their knowledge, skills and entrepreneurship.

41. In the area of **IP for Businesses**, WIPO's work continued to support SDG 4. In particular, WIPO organized or made its contribution to a series of regional and national meetings on IP for SMEs and SMEs support institutions, raising awareness of the importance of the use of IP in business. Over 40 events to promote the use of IP Diagnostics were organized with over 1500 participants. Over 8000 users visited the WIPO IP Diagnostics webpage with over 2000 reports generated by the Tool. Thirteen countries passed the threshold of 100 visits per year.

42. WIPO's work on **Cooperation for Development** also continued to contribute to SDG 4. The launching of the Pilot Project to Support Young Designers in Leveraging IP contributes specifically to target 4.4, as well as 9.b and 17.9. The project aims at working with small groups of young designers to enhance skills and knowledge among them on the protection and management of intellectual property. WIPO is partnering with higher education Design Schools, in Brazil and Chile, for the identification of a group of students (the "pilot group") who will be working on "packaging design" to address functional challenges and / or aesthetics and image for national geographical indications and collective trademarks. In 2022, the following milestones had been completed: i) identification of national stakeholders, and prestigious partner academic institutions, ii) structuring of an academic program for the young designers that will develop packaging solutions (finished in Brazil, on-going in Chile), iii) selection of products for packaging (finished in Chile on-going in Brazil).

43. In addition, the Organization has partnered with 20 business support organizations in the region of Asia and the Pacific to reach the youth sector, including the startup business, contributing hence to target 4.4. As a result, WIPO has engaged with 200 youth beneficiaries, 60% female, from 16 countries, namely: Afghanistan, Brunei Darussalam, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Korea republic of, Lao Peoples Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam.

44. In relation to Developed Countries and Countries in Transition, WIPO's assistance focused on supporting and coordinating IP teaching projects and activities, by supporting the Joint Master's Program in Poland and Türkiye. In addition, a series of WIPO's distance learning courses (DL.101) were translated into national languages in Albania (DL.101 and DL.302), Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, ensuring equitable learning opportunities in the field of IP. This contributes to the attainment of targets 4.3 and 4.4.

45. In addition, an umbrella project on "Bridging the Gaps in the IP Ecosystem" was launched in the developed countries region. Two thematic areas were started in 2022, first, on Intellectual Property and Youth and second, on Intellectual Property and Gender. Two Webinars started each thematic area of the project, Youth on 28 June, 2022, and Gender on 8 December, 2022. Follow-up activities include studies on filing behavior, individualized support interactions, specialized IP Clinics, and potential webinars covering sub-thematic issues. Future thematic coverage will look at Diff-abled, Migrants, and Traditional Producers. These events are aimed at ensuring equal access to education, knowledge sharing, technology, and skills in the field of IP for under-represented communities in the IP ecosystem. The umbrella project contributes mainly to targets 4.4. and 4.7., but also 5.b., 8.3. and 10.2.

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

46. The Organization's work on **IP and Gender** continued to contribute mainly to targets 5.5, 5.a, 5.b and 5.c. First, WIPO developed its IP and Gender Action Plan (IPGAP). The IPGAP is WIPO's first strategic action plan to guide the organization's work leading the development of an IP ecosystem that promotes and encourages women's engagement in IP and innovation, thus contributing to SDG5. The IPGAP comprises three pillars, including government support for integrating a gender perspective into IP legislation, policies, programs, and projects; driving research to identify the scope and nature of the gender gap in IP and ways to close the gap; and piloting new gender-oriented projects and initiatives in the IP environment aimed at effectively educating and enhancing the IP skills of women and the institutions that support them. Implementing the IPGAP includes strengthening and evolving WIPO's internal and external collaboration including through new partnerships and effectively communicating the full range of WIPO's work on IP and gender through a customer-oriented external communications strategy. In 2022, a team was created, including a Senior Advisor on IP and Gender and a Fellow on IP and Gender, to implement WIPO's strategic plan to promote and increase the participation of women inventors, innovators, creators, and entrepreneurs in the IP system and contributing to SDG 5.

47. In addition, Deputy Director General Lisa Jorgenson, as WIPO's first IP and Gender Champion, has participated in numerous IP and gender-focused interviews, moderated panels, and engaged with stakeholders, raising global awareness and sharing information about WIPO's work to support increased participation of women in innovation and IP.

48. Gender mainstreaming work continued to strengthen across Sectors and functional areas, reflecting Member States' interests in gender equality and in advancing women in the IP system. As part of the organization's efforts to achieve SDG 5 at the internal level, WIPO worked towards its gender parity targets through various outreach initiatives, particularly at the senior levels. For instance, WIPO participated in career fairs specifically targeting senior female professionals. WIPO enlisted the services of executive search firms to ensure a solid pool of qualified female candidates. WIPO continued to identify and contact female professionals individually via LinkedIn. WIPO has been collecting data regarding gender balance and leadership within WIPO's governing body the General Assembly for the past 5 years and will also begin to collect and share data with member states regarding gender balance among leadership at the WIPO committees level.

49. WIPO has also engaged in a range of initiatives aimed at encouraging women's participation in the international IP system, including creating new pilot projects for women entrepreneurs, leading discussions regarding new methodologies and research into women's participation in the innovation ecosystem, and building capacity and IP for business and commercialization skills for women entrepreneurs. For the implementation of SDG 5, several initiatives took place. Examples from the many conducted across all WIPO sectors include:

- WIPO, in collaboration with NGO Invent Together, has organized a series of online seminars with IP offices and innovation stakeholders on the IP gender gap in different regions across the world. These seminars brought together policymakers, researchers, economists, and other stakeholders from each region to discuss the importance of designing policies to address the IP gender and diversity gaps.
- WIPO has begun working with national IP Offices to increase understanding and integration of gender considerations into their daily office operations and to promote the exchange of good practices. For instance, on October 24-26, 2022, the second course on "Introducing the gender perspective in the functions of Industrial Property Offices in Latin America" was held, with the participation of 40 officials from 15 IP Offices. In addition, in 2022, six additional offices joined the "Latin American Network of Intellectual Property and Gender", created with WIPO's support in 2021.

- The Department for Economics and Data Analytics continued generating statistics and research on the participation of women in patenting, highlighting the gender gap in inventive activities across countries and across different fields of technology. This work contributes to the achievement of the target 5.5 through raising awareness.
- The second edition of the *Training, Mentoring and Matchmaking Program on Intellectual Property for Women Entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities* (the WEP) was launched with a two-week Virtual Practical Workshop in October 2021, and was followed by a mentoring and matchmaking phase that has taken place in 2022. The two editions of the WEP 2019-2020 and 2021-2022 have so far benefitted 47 participants and their communities (23 for the second edition alone). The WEP aims to assist Indigenous Peoples', as well as local communities' women entrepreneurs, to make strategic and effective use of intellectual property tools in their businesses. A 2022-2023 WEP for women entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples and local communities in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru was launched in November 2022 in Quito, Ecuador, with an in-person four-day Practical Workshop, benefitting 20 female entrepreneurs and their communities. The practical workshop will be complemented by a mentoring and match-making phase in 2023. This also contributes to the following SDGs and targets: 1.4; 2.3; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.7; and 8.3.
- Following up a WIPO Short Story Competition on Indigenous Ingenuity and Creativity organized in 2021, two awarded Indigenous Women started receiving support in 2022 for the implementation of their intellectual property-related projects, focusing on how to better protect and promote their TK and TCEs and related products and services. This also contributes to the following SDGs and targets: 1.4; 2.3; 4.3; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.7; and 8.3.
- The implementation of the Development Agenda Project on Increasing the Role of Women in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Encouraging Women in Developing Countries to Use the Intellectual Property System was completed.
- The WIPO Academy's programs make a further contribution to the implementation of target 5.5, by ensuring even parity of men-women participants. Consistently, women have participated at an overall 52% proportion since 2018 compared with men. These courses have provided high value to 301,201 women in seven languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish) and additionally Croatian, German, Georgian, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Thai. A long-term collaboration with the UNESCO-L'Oréal Foundation "For Women in Science" Programme, a women-only course on the relevance of IP in basic and applied scientific research, launched in 2018 continued in 2022. An IP management toolkit and workshop for high-level women scientists was planned for 2023, with the support of FIT Korea, as well as a leadership training on IP, Science and Innovation. Parity in the selection for scholarships in WIPO Joint Master's Programs and gender equality in the graduates, with 55% of 2022 graduates being women, should also be highlighted as contributors to target 5.1.
- Following a decision by the CDIP, a forum to raise awareness on the importance of empowering and increasing women's participation in the IP ecosystem was established through a series of sharing sessions on "*Closing the Gender Gap in IP*". These sessions contribute to the achievement of target 5.5. In 2022, one such session on [Women, IP and Tourism](#) took place on November 15, 2022. The women experts and entrepreneurs across different regions highlighted how IP rights can be used to support the growth of tourism-related businesses and to encourage women's participation in and contribution to the sector. The event was concluded by closing remarks delivered by the UN World Tourism Organization. This series of sessions will continue with other topics that could help bridge the gender gap in IP.

