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Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)

Thirtieth Session
Geneva, April 24 to 28, 2023

REVISED DOCUMENT ON FUTURE WEBINARS

prepared by the Secretariat

1.   At its twenty-ninth session, the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) requested the Secretariat to revise document CDIP/26/6 on Future Webinars, based on the comments made during that session and those sent by Member States, for its consideration at this session of the Committee.

2.   It is recalled that, at the request of the Committee, the Secretariat had prepared document CDIP/26/6, which presented the Secretariat's proposed strategy for the delivery of future webinars, following discussions on the "Report on the Webinars on Technical Assistance" (CDIP/25/3) and the "Evaluation Report on WIPO Webinars on Technical Assistance" (CDIP/25/4).

3.   This document presents a revised strategy proposed by the Secretariat for the delivery of future webinars, which also contains comments made by Member States during the thirtieth session of the CDIP. The Annex contains a compilation of the inputs received from Member States.

I.   PRINCIPLES GUIDING FUTURE WEBINARS

4.   In light of Member States comments, it is proposed that the following revised list of principles guide the organization of future webinars.

   i.   **Greater involvement of Member States**. Member States should actively participate in the webinars, including in defining their objectives, selecting the topics, and promoting the events among the target audience within their territories.

ii. **Tailored to needs and interests.** Each webinar should be dedicated to a particular region and/or conducted in a different language, in order to tailor it to the different needs and interests of Member States. Should a particular topic be of interest to a wider audience, a webinar could be held for more than one region and/or in different languages.

iii. **Progressive approach and relevant content.** The topics of webinars should follow a progressive approach, with each one building on the information shared and the discussion held in the previous ones. The content of the webinars should remain focused on issues relevant to the effective implementation of CDIP mandate including the Development Agenda (DA), primarily on how to conduct effective technical assistance. The content should also be relevant ~~should be also~~ to the interests of the audience, to avoid becoming redundant.

iv. **Adequate allocation of time and resources.** The number and frequency of webinars should be realistic so that they are aligned with the availability of human and financial resources devoted to their organization and promotion. In principle, no more than six webinars should be held per year.

v. **Complementary nature.** The webinars should be complementary to in-country activities of the Organization. The Development Agenda Coordination Division (DACD) should strive to avoid duplicating the work of other areas of WIPO, by finding synergies and collaborating with relevant areas.

vi. **Enhanced engagement with the audience.** The network of participants should be strengthened by using the dedicated web page to webinars on technical assistance as knowledge-sharing platform.

II.   STRATEGY FOR FUTURE WEBINARS

5.   The strategy for the organization of future webinars as contained in document CDIP/26/6 has been revised in light of the Committee discussions and the inputs received from Member States. The modifications are mainly found on Sections A and B on the process of the selection of topics and the scope of the webinars, as detailed below. No changes have been made to the content of Sections C – Platforms and Structure; D – Promotion; E – Follow-up; and F – Resource requirements. These are reproduced below for ease of reference.

A.   PROCESS FOR SELECTION OF TOPICS

6.   Document CDIP/26/6 presented two options as regards the selection of topics for the webinars: (i) upon Member States' request; and (ii) based on the Secretariat's proposal.[1] In light of the Committee discussions and Member States' inputs, a hybrid approach is proposed below.

7.   Every year, during the second half, the Secretariat would share with Member States, through Group Coordinators, a list of proposed topics for webinars for the following year, indicating the objective(s) and target audience(s).

8.   Group Coordinators would then be invited to either (i) inform the Secretariat if their Group is interested in holding a webinar on any of the proposed topics by the Secretariat; or (ii) submit to the Secretariat their own proposal on topic(s) of their interest. The proposals might include either one webinar or a series of them, following a progressive approach. They should indicate

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[1] Paras. 5 to 17 of document CDIP/26/6.

the objectives of the proposed webinar(s), the target audience(s), the topic(s), and the language(s).