- In support of target 5.1, 5.5, 5.7 and 5.b., a series of projects on IP and Women Entrepreneurship were launched or continued to be implemented in 2022, specifically targeting selected groups of women entrepreneurs from local communities. The projects seek to contribute to the economic empowerment of communities of women entrepreneurs and local economic growth by leveraging the use of IP for development and establishing sustainable linkages between female-led enterprises and IP; thereby contributing to increasing their income and boosting their products' sales. Tailored projects have been put in place in: Jordan, Egypt, Namibia, a group of LATAM countries (Argentina, El Salvador, Panama and Paraguay), Uganda, and a group of ASPAC countries (Sri Lanka, Nepal, Viet Nam, India and China). Also, a project for women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) careers continued to be implemented in Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico and Peru.
- Over 30 stories of women to inspire other women were published, comprising successful women entrepreneurs, innovators and founders of women support groups in the region of Asia and the Pacific. These stories are published on WIPO's website and promoted through social media channels. A special edition regional newsletter for women in IP was also published: <https://mailchi.mp/wipo.int/special-edition-on-women-in-asia-pacific>.

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

50. In the area of **Global Challenges and Partnerships**, WIPO continued to contribute to target 6.a, mainly through the above-mentioned Green Technology Book, and in particular its chapter on [Water and Coastal Regions](#) featuring climate change adaptation technologies in water treatment. Over the past 100 years, global freshwater use has increased six fold. By 2030, the world is likely to face a global water deficit of 40 percent. Today, over two billion people live in water-stressed areas. Technological innovation in water treatment has a critical role in making efficient use of the planet's water resources. The also above-mentioned WIPO Green database has a [Water section](#) with 3247 entries.

SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

51. In the area of **Global Challenges and Partnerships**, WIPO Green Acceleration Projects continued to contribute to targets 7.a and 7.b. First, the Project on [Solutions for treating and valorizing palm oil mill effluent in Indonesia](#): with more than 600 palm oil mills, Indonesia is the largest producer of palm oil in the world. One of the by-products of palm oil production is palm oil mill effluent (POME), wastewater that emits large amounts of the highly potent greenhouse gas methane. However, the methane content has a great potential for biogas production and other environmentally friendly uses. The project started in 2021 and continued in 2022. Second, as part of the WIPO Green Acceleration project on Climate Smart Agriculture, the catalogue contains a selection of needs and technologies identified in relation to application of [no-till and renewable energy in agriculture](#). Third, as part of Acceleration Project on climate smart agriculture in Argentina, the WIPO Green catalogue contains a [selection of needs and technologies](#) identified in relation to sustainable farming practices in Argentina. The catalogue contains detailed information on a variety of innovative green technologies that can help tackle environmental challenges e.g. through advanced crop monitoring, integrated pest management and crop rotation management. In addition, the WIPO Green database has a category dedicated to [Energy](#) with 56.511 entries.

52. WIPO's work to administer and manage its **Premises Infrastructure** continued to promote target 7.a by contributing to a cleaner environment for all, thanks to its reduced energy consumption for buildings and reduced travel coupled with virtual or hybrid meetings at headquarters and worldwide (the greenhouse gas emissions caused by WIPO premises and travel remained below those of 2019, the last pre-Covid full year of reference). In 2022, WIPO

continued to (i) cool its buildings using the Geneva Lake Water renewable cooling system, (ii) benefit from natural day light in most of its conference and meeting rooms, (iii) benefit from low heat (LED) light fixtures and lighting activated by a presence or movement detection system in a large number of offices and common areas and during nights and non-working days, (iv) better drainage and cooling thanks to green roofs on two buildings. Furthermore, WIPO has continued to attach significant importance to biodiversity protection, through its annual program for conservation and proper gardening of century-old trees and more recent plantations in the WIPO park (publicly accessible), interior gardens and green roofs, thereby contributing to safeguarding biodiversity for the benefit of everyone.

53. In addition, since WIPO compensates its unavoidable carbon emissions by converting them into the purchase of Certified Emission Reduction Credits (CERs³), via a UNFCCC mechanism, WIPO contributes to financing concrete adaptation projects and programs in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. This mechanism has a direct positive impact on clean or cleaner energy infrastructure and technologies for developing countries. WIPO continued to contribute to a lower carbon footprint in the Host Country, with a positive consequential effect worldwide, through implementing measures under a 10-year commitment with the Host Country aimed at minimizing building-related energy consumption. The Organization also intensively participated in a Geneva Cantonal initiative to reach zero emissions by 2050 (called “2050Today”), under the auspices of the Host Country, together with the Geneva Cantonal authorities, the University of Geneva, as well as a number of UN agencies, other intergovernmental organizations, Permanent Missions of Member States and local public and private sector entities.

SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

54. In the area of **Brands and Designs**, WIPO contributed to the achievement of target 8.3 through different means. First, through the provision of balanced, demand-driven, country-specific policy and legislative advice in the fields of trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications to Member States, in particular developing countries, least developed countries (LDCs), and countries in transition. In 2022, the Organization provided, in this particular field, 13 pieces of policy and legislative advice to seven countries from five different geographical regions. This also contributes to the achievement of the following SDGs and targets: 9.4; 9.a; 10.a; 16.3; and 16.6.

55. Secondly, WIPO continued to provide services related to the Madrid, Hague and Lisbon systems.

56. The Madrid System facilitates and widens access to international trademark protection, which contributes to the goal of promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic

³ Certified Emission Reduction credits (CERs) issued for Clean Development Mechanism projects under the Kyoto Protocol meet the criteria established by the UN CEB for offsetting GHG emissions of UN system organizations, and 2% of all CERs issued are transferred to the Adaptation Fund (AF) established under the Kyoto Protocol for the AF to monetize and finance concrete adaptation projects and programs in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. UNFCCC is committed to facilitating the efforts of the UN system organizations towards achieving climate neutrality, and has negotiated a long-term agreement with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development as the trustee of the AF for the purchase of AF CERs which are then “cancelled” (terminology used in their context) when “redeemed”. In order to compensate for its unavoidable emissions (caused by buildings and travel), WIPO purchases such CERs via UNFCCC by bulk and utilizes them on an annual basis in line with the calculated emissions until the bulk is fully used. UNFCCC certifies annually upon request by WIPO that an amount equivalent to WIPO total annual GHG emissions as reported in accordance with the principles of the UN GHG Inventory for the respective year has been offset, until the total of these annual amounts reaches the amount of CERs “cancelled” under this agreement.

growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Trademark protection is essential for preserving and capitalizing on the most identifiable feature of brand equity and value. Enterprises of all sizes seeking to position their products or services in international markets stand to benefit from the simple and cost-effective procedure for international trademark protection offered by the Madrid System. The Madrid System lowers the barriers for obtaining international trademark protection by harmonizing the formalities and lowering the cost of obtaining that protection. Brand owners need to file one application only to obtain an international registration for their marks. An international registration has the effect of an application filed with the Trademark Offices of the members of the Madrid System designated in the international application.

57. By filing one international application, brand owners avoid filing individual domestic applications, in various languages, and, possibly, having to meet different formal requirements and incurring in costs such as, for example, translation, legalization or legal representation. The fee due for each designation is not higher than what the brand owner would have paid for a domestic registration. Moreover, the fee due to WIPO is reduced by 90 per cent for brand owners from LDCs. The international registration has the effect of a domestic registration if protection to the mark is not refused. The Madrid System also lowers the cost of maintaining all the rights acquired by virtue of an international registration. Renewal and other recordings in the International Register also have effect in all members of the Madrid System designated in the international registration where protection has not been refused.

58. In 2022, the Madrid Registry has undertaken a number of activities to assist developing countries and LDCs. The activities concerned organization of seminars, training of staff in the countries, inviting examiners from IP Offices for virtual training, and offering technical and legal assistance to Offices for preparations for an accession to the Madrid Protocol or its implementation. Beyond the IP Offices, webinars, videos and other communication tools have also been developed to address the needs of a broad range of IP stakeholders, trademarks users and IP attorneys notably. Some of these activities are highlighted below:

- ✓ Financing of the participation costs (travel and subsistence expenses) of a number of delegates from developing countries and countries in transition, which are members of the Madrid Union, and from WIPO Member States, which are considering their accession to the Madrid System.
- ✓ Virtual training workshops on the Madrid System for the staff of IP Offices in Belize, Brunei Darussalam, Cabo Verde, Chile, Gambia, Ghana, Jamaica, Namibia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, and Zimbabwe.
- ✓ Accession review missions to Cape Verde and Jamaica, and activities following the deposit of the instrument of accession by those countries.
- ✓ Awareness raising seminars for industry and trademark agents on the Madrid System in Cabo Verde, Chile, Jamaica, and United Arab Emirates.
- ✓ Virtual regional meetings on the Madrid System for selected Members from Asia and the Pacific; Africa; and Latina America and the Caribbean.
- ✓ Seminar on how to file an international trademark application and the tools to help Vietnamese IP practitioners and enterprises; and introduction to the Madrid System and Madrid E-filing during the 1st International and 5th national Seed Science and Technology Conference in Iran.

- ✓ Monthly webinars offering practical information on topics related to filing and managing international registrations of marks.
- ✓ Madrid fellowship program, which is open to examiners from national Offices of the Contracting Parties of the Madrid System. The program provides fellows with experience to strengthen their knowledge and professional competence, which they can apply in their professional field once they have completed their Fellowship with WIPO. In 2022, up to 18 fellows were working under this program.
- ✓ Online training workshop for national IP Offices on the procedures and operations of the Madrid System, held in 2022 for African and Arab countries.
- ✓ Online training workshop for national IP Offices on XML data exchange, to raise awareness of the relevant WIPO standards, in particular ST.96, provide recommendations and guidelines for the processing, dissemination and exchange of Madrid data using XML system, standardize the structure of XML documents, and improve the quality of data sent by Member Offices. The first occurrence of this workshop was held in 2022 with 14 National IP Offices.
- ✓ Translation of the Madrid Goods and Services Manager (MGSM), which helps trademark applicants compile and classify their lists by providing access to an extensive collection of terms and descriptions.
- ✓ Delivery of technical assistance to a number of IP Offices with electronic communication in the Madrid System. This involves providing these Offices access to our Madrid Office Portal (MOP) tool and helping them to receive and communicate notifications under the Madrid System; or assisting during and after the accession process (Belize, Hong Kong, Cape Verde and Jamaica).
- ✓ Rolling-out of Madrid e-filing to two new IP Offices – Japan and United Arab Emirates (and consultations started with two other Offices); and availability of the Madrid Application Assistant for 76 additional Offices.

59. The Hague System facilitates and widens access to international design protection, which contributes to the goal of promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Under the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs, a single international application may contain up to 100 industrial designs and have effect in as many as 95 countries covered by the 78 members of the Hague System. Industrial designs make a product attractive and appealing to customers. Design drives consumers' choices: the appearance of a product can be a key factor in the consumer's purchase decision. Industrial designs can therefore be very important for both small and SMEs and larger companies alike, regardless of their sector of activity.

60. Under the Hague System, individual designers, SMEs or large international companies may benefit from the simplified application process and reduced costs for seeking to obtain and preserve their industrial design rights in multiple markets. The international registration has the effect of a domestic application in the designated IP Offices, and where no refusal has been issued by the respective IP Office within the prescribed time limit, the international registration has the effect of a domestic registration. The Hague System also lowers the costs of maintaining all the rights acquired by virtue of an international registration. Furthermore, the fees for the international application due to the International Bureau of WIPO, as well as the standard designation fees due to designated Hague members, are reduced by 90 per cent for design owners/creators from LDCs.

61. In 2022, the Organization has undertaken a number of activities to assist developing countries and LDCs. The activities concerned the organization of seminars, training of staff in the countries, and offering technical and legislative assistance to Offices for preparations for an accession to the Geneva Act (1999) of the Hague Agreement, or its implementation. Beyond the IP Offices, webinars, videos and other communication tools have also been developed to address the needs of a broad range of IP stakeholders, design community and IP attorneys notably. Some of these activities are highlighted below:

- ✓ Public webinars organized for existing and potential Hague users.
- ✓ Delivery of lectures and participation in trainings organized by different institutions, and addressed to different audiences, notably students and IP professionals.
- ✓ Trainings for staff of IP Offices, upon demand.
- ✓ Regional workshops for both the public and IP Offices to disseminate information and knowledge about the Hague System, as well as conferences, dialogues and other awareness-raising events.
- ✓ Holding of the 11th session of the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs, including the financing of participation of Botswana.
- ✓ Enhancement of the Hague System's customer-facing tools, such as the Hague System Member Profiles; user self-service functionalities deployed in eHague; the Hague Platform; or Contact Hague.
- ✓ A series of marketing / business development tools were finalized, including the Hague System Digital Information Kit in English, French, Spanish and Japanese; the Hague System Designs in Action mini video; a promotional strategy for the new eHague self-service features and multi-factor authentication; two new success stories showcasing designs in action; and web news articles.
- ✓ Information-dissemination materials were also produced: revamped version of WIPO Publication "Hague System: feature and advantages" with language coverage expanded; a new Hague System Wikipedia article; video tutorials; modules for Distance Learning Specialized Course on the Hague System; Q&As; and an updated Hague System Factsheet and flyer.
- ✓ Improvements in the delivery and IT system efficiency of Hague Offices.

62. The Lisbon System for the international registration and protection of appellations of origin and geographical indications helps producers obtain a fair return on their continuous investment and efforts, often over several generations, in building the reputation of quality products linked to origin. By securing the international protection of appellations of origin and geographical indications, the Lisbon System contributes to the promotion of inclusive and sustainable development, productive employment and decent work for all, by achieving higher levels of economic productivity including through a focus on value added and labor-intensive sectors, as well as the promotion of local culture and local productions.

63. The intrinsic characteristics of appellations of origin or geographical indications – in particular their qualitative link with a specific geographical location and their collective management – can be instrumental in achieving the SDGs. The collective quality scheme linked to appellations of origin and geographical indications can give rise to a virtuous cycle and

thereby foster rural and local development, food safety, export promotion, and local tourism. Producers of appellations of origin and geographical indications are increasingly recognizing and paying more and more attention to the need to effectively manage and maintain the particular natural environment in which their products originate, which in turn defines the unique quality and characteristics of their products. As such, those intellectual property rights can play an important role in achieving sustainable natural resource management and in preserving traditional cultivation techniques that are more respectful of the environment. In this context, it is worth mentioning the case of well-established appellations of origin protected under the Lisbon System such as “*Banano de Costa Rica*”⁴, which has embraced “green” policies. Such environmental awareness, however, is not limited to established appellations of origin or geographical indications. Producers of goods with the potential to qualify for GI protection, such as the wild fruit “*madd de Casamance*” in Senegal⁵, are also working to ensure that sustainability considerations are embedded in the GI regulations and control mechanisms governing harvesting practices and the production of derivative products.

64. Under the Lisbon System, small-scale farmers, artisans and SMEs may collectively benefit from a simplified application process with WIPO and a reduced cost for protecting their AOs and GIs in foreign markets. The international registration under the Lisbon System ensures their protection – according to the standards set in the Lisbon Agreement and its Acts – in those members of the Lisbon System that have not refused protection in their respective territory within the prescribed time limit. The protection lasts, for as long as the designation is protected in the country of origin, without any need for renewal.

65. In the area of **Global Challenges and Partnerships**, the Organization’s activities on building respect for IP continued to contribute to target 8.3 through two main areas of work. The first refers to the annual sessions of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE), which is the global forum of Member States for exchanging national practices and experiences and facilitating international policy dialogue on IP enforcement and building respect for IP that in turn supports entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, as well as the growth of MSMEs. The fifteenth session of the ACE took place from August 31 to September 2, 2022, in hybrid format. The committee heard expert presentations, and moderated panel discussions that facilitated a fruitful dialogue on topics including new technologies in IP enforcement, the role of intermediaries in IP enforcement, awareness-building activities and strategic campaigns as a means for building respect for IP.

66. The second covers capacity-building activities in this area. Nine capacity-building and training activities were organized either online or in a hybrid format to address issues related to IP enforcement and building respect for IP at the national, sub-regional, or regional level. Such activities were undertaken in the African region, the Arab region, the Asia and Pacific region, and in countries with economies in transition. These capacity-building and training activities advance WIPO’s development-oriented approach to IP enforcement, an indispensable aspect of fostering innovation and technological progress and achieving full and productive employment. These activities also contribute to SDGs and targets 16.3, 16.4, 16.6 and 16.a.

67. In the area of **Patents and Technology**, the Organization continued to provide legislative advice to Member States, thus contributing to target 8.3. WIPO provided legislative advice in the area of patents, utility models, layout designs of integrated circuits, and trade secrets. This includes commenting on drafts submitted for review, or developing new drafts (laws, implementing regulations, administrative instructions, and manuals). In 2022, WIPO provided legislative and policy advice to 21 developing countries and LDCs (3 in the African region, 4 in Asia and the Pacific, 11 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 3 in the European/Eurasian region) in the above areas. Such assistance supported WIPO Member States to develop or

⁴ <https://www.wipo.int/ip-outreach/en/ipday/2020/case-studies/banano.html>

⁵ https://www.wipo.int/wipo_magazine/en/2020/02/article_0006.html.

amend their own legislative and policy frameworks. Such tailored advisory activities continuously took into account, among others, the requesting Member States' own level of development, policy priorities, and international obligations. This activity also contributes to SDG and target 9.b.

68. Additional activities undertaken by WIPO in this area in support of target 8.3 –as well as 9.b, 10.3, 16.6 and 17.16- were:

- The Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) met in September 2022 in a hybrid format. It is a forum for discussing issues, facilitating coordination, and providing guidance on the progressive international development of patent law. SCP's work contributed to reducing the information asymmetry among Member States in the complex area of patent law and informing the decision-making process of Member States for formulation and development of their national patent policy, law, and practices.
- The WIPO Symposium on Trade Secrets and Innovation provides a forum for exchanging ideas and perspectives on issues relating to the interface between trade secrets and innovation, in both technological and service sectors. At the 2022 Symposium, representatives of governments and international organizations, IP professionals and practitioners, academics, economists, and private sector representatives discussed the roles of trade secret systems in supporting innovation and knowledge sharing in a rapidly changing innovation ecosystem, which is increasingly international and driven by digital information.
- In addition, WIPO continued to provide support to prospective and current Contracting Parties to the Paris Convention, Patent Law Treaty (PLT), and Budapest Treaty through, for example, the provision of information on legal, technical, and institutional aspects of these treaties and facilitation of sharing of experiences among Member States on the national implementation of the treaties.