9.   The Secretariat would then analyze the responses of Group Coordinators and determine the final list of topics of the webinars as well as their distribution by region/language for the following year in consultation and coordination with Regional Groups. In doing so, the Secretariat would strive to accommodate all proposals of Member States, to the extent that this is possible in light of the requests received and the available human and financial resources. If there are too many requests, the selection would be done by giving priority to topics falling under the scope described below, while ensuring that there is at least one webinar for each region. The Secretariat would also try to find synergies among similar or complementary proposals of topics.

10.   A roster of topics would be published on the web page dedicated to webinars on technical assistance, indicating the webinars already held, the ones scheduled to be held, as well as other proposals that would be kept in the pipeline as received. This roster could be used by Member States as a basis for webinar proposals in subsequent years.

11.   The Secretariat would then launch the organization of each webinar, by identifying the internal or external expert who would deliver it and making the necessary logistical arrangements.

12.   After each webinar, the Secretariat would collect feedback from the expert and participants, including suggestions for future topics. This information would be available for the benefit of Member States wishing to make new proposals on the web page dedicated to webinars on technical assistance, together with other relevant information (see section E below).

      B.   SCOPE

13.   During the previous Committee sessions, views expressed by Member States as regards the scope of future webinars were at variance. In line with the principles guiding Future Webinars in paragraph 4 above, the following list of potential areas may be explored in future webinars and serve as means of example in so far as they relate to the effective implementation of CDIP mandate, including the Development Agenda (DA), and are primarily focused on conducting effective technical assistance.

(a) Briefings and presentations of DA projects and their outputs, in order to increase their visibility and disseminate the studies and other tools produced in the framework of DA projects among relevant stakeholders. The briefings would be delivered by relevant WIPO staff, experts who participated in the projects, or Member States representatives wishing to share their experience and lessons learnt.

(b) Discussions on ideas of possible future technical assistance activities or DA project proposals to further implement the DA Recommendations. Member States could use this forum as a platform to informally discuss their proposals, seeking the views and comments of other Member States, experts, and/or WIPO staff to refine them before presenting them to the CDIP. The preparation process of proposals of projects and activities could hence be enhanced by following this collaborative approach.

(c) Exchanges on ideas for new WIPO's technical assistance and capacity building activities, such as assistance related to the Sustainable Development Goals or South-South, North-South and Triangular cooperation, or possible enhancements of

current ones. These discussions could inform future activities of the Organization in the area of cooperation for development.

(d) Sharing sessions on lessons learned and best practices of developing countries in tailoring the IP system to their developing needs, and the role of WIPO's technical assistance in this process. Member States could use this platform to exchange their experience in adopting IP-related policies and initiatives that respond to their needs and interests in terms of socio, economic, and human development.

(e) Discussions on new challenges encountered by Member States in the sphere of IP, with a view to exploring how WIPO's technical assistance and the DA can be of help and, in particular, how the implementation of the DA Recommendations should evolve in order to remain relevant and useful in responding to those challenges.

14.   As mentioned above, where possible the choice of topics would follow a progressive approach, with each one building on the information shared and the discussion held in the previous ones. For instance, should a webinar be held on completed DA Projects, the following one could address ideas for future DA projects on similar topics. Evidently, once a particular topic has been sufficiently explored, a new series of webinars independent of the previous one would be launched.

C.   PLATFORM AND STRUCTURE

15.   The webinars will be organized by the DACD in close coordination with the relevant Divisions / Sectors in WIPO, inter alia: other Divisions within the Regional and National Development Sector, WIPO External Offices, the Information and Digital Outreach Division, the Information and Communication Technology Department, and the News and Media Division.

16.   The webinars will be held via the software used by WIPO for this type of activity.

17.   Provided that technical requirements permit, the webinars will be held live, following the same basic structure: presentation by an expert, followed by question and answer (Q&A) session. Alternatively, the presentation would be pre-recorded and shared with participants, following which a live Q&A session would be held.

D.   PROMOTION

18.   In order to ensure high visibility and maximize participation, the promotion efforts will be shared by the Secretariat and the relevant Member States. As a first step, the target audience will be identified during the planning phase of the webinars, in accordance with the objectives sought and the topic selected. Once the organization of each webinar has been launched, the Secretariat and the relevant Member State(s) will work together with a view to defining the target audience in detail, as well as deciding on the necessary promotion strategy for each group of potential participants.