69. WIPO's work related to **Infrastructures and Platforms** also continued to contribute to SDG 8, and in particular target 8.2. WIPO's PATENTSCOPE database is the primary mechanism through which WIPO carries out this technical information dissemination function. PATENTSCOPE provides access to over 110 million searchable inventions, including all published PCT applications and 75 national and regional patent collections of participating IP offices. On average, 5000 new PCT applications are published weekly contributing to the dissemination of patent information to IP users and the general public. The development and free access to PATENTSCOPE promotes the technical transfer knowledge between the inventor applying for a patent and any technical interested party worldwide, reduces duplication of Research and Development and fosters open innovation. The development and free access to WIPO Translate -integrated into PATENTSCOPE- helps also in reducing the language barriers in the transfer knowledge of technical information contained in patent disclosures in 10 different languages. PATENTSCOPE also contributes indirectly to target 9.c.

70. In addition, WIPO continued to provide assistance on digital transformation for IP offices. This includes WIPO's IP office suite whose main component is the WIPO Industrial Property Administration System (IPAS). It supports the processing of patents, trademarks and industrial designs from filing through to the grant of rights and post-grant processes. In addition, WIPO file enables IP Offices to offer full online services to applicants and agents, and WIPO publish enables IP Offices to disseminate official publication information and related IP information online to users and to WIPO Global IP databases and platforms. These provide for efficient and reliable data exchange to interconnect IP Offices with WIPO Global IP systems and data contributing to applicants, IP offices and public.

71. The Organization's work in the field of **Copyright and Creative Industries** continued to contribute to target 8.3. For instance, WIPO held a series of [webinars](#) on copyright

infrastructure. The series, organized on a bi-weekly basis, featured a number of speakers from the public and private sector from various regions of the world. The main objective of series is to raise awareness of a wide range of audience including the member states, on a range of topics relevant to copyright infrastructure, such as metadata, identifiers, and technology solutions. The copyright infrastructure is essential to ensure the copyright holders to receive equitable remunerations in the digital age, against the usage of their creative works. The series was thus expected to “promote development-oriented policies that support creativity” as in target 8.3. The series could also encourage the formalization and growth of MSMs, also as in target 8.3, specifically in the area of copyright and cultural industries.

72. The publication of the third edition of “Collective Management of Copyright and Related” further contributed to SDG 8. It presents an in-depth revision with invaluable updates on the different systems, legislative options and best practices of CMOs worldwide. As with previous editions, the book was written to reach a wide audience, with a special focus on questions that might emerge for governments as they prepare, adopt and apply collective management norms and regulations. The edition also shed light on new copyright and related rights developments, including digital, technological and business trends, from all over the world. Additionally, there is detailed discussion on topics such as aspects of competition, national treatment, and different models of collective management. This publication could be helpful for Member States and CMOs to “promote development-oriented policies that support creativity”, as in target 8.3.

73. In addition, a vast number of technical assistance and capacity building projects were implemented in Member States; webinars and other events were organized; and legislative advice on collective management of copyright and related rights was delivered to 12 countries (3 for Africa; 4 for ASPAC; 2 for CEBS; and 3 for GRULAC). These activities also contribute to the achievement of target 8.3.

74. In addition, WIPO continued to support countries through its **Cooperation for Development** work. Examples of initiatives and projects that contribute to SDG 8 follow.

75. The CDIP, under the agenda item “IP and Development”, continued to discuss one topic per session, based on the topics proposed and agreed upon by Member States. This agenda item serves as a platform for in-depth discussion on the selected topic, as well as WIPO’s existing work and future direction in that area. It also provides an opportunity for Member States to share their national experiences, development-oriented policies, successful initiatives, lessons learned, as well as their expectations of the Organization’s work and technical assistance in various fields of IP. In such a way, these discussions contribute to attaining the target 8.3, as well as 17.16 and 17.7. During its twenty-eighth session, held from May 16 to 20, 2022, the Committee discussed the topic “*IP and Innovation: Trademarks and Design Strategies for Entrepreneurs*”, while the topic “*IP Commercialization and Technology Transfer*” was discussed at its twenty-ninth session, held from October 17 to 21, 2022. During the reporting period, two new project proposals were approved by the CDIP, increasing the total number of DA projects approved by the end of the 2022 to 48.

76. The Development Agenda project on the [Registration of the Collective Marks of Local Enterprises as a Cross-Cutting Economic Development Issue](#) continued to progress during 2022. Its goal is to support the use of collective marks by local businesses in the four beneficiary countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Philippines and Tunisia). It contributes thus to the realization of target 8.3 by supporting productive activities and job creation, as well as encouraging the growth of SMEs. The implementation strategy focuses on facilitating the development and registration of a pilot collective mark for a group of local producers in each country, as well as delivering capacity building activities and developing awareness-raising material. At the end of 2022, the collective mark had been developed and registered in the Philippines; two were fully developed and under registration with the relevant IP Offices (Tunisia and Brazil); and for the last one the regulations of use and logo were being finalized (Bolivia).

77. The work of the WIPO Academy, mentioned above, also continued to contribute to target 8.6, as it helps to reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training. In addition, the Tracer Study Reports of WIPO-OAPI and University of Yaoundé II show that the MIP program helped alumni to secure better jobs or create own jobs after graduation.

78. In the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, WIPO provided assistance for the elaboration of three national IP strategies: one is under formulation (El Salvador), one is currently waiting for final approval (Peru) and one was adopted (Mexico). This contributes to targets 8.3 and 9.b.

79. In addition, the project on the Blue Economy was concluded with a Forum on *Intellectual Property (IP), Innovation and Sustainable Development for Small Island Developing States (SIDS): A Look at Leveraging IP in the Blue Economy Sector*, in March 22 to 24, 2022. The forum resulted in bringing together a fragmented innovation eco-system in the Blue Economy (BE) Sector of the CARICOM. The initiative was deployed in a partnership with the Japan Patent Office, the Caribbean Climate Smart Accelerator (CCSA), the CARIFI project for CARIFORUM countries, EUIPO and the Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility. The initiatives selected throughout the three workshops organized in the context of this project, were presented in the Forum to partners and investors, in order to identify possibility of funding. This contributes mainly to target 8.2, as well as to the following SDGs/targets: 9.4; 9.5; 9.b; 13.1; 13.b; and 14.7.

80. In support of target 8.6, a project was launched in 2022 for the youth in Carbo Verde. The overall objectives of the project are to provide IP Training and Business support to young entrepreneurs seeking to commercialize their IP assets in Cabo Verde and beyond. It is also aimed at supporting the government fight youth unemployment and promote the use of inner skills of the young people to create or improve products or services that could be commercialized and respond to their own economic struggles while also responding to challenges faced by the country. The training part of the project was finished in 2022, and a hackathon (innovation marathon) and some mentoring on commercialization will be organized in 2023.

81. As regards projects and initiatives addressed to Least Developed Countries, WIPO has developed a number of tailor-made IP-related flagship projects through a new approach with hands-on mentoring, support and training of stakeholders throughout their IP journey. All these DLDC thematic projects aim to empower the relevant IP stakeholders involved in the projects in using IP in their businesses to create wealth, local jobs, strengthen their network, and amplify their businesses opportunities. The following may be highlighted as they contribute to target 8.3:

- Project on Facilitating Transfer of Appropriate Technologies for Community Development through Universities and Research Institutes in Mozambique, Senegal and Uganda.
- IP and Traditional Medicine Practitioners in LDCs: Pilot Project in Ethiopia.
- IP and Women Entrepreneurs in LDCs: Pilot Project in Uganda (also contributes to SDG 5).
- IP for Youth Innovation in LDCs: Partnerships for Innovation, Product Development and IP Ownership.
- IP for Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSME) in LDCs: Creating IP Assets

82. During 2022, WIPO has also initiated seven grassroots branding assistance projects for small business in the region of Asia and the Pacific to help livelihoods, which contributes to the realization of target 8.1:

- Cambodia Mondulkiri Honey - benefited 450 farmers (36% women) and 100 participants to various IP training. The project delivered a new branding strategy for the industry and brand assets (name, logo, packaging).
- Iranian Pistachio industries – benefited 200 small holder pistachio farmers. The project has thus far delivered a new brand asset (trademark) for the consideration of the key industry players. The project is ongoing.
- Niue Oceans Conversation Credit (OCC) program. The project is ongoing and envisions delivering a new branding strategy for Niue including brand assets (name, logo, story).
- Laos One District One Products (ODOP) products. The initial phase of the project assisted on a pilot basis 5 entrepreneurs (silk, textile, coffee and services) and has expanded to 30 entrepreneurs. The project has already delivered 5 brand assets (name, logo, story) which are used by the beneficiaries. Project activities are ongoing for the 30 entrepreneurs.
- Bhutan branding team support – a team of 8 local trademark experts were trained, who in turn approached hundreds of businesses to strengthen their trademarks. Subsequently, a specific request was asked of WIPO to deep dive into the Bhutan water industry on branding in digital marketing. Consequently, the top 5 industry players were convened and provided 5 one-on-one and group mentoring sessions.
- Samoa branding team support - a team of 3 local trademark experts were trained, who in turn approached a hundred businesses to strengthen their trademarks. A pilot industry was initially chosen for intensive assistance (Nonu fruit) while subsequent echo sessions were conducted in different islands to reach more businesses.
- Bangladesh Black Tiger Shrimp and the Shatrangi carpet industries. The project is ongoing and envisions delivering a new branding strategy including brand assets (name, logo, story).

83. WIPO's assistance to Transition and Developed Countries continued to contribute to SDG 8. In particular, a regional hybrid workshop on IP Strategies for Videogame Creators "*Leveling UP your IP: Strategies for Videogame Developers*", was held on September 22, 2022, contributing to target 8.2. With over 80 onsite and 200 online participants, the workshop featured interventions from prominent representatives of the industry and academia. The video game industry is a key driver for innovation and technological growth for economies in transition, which links directly to SDG target 9.b. The video game industry also requires multi-stakeholder collaboration between, for example, publishers, developers, manufacturers, platforms, and policy-makers, to name a few. These kinds of cross-sectoral partnerships are linked also to targets 17.6 and 17.7 in relation to enhancing, promoting, and encouraging public-private partnerships in support of sustainable development. The following events were also relevant for target 8.2, by supporting creators and innovators, providing technical assistance and legislative advice:

- 15th International Conference on Innovation and Creativity in the Economy: Designing in a Digital World, hybrid format, Warsaw, Poland, June 22, 2022.
- International Conference on The Role of IP Offices in the National Innovation Ecosystem, October 12-13, 2022, Tbilisi, Georgia.
- Virtual Regional Seminar on the Patentability of Computer-Implemented Inventions, December 8, 2022.

84. In support of target 8.3, WIPO established close dialogue and tailored and more efficient business-oriented capacity building in the CEBS countries, based on the results of the project

on *Mapping and landscaping of national IP offices in the CEBS region and development of a program of assistance for IP offices in strengthening their SME support services*, that was kicked off in 2021. The gradual training of IP office staff in the region as well as availability of adapted and translated tools and materials intend to lead to more efficient use of the IP by the SMEs and startup community for their business growth. The following deliverables were achieved in 2022:

- The translation and customization of the WIPO IP Diagnostic Tool to the local legislative context was finalized for Albania and Bulgaria. Similar work was ongoing in Estonia, Hungary and Lithuania.
- The translation and customization to the national legislation as well as development of national case studies for the WIPO business publication “Enterprising Ideas: Guide to IP for Startups”, was finalized for Albania and Latvia. Similar work was ongoing work in Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Serbia.

SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

85. WIPO’s activities in the area of **IP and Innovation** continued to be very relevant to target 9.5. First, WIPO Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISCs) networks have been established in 90 countries with over 1,400 individual TISCs hosted in institutions such as universities, research and development centers, etc., to provide innovators with access to locally-based, high-quality technology information and related services. In particular, TISCs help innovators exploit their potential and create, protect, and manage their IP rights. Capacity development continued to reinforce TISC impact and sustainability through online training with 22 national TISC workshops and three regional meetings held in 2022. Best practices and experiences in patent search, analytics and other related areas are also be shared by TISCs through a virtual network provided through the eTISC platform.

86. Patent landscape reports on COVID-19 related vaccines and therapeutics (preliminary insights on related patenting activity during the pandemic) and on hydrogen fuel cells in transportation were published in 2022. Moreover, a compendium lists a further 265 patent landscape reports on various technologies from other organizations. Methodological guidelines for preparing patent landscape reports have also been formalized in the WIPO publication *Guidelines for Preparing Patent Landscape Reports*, the *WIPO Manual on Open Source Tools for Patent Analytics* and the *Handbook on Patent Analytics*, with the latter two being updated in 2022.

87. The WIPO INSPIRE (Index of Specialized Patent Information Reports) platform provides inventors, researchers and entrepreneurs with clear, accurate and objective information on patent databases, in particular their documentation coverage, as well as their search and analysis functionalities, so as to be able to identify and use the most appropriate patent database. The number of patent database reports continues to grow and reached 38 reports in 2021. In addition, WIPO has developed a number of initiatives, publications, training materials and tools designed to help TISCs and TT structures to provide innovation support and technology transfer services. These include:

- The Successful Technology Licensing (STL) training program, based on the STL Guide has been made available on basic, advanced and train the trainers’ levels.
- An IP Marketing Training – How to identify and approach your partners and competitors.
- An IP Valuation General Guide and IP Valuation Booklet on Biotechnology and Pharma Sector to be used as a general introduction to IP Valuation and for practical application

of valuation methods in different contexts (licensing, valuation of equities, litigation) as well as for specific sectors (Biotechnology & Pharma, Agroindustry, etc.).

88. In the area of **IP for Businesses**, the Organization also continued its support to SMEs, which are a key element of innovation ecosystems and play an important role and creativity and innovation. To facilitate the use IP by SMEs, WIPO assisted Member States to implement the national versions of its tools and materials on IP for Business: (i) four IP for Business guides (Inventing the Future, Looking Good, Making a Mark, Enterprising ideas) were adapted into the national legal, regulatory and procedural context of Thailand; (ii) the IP for Business guide (Enterprising Ideas) was adapted into the national legal, regulatory and procedural context of Iraq and Latvia; (iii) WIPO IP Diagnostics is being translated into non-UN languages with the Bulgarian version completed in 2022. Over 8000 users visited the WIPO IP Diagnostics webpage with over 2,000 reports generated by the Tool. Thirteen countries passed the threshold of 100 visits per year.

89. SMEs intermediaries/support institutions have a key role to play in the efforts to enhance IP awareness of SMEs. Effective use of IP by SMEs would lead to increased industry innovation. In this regard, WIPO puts emphasis on fostering cooperation with these institutions to strengthen their capacities in building their portfolio of IP services provided to SMEs, and increasing a quality of such services. Memorandums of Understanding with the objective of co-complementing projects and programs on IP for SMEs were signed with the SMEs Support Institutions in Tanzania, South Africa and Singapore.

90. In addition, improving the skills of those filing patent applications is indispensable for increasing the probability that local innovators find a local professional so that they can actively participate in, and benefit from, the patent system and protecting local innovation. The WIPO Patent Drafting Training Program thus contributes to SDGs 9 and 10, through the provision of a hands-on Program that focuses on the development of practical patent drafting skills where participants are guided by experienced tutors. Trainings are addressed to patent agents and patent agent candidates, staff of institutions dealing with technology and innovation support, technology transfer offices of universities, and government agencies involved in providing technology development assistance. The training in this Program continuously evolves and adapts to the needs of beneficiary countries. In 2022, WIPO continued to deliver programs that upgrade innovation ecosystems. The Organization launched the International Patent Drafting Training Program to 40 patent professionals from 26 countries. This eight-month experience targets early career patent professionals, building skills and establishing a community to help professionals grow.

91. Lastly, The Inventor Assistance Program (IAP) empowers under-resourced inventors and small businesses to navigate the patent system and to transform their ideas into assets. Inventors receive support in patent drafting and prosecution processes with assistance from experienced patent professionals at no cost. The Program helps inventors to obtain patents in their own country and selected jurisdictions. Securing a patent facilitates the scale-up of innovation either by the inventors themselves or through collaboration. Through IAP, WIPO thus helps to foster innovation (SDG 9) and reduce inequalities (SDG 10), while also contributing to a sustained and inclusive economic growth and decent work for all (SDG 8). In 2022, 19 beneficiaries of the IAP granted patents, for a total of 41 granted patents since the IAP's inception. These programs serve twin goals by providing support to innovators while building and bolstering local professionals to enable sustainable benefit from intellectual property.

92. In the area of **Brands and Designs**, WIPO contributed to the achievement of targets 9.4 and 9.a by facilitating discussions aimed at enhancing cooperation among Member States to develop a balanced international normative framework for agreed topical subjects regarding trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications. This activity also promotes an exchange of information and experiences regarding Office practices, with a view to increasing transparency within the practical functioning of the international IP system and fostering, where

possible, enhanced coherence at a practical level. The Organization also continued to broaden the geographical coverage of the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (STLT), to further the simplification of trademark registration procedures worldwide. This also contributes to the following SDGs and targets: 10.a; 16.3; and 16.6.

93. As regards **Global Challenges and Partnerships**, WIPO Green continued to contribute to target 9.4. The database, joined by 15 more members in 2022, has [a Building and Construction](#) section with 13.520 entries. In addition, in collaboration with WIPO's IP for Business Division, WIPO GREEN hosted an [IP Management Clinic, on Sustainable Fashion](#). The IP Management Clinic helped seven SMEs through workshops and one-on-one coaching sessions. After a four-month program, it concluded with a two-day online workshop where Louis Vuitton's Sustainability Team introduced their work and commitments towards sustainability. Lastly, [IPO Green](#) was launched in 2022 with funding from the Japan Patent Office. It brings IP Offices together to share their experiences and insights, and provides research and analysis about IP Offices' activities that help to stimulate the development and deployment of new green technology solutions.

94. The following initiatives in the area of **Patents and Technology** also contributed to targets 9.5, 9.3 and 9.b:

- Technical assistance activities whereby WIPO assists all nations, more particularly, in particular developing countries, LDCs, and countries with economies in transition, in leveraging the IP system for economic, social, and cultural development.
- 90% discount on international filing fees and certain WIPO (International Bureau) fees for PCT applications filed by natural persons from developing countries and all applicants from LDCs.
- Service provided by PCT for the purpose of preparing, filing, and managing PCT international applications electronically. This service facilitates the filing of PCT applications, especially for applicants from developing countries and small offices that, unlike larger offices, cannot afford to install their own electronic filing systems.

95. In the context of **International Classifications and Standards**, the Committee on WIPO Standards adopted new Standard ST.97 with the name "Recommendation for processing of intellectual property data using JSON". The WIPO Standards continued to be mapped to SDG 9, published on [UNECE Portal on Standards for the SDGs](#).