19.   The event will be promoted both by WIPO and Member States through communications via email, web pages of relevant institutions (WIPO, IP Offices, etc.), and social media. The participants from previous webinars will receive information on subsequent ones, in order to build and reinforce the network of attendees.

E.   FOLLOW UP

20.   After each webinar, the video recording, the slide deck, and a brief summary will be made available on the existing web page dedicated to webinars on technical assistance. This web

page will be also used as knowledge-sharing platform, where the Secretariat will post the responses to questions which might have been left unanswered during the webinars due to time constraints.

21.   The Secretariat will report annually to the CDIP on the webinars undertaken in the context of the existing reporting instruments (e.g. DG Report, Progress Reports).

F.   RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

22.   Additional human resources may be necessary depending on the workload of the DACD. As in the pilot phase of the webinars, other expenses would relate to the hiring of external experts for the delivery of the webinars and conference costs.

23.   The CDIP is invited to consider the information contained in this document.

[Annex follows]

COMPILATION OF MEMBER STATES INPUTS ON DOCUMENT CDIP/26/6 – FUTURE
WEBINARS

Group B

1.   Group B thanks the Secretariat again for preparing CDIP/26/6 and appreciates the reasons
     for putting forward this document.

2.   We commend the Secretariat on the organisation of multiple webinars on delivering
     technical assistance in six languages, across the different regions and welcome this to
     continue, particularly if no more than six webinars are to be held per year.

3.   Further, as recommended in the Evaluation Report of WIPO Webinars on Technical
     Assistance, contained in CDIP 25/4, Group B supports that a more progressive approach is
     taken to build on information shared in previous related webinars and allow for more
     meaningful learning opportunities for participants[2].

4.   Group B has previously outlined our concerns around the current principles guiding future
     webinars proposed by the Secretariat, in view of what was previously agreed by this
     Committee[3]. We would therefore ask the Secretariat to revisit certain parts of the
     document to take due consideration of these concerns.
     We would ask to remove the second sentence in paragraph 4, sub-paragraph iii; the term
     "broadened scope" in the header of sub-paragraph iii, and the first sentence of paragraph
     18. The suggested language goes beyond what was agreed to by this Committee at its
     17th and 23rd sessions, and the evaluation report CDIP/25/4 does not refer to such terms.
     Specifically "The scope of topics should be widened beyond the delivery of technical
     assistance to avoid becoming redundant" has no basis in the original proposal or any of
     the six recommendations by the independent evaluator in CDIP/25/4.

5.   Group B believes that webinars should remain focused on how to conduct effective
     technical assistance without straying into any topic that covers the entirety of the CDIP
     mandate and the Development Agenda.

6.   In any event, Group B shares the view that the topics should not become redundant. At
     the same time, thanks to the progressive approach to build on information shared in
     previous related webinars, we are convinced that the Secretariat can continue holding
     useful webinars on technical assistance. Therefore, we thank the Secretariat for the
     proposed areas listed in paragraph 19. Webinars could cover these areas, provided they
     relate to the delivery of technical assistance and avoid overlaps with other activities, such
     as CDIP side events. Our Group for instance encourages exchanges on ideas for new
     WIPO technical assistance and capacity building such as assistance on SDGs as referred

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[2] For reference: CDIP 25/4, p16 Recommendation 2 Progression of information
As one-off initiatives, the webinars provided the opportunity to share information on technical assistance in multiple
languages and on multiple topics. In future, it would be valuable to consider a more progressive approach that takes
into consideration building on the information shared in previous related webinars. This would allow for more
meaningful learning opportunities for participants."
[3] Group B recalls that the webinars evolved out of years of discussions within this Committee, originating with item
1(b) of the Revised Spanish proposal, which the Committee agreed to at CDIP 17. Item 1(b) of the Revised Spanish
Proposal states that: "…WIPO should provide a regular forum for Member States to share their experiences, tools
and methodologies regarding technical assistance and capacity building, in particular: … b. A web forum for sharing
ideas, practices and experiences should be established by WIPO. The web forum may be best integrated into
existing web platforms previously established by WIPO." We also recall that later at CDIP 23, the Committee agreed
to implement this webinar platform; however, the Committee has never decided to change the scope of these
webinars to include topics unrelated to technical assistance.

to in example (e).