96. The Organization's work on **Economics and Data Analytics** continued to contribute to targets 9.5 and 9.b by raising awareness and providing policy advice. WIPO has published statistics, economic research and a global benchmarking tool, to provide insights into the evolving global innovation landscape, how policy choices affect innovation performance, and what are relative strengths and weaknesses of economies' innovation ecosystems. WIPO's flagship publications in this area are the World Intellectual Property Indicators, the World Intellectual Property Report and the Global Innovation Index. This work also contributes to target 8.3.

97. WIPO also continued to support countries through its **Cooperation for Development** work. Examples of initiatives and projects that contribute to SDG 9 follow.

98. In LDCs: (i) Project on Facilitating Transfer of Appropriate Technologies for Community Development through Universities and Research Institutes in Mozambique, Senegal and Uganda; (ii) IP for Youth Innovation in LDCs: Partnerships for Innovation, Product Development and IP Ownership; and (iii) IP for Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSME) in LDCs: Creating IP Assets.

99. In Arab Countries, the following activities in support of targets 9.5 and 9.b should be highlighted:

- Concluded IP Policies for Universities project with Egypt and Jordan. The objective was the harmonization of IPR management legal framework in academic institutions to facilitate internal and external IP collaboration and commercialization of research outcomes in both countries.
- Project for the Elaboration of Guidelines for the Examination of Trademark Applications for the Directorate of Foreign Trade and Intellectual Property, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Kingdom of Bahrain. These guidelines helped standardizing procedural decisions and enhanced the predictability of outcomes for users of trademark registration system.
- WIPO TISC Regional Meeting for the Arab Region in cooperation with Saudi Authority for IP (18-19 May, 2022). The meeting enabled an exchange of good practices and lessons learned and strengthened regional cooperation among national TISC networks in the Arab region, including the establishment of an Arab Regional TISC Network.
- WIPO/ League of Arab States (LAS) Regional Meeting on IP and Startups, June 15, 2022. The objective of the meeting was to highlight the importance of IP as a major tool for the success of Startups, particularly through addressing, 1) How to benefit from IP tools for the protection of Startups, 2) How to apply IP practices in business and marketing for startups and mechanisms to enable them to successfully transfer their products to the market, 3) Introducing the WIPO's IP Guide to Startups and 4) Presenting successful experiences and practices of startups from Arab countries.
- Inter-Regional Webinar on IP and Innovation for SMEs, in context of the 8th Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD), September 27-28, 2022. The event provided a forum for awareness raising, sharing of experience and good practices on effective use of IP for business growth by SMEs for African and Arab Countries.
- LAS Regional Arab Meeting on IP, Innovation Incubators and Techno Parks, November 30 and December 1, 2022. The main objective of the regional meeting was to share best practices in the development and management of innovation incubators and techno parks in the Arab region and to discuss the landscape of existing structures, their role and main activities, as well as the support programs provided by regional and international organizations in this domain.
- An Online Workshop on the Development of Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) was organized for Tunisia on February 2, 2022. The objective was to explain to the different stakeholders, especially universities and researchers, the benefits of the TISC Program in order to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.
- A "PCT Prime" Webinar on the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) for IP Office Staff and Users, for Djibouti (February 23, 2022). The aim was to introduce PCT-related topics, and highlight the importance of international examination from the perspective of the examiners.
- A Virtual National Workshop on Freedom to Operate, Technology Transfer and Inventions Marketing, Casablanca, Morocco, February 24, 2022. The objective of the event was to develop the knowledge and skills of TISCs staff in Morocco in the area of Freedom-to-Operate.
- A Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) Webinar on the Development of the Local TISCs Network for Mauritania, February 28 and March 1, 2022. The

objectives included providing training to the Officials of existing TISCs in Mauritania and strengthening the Mauritanian TISCs Network.

- An online Workshop on the Guide on Using Inventions in the Public Domain was held for Tunisia, April 25 and 26, 2022. The objective of the workshop was to explain to participants how to use technologies that have fallen into the public domain.
- An online Training on PCT Receiving Office Functions and the ePCT System for Qatar, May 11 and 12, 2022. The objective was to train the staff of the Qatari Office in its capacity as PCT Receiving Office and provide them with an overview of PCT Receiving Office functions, an introduction to the ePCT system and a demonstration of the web portal, covering Receiving Office functions.
- An online Training event on PCT Receiving Office Function and the ePCT System for the Syrian Directorate of Commercial and Industrial Property Protection was held on June 7 and 8, 2022. The objective was to train Receiving Office Syria staff on how to use ePCT, as their main PCT online tool to process international applications, received either electronically via ePCT-Filing or in paper format.
- Brainstorming Sessions in the context of IP and Think Tanks in the Arab Region, 8 to 9 November, 2022. The objective was to help undertake a conversation and discuss the relevant IP matters, which could be added to the Think Tanks' agenda in the Arab Region.
- Workshop on Examination of Foreign Applications for Examiners of the Patent Office of the GCC countries, Saudi Arabia, November 20 to 23, 2022. The training updated the examiners regarding new developments of work-sharing platforms (WIPO CASE, Global (One Portal) Dossier) and addressed several advanced aspects of examination.

100. In Transition and Developed Countries, the following initiatives continued to contribute to targets 9.b. and 9.5:

- Promotion of the importance of, and assistance in, the development and implementation of long - term and comprehensive national IP strategies (NIPS) to meet the needs of Member States remained a priority in 2022. During this period *NIPS* was successfully launched in Albania, with broad participation of all national stakeholder institutions. Albania is already in the process of implementing several activities in accordance with the Action Plan 2022. WIPO also provided legislative advice on copyright and related rights to Montenegro. WIPO also supported Romania by providing comments to their draft industrial property strategy.
- Co-organization of *International Conference on Hydrogen Technologies*, on May 17-18, 2022 in Slovakia. WIPO Patent Landscape Report on Hydrogen Fuel Cells in Transportation was developed by the leading experts in the field with WIPO's support, and was launched at the Conference. This event also contributed toward SDG target 7a as it facilitated research into using hydrogen as a new renewable and clean energy in the field of transportation.

Joint project with the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) on *Enhancing IP Commercialization Capacity of Techno-Parks in EAPO Member States*. The Project contributed to SDG by: (i) providing higher level professional IP related services of techno parks through development of skilled Human Capital necessary for establishment and maintaining of efficient IP based management practices and innovation activities in techno parks in the region; (ii) upgrading capacity of beneficiary institutions to efficiently use IP system for creation of innovative new products and

services in the region; (iii) enhancing IP collaboration among innovation stakeholders, including SMEs, academic institutions and intermediary institutions (TTOs, techno parks) internally and in the region; and (iv) creating a model of IPR management customized capacity building program that can be replicated in other innovation ecosystems to enlarge human capacity in the region. Ultimately, it contributed to implementation of higher-level national innovation goals, as defined in innovation strategies of participating Member States.

- The development of the National IP Strategy in Armenia contributed to SDG 9 by strengthening the role of IP in scientific, technological and innovative activities, as well as in developing the knowledge economy; encouraging the SMEs to maximize their potential through IP; developing human resources in the field of IP; and building the capacities of universities and research institutions in the field of IP education and commercialization.
- The Project on *Support the implementation of projects on the development of IP Policies by Universities and Research Institutions in Belarus* contributed to SDG 9 by enhancing the capacity of universities and RIs to use the resources and advantages of the IP system through developing their potential for effective IP management; strengthening the role of IP in scientific, technological and innovative activities, as well as in developing the knowledge economy; increasing the efficiency of IP utilization, including through commercialization; enhancing human resources in the field of IP management and IP commercialization; developing an incentive system for the creation and use of IP and innovation; developing cooperation and strengthening links between universities and RIs and their partners from the industry/business sectors through the implementation of IP policies as a mechanism for that creates the conditions for transparent cooperation in the field of IP; and promoting networking and participation of universities and RIs in regional and international cooperation in the field of IP, and in regional networks for knowledge transfer.

SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

101. WIPO continued to contribute to SDG 11 through **WIPO Green**. One of the Acceleration Projects continued seeking solutions to environmental needs in cities in China: [China Cities collection, along with 30 related technologies](#). In addition, the Green Technology Book has a chapter on [cities](#). Today, over half of the world lives in cities, and the number is growing. Climate impacts such as heatwaves, floods and extreme weather events are becoming more intense and frequent. Urban areas have been hit hard. As cities look toward increasing their preparedness and capacity to adapt, technologies are offering part of the solution.

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

102. In the area of **Global Challenges and Partnerships**, WIPO Green continued to contribute to SDG 12. The [WIPO GREEN Acceleration Project](#) on the treatment and valorization of palm oil mill effluent (POME) in Indonesia continued in 2022. The WIPO Green database has a section on [Pollution and Waste](#) with 17.668 entries. Pollution has for too long been the faithful companion to industrial development with huge impacts on all living creatures, landscapes, soil, air and water. In many parts of the world the situation is and has been improving, but far from all parts, and the effects of one of the worst pollutions, the release of greenhouse gasses, is just starting to become very apparent and omnipresent. The database also has a section on [Products, Materials and Processes](#) with 10.738 entries. Enabling a

steady stream of products and materials underpins consumption and economy and has a long track record of large environmental and greenhouse gas footprints. Much can and is being done to produce more with less, or to replace problematic materials with more environmentally friendly ones.

103. In addition, in conjunction the IP and Innovation Ecosystem Sector, WIPO's External Relations Division co-organized WIPO-AUTM International Knowledge and Technology Transfer Leadership Summit, in October 2022, contributing hence to target 12.a.

104. Lastly, it should be highlighted that WIPO continued the implementation of the Project on the establishment of a Baltic States Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) Network, kicked off in 2019, contributing therefore to target 12.a. A milestone was reached in 2022 by the signature and official launch of the TTOs Network in March and the signature of a dedicated MoU with WIPO in October. This was achieved as a result of year-long collaboration towards the formalization of national networks, knowledge and resource sharing for more effective technology transfer and IP commercialization from academia and business in the Baltic States, as well as specialized capacity building provided by WIPO.

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

105. WIPO's work on **Building Respect for IP** continued to contribute to targets 16.3, 16.4, 16.6 and 16.a. Firstly, the ACE, whose role was already explained above, is the global forum of Member States for exchanging national practices and experiences and facilitating international policy dialogue on IP enforcement and building respect for IP, with an emphasis on combatting counterfeiting and piracy. It therefore contributes directly to reducing illicit trade and combatting organized crime, while promoting the rule of law amongst Member States. As indicated above, the fifteenth session of the ACE took place from August 31 to September 2, 2022, in a hybrid format. WIPO ALERT should also be highlighted, since this initiative is based on a secure online platform that allows countries to share information with the advertising industry, with a view to reducing illicit financial flows to websites that massively infringe copyright on a commercial basis.

106. WIPO also continued to work closely with IGOs, NGOs and Member States to strengthen international efforts to increase IP enforcement capacities and build respect for IP, thus contributing to reducing illicit trade and combatting organized crime and promoting the rule of law. In particular, the following meetings were held in 2022:

- The annual *IGO Coordination Meeting* organized by WIPO brings together IGOs working in the area of IP enforcement and building respect for IP.
- The first *Private Sector Associations Meeting* was organized by WIPO in 2022, which brought together private sector organizations that play a role in IP enforcement and building respect for IP to exchange views and share ideas for possible joint activities.

107. Lastly, legislative assistance was provided to eight Member States in the process of amending and/or adopting relevant legal frameworks towards effective IP enforcement in line with Part III of the TRIPS Agreement. Such legislative assistance was provided in the African region, the Asia and Pacific, the Latin America and the Caribbean region and in countries with economies in transition. This aspect of WIPO's work contributed to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels, strengthen relevant national institutions to combat crime and combat illicit trade.

108. The activities of WIPO's **Judicial Institute** also contributed to targets 16.3 and 16.6, as well as SDG 9. The Organization's work with judges recognizes the vital role played by national and regional judicial systems in ensuring a balanced and effective IP ecosystem. It supports the implementation of SDGs 16 and 9 by informing judges of diverse judicial approaches that may strengthen their analyses and decision-making when adjudicating IP disputes within their applicable legal systems; assisting in building and developing the human and institutional capacities of national and regional judiciaries; and providing free and online access to IP legal information from around the world to judges, decision-makers and IP stakeholders. These contribute to effective and transparent judicial systems enabling equal access to the IP justice and allowing innovation to flourish.

109. In 2022, this work was implemented through the following activities:

- Transnational judicial dialogue on IP: WIPO provided the following platforms for judges to exchange experiences, common concerns and good practices in IP adjudication: (i) the 2022 WIPO Intellectual Property Judges Forum, which was held in a hybrid format, brought together 381 judges from 99 countries and three regional courts; and (ii) two editions of the Webinars for Judges series, that facilitated the exchange of jurisprudence on AI inventorship in patents, and trade secrets.
- Judicial capacity building initiatives on IP: WIPO worked closely with judicial and other relevant authorities to provide tailored capacity building support to increase IP knowledge and relevant skills of judges. These included judicial education programs in the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Morocco and the United Republic of Tanzania and regional and sub-regional judicial trainings were provided in Africa, the Baltic region, in Latin America and in Lusophone countries.
- Resources for Judiciaries: in December 2022, WIPO published a report on the findings from the *Questionnaire on the intersection between private international law and intellectual property*, developed by the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) and WIPO. This report aimed to collect empirical information on private international law issues that arise in cross-border IP disputes.
- WIPO Lex: WIPO provides the most comprehensive, authoritative and reliable source of IP legal information available on the web. In 2022, WIPO Lex added 348 new laws from 72 countries. The database now contains over 17,000 laws, covering national IP and IP-related legislation of 200 jurisdictions; and 772 IP treaties, including the 26 WIPO-administered treaties. In addition, the WIPO Lex Judgments collection expanded to include leading IP decisions from Albania, Egypt, the United Kingdom and the United Republic of Tanzania, covering now 28 jurisdictions.

110. The WIPO **Arbitration and Mediation Center** continued to work to lower barriers for IP stakeholders, particularly SMEs and entrepreneurs, to access its ADR options, hence contributing to target 16.3.

111. In the area of **Cooperation for Development**, WIPO contributed to targets 16.3 and 16.6 through the following activities for Arab Countries:

- Webinar on Building Respect for IP for Judges in Saudi Arabia, March 2 and 3, 2022. The objectives included building the capacity, knowledge and expertise on IP rights enforcement.
- Webinar on Building Respect for Intellectual Property (IP) for Members of the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Officials in Mauritania, June 7 and 8, 2022. The objectives were to discuss the scope and impact of counterfeiting and piracy; build the capacity of participants to deal with IP infringements, in civil and criminal framework and encourage strategic cooperation between stakeholders from both the public and private sectors.

- A WIPO-INAPI Webinar on Mediation of Intellectual Property and Technology Disputes for SMEs, was held on June 29, 2022. The objectives were to help INAPI get acquainted with the WIPO Center's different ADR options for the resolution of IP disputes, and to exchange best practices in the area of ADR, as well as to work jointly on ADR awareness-raising among IP stakeholders in Algeria.
- Judicial Colloquium on IP, Morocco, 28 September 2022. The objective was to build the capacity of members of the judiciary of Morocco in relation to the topical issues in copyright and patents.
- Signing of three MoUs in 2022 with Egypt, Qatar and GCCPO on Alternative Disputes Resolution.

112. As regards activities in Transition and Developed Countries, WIPO's assistance contributed mainly to targets 16.3 and 16.6. Supporting and developing effective Arbitration and Mediation services in the Member States, as well as the reinforcing the judiciaries, served to provide access to justice for all and build effective institutions. The following activities were done in relation to reaching the targets objectives:

- Finalization of the *Memorandum of Understanding with Slovakia on alternative dispute resolution*, which was signed during the WIPO Director General's visit to Slovakia on May 16, 2022.
- Coordination of the *WIPO Webinar on Mediation of Intellectual Property and Technology Disputes*, organized in collaboration with the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic, October 5, 2022.
- Finalization of the *Memorandum of Understanding with Georgia on alternative dispute resolution*, which was signed during the WIPO Director General's visit to Georgia on October 13, 2022.
- Annual *Baltic Regional Seminar for Judges on Current Issues in Intellectual Property Rights*, on September 5-6, 2022, in Daugavpils, Latvia. The seminar convened 45 participating judges from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. Objective of this yearly training is to bring together judges in Latvia and in the Baltic region, with the aim to facilitate the exchange of IP-relevant judicial experiences and jurisprudential developments, and building a network of knowledgeable IP judges.
- Translation and adaptation of the *WIPO Training Materials for Law Enforcement Authorities and Prosecutors "Investigating and Prosecuting IP Crime"* (in Croatian) for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

113. WIPO's work in the area of **South-South and Triangular Cooperation** continued to contribute to target 17.6. In 2022, WIPO revitalized its work in this area and decided to create a targeted platform for exchange of information and expertise, in particular amongst developing countries and LDCs. A first Experts Roundtable on Fostering South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the Context of WIPO's Development Agenda was held on October 14, 2022. The purpose of the Roundtable was to define some concrete actions that would promote more effective cooperation between the countries of the South. The event brought together beneficiaries and supporters of DA projects to share their experience and expertise, in order to encourage South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives in the field of IP, and at the same time, scale-up the results of these projects. The Roundtable explored the matter of South-

South and Triangular Cooperation in IP as a mechanism for enhancing education, a driver of competitiveness for local businesses, and a vehicle to implement the WIPO DA. During the Roundtable, experts from different countries shared experiences in delivering development-oriented projects, showcased successful results of the use of IP by developing countries and LDCs, and shared their perspectives with regard to the opportunities that the South-South and Triangular Cooperation mechanisms can provide to support and spur development cooperation. The Roundtable concluded with some concrete recommendations for action that would encourage and facilitate more South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives.

114. In addition, at the request of Member States, WIPO implemented a project that developed and delivered tools that would facilitate the development and implementation of DA projects and to contribute to a better understanding of the roles of stakeholders in the project implementation and its overall lifecycle. The project delivered the following outcomes: (i) a Guidebook for the preparation, implementation and evaluation of DA projects; (ii) a searchable online Catalogue on all DA projects and outputs; (iii) a Distance Learning (DL) course on DA Project Management; and (iv) some informative videos and infographics. Since then, WIPO regularly provides trainings and capacity-building session to developing countries and LDCs on basic project management and the implementation of development oriented projects. This contributes to building targeted capacity in developing countries and LDCs who are the main proponents and beneficiaries of DA projects. It provides the tools that could be replicated in other development oriented projects implemented by an in countries at any time, contributing hence to target 17.9.