7.   We would further welcome that as always, principles around geographical- and gender-representation are included, and that topics do not duplicate content and discussions that are organised and lead by WIPO's other divisions.

8.   With regards to the Options, our position remains the same in that the Secretariat combines these two options. We do not find the two options mutually exclusive as indeed Member States are best placed to identify their technical assistance needs and the Secretariat is well placed to provide advice and guidance. The Secretariat's involvement would facilitate the framing of the topics and therefore we request that the Secretariat combines these options in future webinars on technical assistance.

9.   We thank the Secretariat for reviewing this document and the opportunity to provide input to allow the webinars to continue.

Brazil

- The two options – suggestions by Member States and by WIPO's secretariat – are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

- Part of future webinars can be planned according to the suggestions made directly by Member States, but topics for other ones can be suggested by the secretariat pending on the consideration and approval by Member States.

- A proposal along these lines – suggestions can be made by Member States and the Secretariat – could be presented as an effort for achieving consensus among the various groups of interests.

- But the main obstacle still appears to be the question on whether webinars must be focused on technical assistance or not.

- A potential solution for this could be the possibility of organizing online webinars focused on technical assistance, but as long as it is for the Member States to indicate their specifics topics of interest.

Mexico
(original in Spanish)

The Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and has the honor to refer to the preparations for the thirtieth session of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property, which will take place from April 24 to 28, 2023.

The Mission is pleased to convey the comments of the Mexican Industrial Property Institute in response to the decisions reached at the Committee's twenty-ninth session with regard to future webinars (paragraph 5.2 of the summary by the Chair):

• PROCESS FOR THE SELECTION OF TOPICS. The Institute endorses option I of document CDIP/26/6: upon Member States' request, as each Member State has different needs and interests.

- SCOPE. The Institute agrees with a progressive approach to the seminars proposed in document CDIP/26/6, in order to make efficient use of the knowledge and information shared on the same topic.

- FOLLOW-UP. The webinars should definitely be posted on the WIPO website, so that interested parties or those unable to attend them in real time, owing to time zone differences, might have access to them.

- RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS. Given the need to allocate human and financial resources in order to hold the webinars, the more people are reached, the more efficient the use of those resources will be.

The Mission takes this opportunity to reiterate to WIPO the assurances of its highest consideration.

Republic of Poland

Poland would like to make a comment regarding the process for the selection of topics for future webinars as presented in document CDIP/26/6. As reiterated in the statements of both CEBS group and the EU made at the CDIP sessions, we believe that both presented options, i.e. upon Member States' request and based on the Secretariat's proposal, may complement each other and are not mutually exclusive. Therefore, we believe that a hybrid approach could be applied and those two options could possibly be consolidated into a single procedure. To ensure the most efficient performance of the process, such procedure should reflect the proposals of Member States, and at the same time take into account the availability of human and financial resources of the Secretariat.

Slovenia

We would like to inform you that our positions have not changed for once and that in our opinion the proposed modalities are not mutually exclusive. Thus, we continue to believe that even in the CEBS group we can remain open regarding the revision of the document in the direction that the two proposed options for choosing topics for webinars (the request of the member state or the proposal of the secretariat) are complementary.

Peru

Peru considers that the principle shall be that it is up to the Member States to develop, present and decide on the topics of the Seminars, as they should respond to their interests and needs. In doing so, Members shall abide by the guiding principles stipulated in CDIP/26/6.

This does not mean that the Secretariat cannot propose topics, but such proposals should only be evaluated to the extent that the Members "adopt" them, i.e., that a Member State or region interested in the topic proposed by the Secretariat presents it as the preferred option of that specific region or country.

[End of Annex and of document]