115. In the area of **Global Challenges and Partnerships**, [WIPO GREEN](#) as a program is making tangible contributions to SDG 17. It brings together key players to catalyze green technology innovation and diffusion through its database, network and acceleration projects. SDG 17 is at the core of WIPO GREEN's mission, structure and activities.

116. WIPO's External Relations Division has also contributed to this SDG, and particularly target 17.17, through the organization of different events. First, in collaboration with the International Chamber of Commerce, a side event titled "Strengthening IP Ecosystems for Sustainable Growth and Development" at the 63rd Assemblies of Member States of WIPO in July 2022. The event drew participants from 81 countries. Panelists came from global giants including Microsoft, Nestle, and Intel, as well from SMEs around the world. Panelists also hailed from firms specialized in IP valuation and economic assessments of IP and competition law. On-line attendees varied between 120 and 104 for the three, hour-long roundtables. Second, in collaboration with IFPMA, the World IP Day Event titled "Innovating for Better Health: Supporting Young Innovators through IP." The event highlighted accomplishments of young innovators from around the world, and the positive role IP plays in enabling them to bring their ideas to market. It included specific focus on young women innovators. Nearly 500 individuals participated on site or virtually.

117. WIPO's work on **IP and Innovation** contributed to target 17.6 through its existing partnerships. The Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI) partnership aims to increase the availability of scientific and technical information in developing countries. ARDI provides access to 58,000 subscription-based scientific and technical journals, books, and reference works from over 110 publishers' content available. The Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI) program is another public-private partnership administered by WIPO made possible through the cooperation of leading patent information providers and allows access to free or low-cost access to sophisticated tools and services for retrieving and analyzing patent data to eligible developing countries and territories and has nearly 70 active institutional users.

118. In addition, a Technology Transfer Network in the Baltic States -also comprising a pool of IP commercialization professionals in the region- was established in 2022 with the aim of creating conditions for the further development of technology transfer professional human resources. WIPO will continue to provide support through capacity building and other technical assistance as defined in the MOU signed with the network on October 28, 2022.

119. In the area of **Cooperation for Development**, WIPO continued its efforts towards shaping the regional IP and innovation agenda, thus contributing to targets 17.6 and 17.9. During his first tour in the LAC region, Director General Daren Tang participated in the VII Ministerial-Level Meeting of Central America and the Dominican Republic. March 22-23, 2022. During this meeting, Member States expressed their commitment to develop a Sub-regional IP Strategy, which would also help achieve target 9.b. Economic development, gender and IP, and the WIPO COVID-19 package, were also addressed. In addition, on October 4-6, 2022, the Regional Meeting of Heads of IP Offices of Latin American Countries: An IP Policy Dialogue was organized. Heads of IPOs from 16 countries in the region attended the meeting. A new format for participation was applied, looking for a more active participation. National and regional priorities and horizontal cooperation opportunities were identified in five main subjects: (i) Infrastructure and New Technologies; (ii) Management and Enforcement of IP Rights; (iii) Public Policies; (iv) Promotion, Training and Services for Users; and (v) Strategic Partnerships and Collaboration. The information derived from this meeting will be used to evaluate concrete proposals and elaborate future projects and actions for regional and multilateral collaboration.

120. In addition, in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, WIPO formulated a pilot project for establishing a specific, long-term and sustainable collaborative regional program for substantive patent examiners training, with the participation, as “donor Offices”, not only of traditional developed countries Offices but also of medium-sized Offices from the region that have the expertise and technical capacity to support examiners training. In addition, WIPO deployed the Advanced online course on examination of inventions in pharmaceutical chemistry for Latin America, with the support of: Superintendence of Industry and Commerce (SIC) of Colombia, European Patent Office (EPO), Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO), Spanish trademarks and Patent Office (OEPM), Japanese Patent Office (JPO), IMPI Mexico, INDECOPI Peru, INPI Brazil, and INAPI Chile.

121. Further, the Regional Arab Meeting on lessons learnt and best practices in relation to I took place on December 5 and 6, 2022. The objective of the meeting was to provide the needed information on how to develop the functions of IPOs for encouraging innovation and supporting businesses to make better use of IP system in the Arab region.

122. Lastly, the **WIPO Academy**'s distance learning program continued to serve as member of the UNSDG: Learn - Steering Committee, contributing hence to target 17.9. UNSDG: Learn – Steering Committee is an initiative established by UNITAR to provide a common gateway to eLearning resources on the topics associated to SDGs. The initiative has attracted approximately 60,000 participants. The WIPO Academy's Primer on IP is offered to the UNSDG Learn platform to reinforce the relevance of intellectual property knowledge to innovation and economic, social and cultural development and in particular SDG 9 and 4.

II. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY WIPO AS PART OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

123. During 2022, the Organization continued to partner with other UN agencies for the realization of SDGs. The majority of activities in this area were led by the area of **Global Challenges and Partnerships**.

124. In support of targets 3.3 and 3.b, the Directors General of the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreed to enhance and focus support in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic within the existing trilateral cooperation framework, in their meetings of [June 15, 2021](#) and [February 1, 2022](#). In particular, they agreed to organize a series of capacity-building workshops and to implement a joint platform for tripartite technical assistance. Three workshops have been held on: (i) [Intellectual property licensing, technology transfer, and sharing of know-how and clinical trial information](#) (September 27, 2021); (ii) [Accessing and Using Information Resources for the Pandemic Response](#) (February 28, 2022); and (iii) [Innovation and Access to diagnostics for COVID-19 and beyond](#) (October 28, 2022). In April 2022, WHO, WIPO and WTO launched

their new [Trilateral COVID-19 Technical Assistance Platform](#). The Platform gives an overview of trilateral technical assistance activities. It supports members needs related to COVID-19 vaccines, medicines and related technologies and provides timely and tailored technical assistance. A contact form is available to reach out directly to the three organizations. The platform also includes links to the Trilateral Study [Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation](#) and the updated COVID-19 extract [An integrated health, trade and IP approach to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic](#). The Platform is available in all six UN languages. In addition, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) held a joint technical symposium on [COVID-19 Pandemic: Response, Preparedness, Resilience](#) on December 16, 2022. It examined the key challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic experienced within the frameworks of health, trade and intellectual property.

125. WIPO's partnership with UNCTAD to support women-led digital enterprises as a member of the e-Trade for all initiative contributes to target 5.b, as well as 9.a and 17.16. Through a pilot training session organized with the WIPO Academy, WIPO helped to strengthen knowledge on how digital enterprises can harness the IP system to capture value during an eTrade for Women masterclass held from October 5 to 7, 2022. This led to building the capacity and knowledge of women digital entrepreneurs in developing countries as the masterclass attended by 22 women digital entrepreneurs from six French-speaking African countries and addressed some challenges faced by women entrepreneurs, including gender stereotypes, limited access to finance, scant digital and entrepreneurial skills and insufficient knowledge about IP registration.

126. The session on *Intellectual Property (IP), Youth and ICTs: Innovating for a better future*, organized by WIPO during the WSIS Forum 2022 was relevant for targets 4.4 and 9.b. Millions of young people use ICTs to communicate, learn and engage with cultural and creative content and the IP system plays an important role in incentivizing the production and dissemination of the wealth of information, knowledge and entertainment products which are accessed and consumed by young people using digital technologies. The session which formed part of the global celebrations of WIPD 2022 showcased how young innovators in the ICT ecosystem are making a difference in their societies by contributing to sustainable development and discussed some of the policy issues relevant to creating an enabling environment for young people, everywhere to create a better future for themselves by leveraging the IP system to support their innovation and creativity.

127. WIPO also organized a session on *The video games sector at the time of NFTs and the Metaverse* during the Internet Governance Forum 2022, which supports 9.b and 17.6. The session discussed how the video games sector has been navigating and shaping the new scenarios opened by the Metaverse and NFTs markets and how these frontier technologies are changing consumers' expectations and business models, while challenging some established legal concepts. It brought together examples from different regions to show why and how creators, start-ups and SMEs care about the protection of their creativity and innovation and showcased how their ideas can be used as an asset for growth, as well as how to leverage the IP system in that regard. The session's focus on frontier technologies, such as metaverse and NFTs, as a driver for innovation and technological growth for economies, links directly to SDG target 9.b because the creative industries, such as music, video games, fashion, art, are often growing much faster than more traditional ones. In this regard, the event showcased examples from different sectors that leverage the potential for innovation and creativity for purposes building inclusive and resilient economies in line with SDG 9's overarching ambition. In addition, the development of a balanced digital market place requires multi-stakeholder collaboration between, for example, individual creators, content developers, platforms, and policy-makers, to name a few. These kinds of cross-sectoral partnerships are linked to SDG target 17.6 in relation to enhancing, promoting, and encouraging public-private partnerships in support of sustainable development and was considered in terms of the enabling legal and regulatory frameworks that are required for developing countries and economies to drive such collaborations.

128. In the field of **South-South and Triangular Cooperation**, WIPO continued its regular coordination and cooperation with United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and other UN Agencies, to ensure a harmonized approach towards facilitating South-South and Triangular cooperation initiatives. In September 2022, it participated in the Global South-South Development Expo on the theme “*Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable COVID-19 Recovery: Towards a Smart and Resilient Future*”, organized by UNOSSC and hosted by the Government of Thailand, in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

III. ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY WIPO TO ITS MEMBER STATES AT THEIR REQUEST

129. During 2022, the Secretariat has not received any request from Member States seeking assistance specifically related to the attainment of the SDGs.

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