

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

Sixty-Fifth Series of Meetings Geneva, July 9 to 17, 2024

ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The observers admitted to attend the Sixty-Fifth series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and of the Unions administered by WIPO (the Assemblies) are listed in document A/65/INF/1.
2. Once an observer is admitted to attend the meetings of the Assemblies, it is also invited to attend, in the same capacity, meetings of committees, working groups, or other bodies subsidiary to the Assemblies, if their subject matter seems to be of direct interest to that observer.
3. Decisions concerning the admission of observers to the meetings of the Assemblies were last taken at the Sixty-Fourth series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, from July 6 to 14, 2023 (document A/64/14, paragraph 42).
4. Since then, the Director General has received requests, with the requisite information, from each of the following entities for admission to attend the meetings of the Assemblies as an observer:

INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS)

- (i) Boao Forum for Asia (BFA);
- (ii) European Film Agency Directors (EFAD);
- (iii) European Platform of Intellectual Property Administrators (EPIPA);
- (iv) Independent Music Publishers International Forum (IMPF);
- (v) International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA);
- (vi) International Olympic Committee (IOC);

- (vii) Latin American Federation of the Pharmaceutical Industry (FIFARMA); and
- (viii) Wikimedia Foundation (WMF).

NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS¹ (NGOS)

- (i) Emirates Inventors Association;
- (ii) Emirates Science Club;
- (iii) Global Access in Action (GAiA);
- (iv) Hugo Grotius gGmbH;
- (v) Intellectual Property International Forum – Québec (FORPIQ);
- (vi) Japan Commercial Broadcasters Association (JBA); and
- (vii) Virtual Rights Specified Nonprofit Corporation.

5. A brief description of each of the entities mentioned above—including its objectives, structure and membership—appears in the Annexes to this document.

6. The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, are invited to take a decision on the requests for admission, as observers, from the entities appearing in paragraph 4 of document A/65/3.

[Annexes follow]

¹ For the principles applicable in extending invitations to national NGOs, as observers, adopted by the Assemblies at their Thirty-Seventh series of meetings, from September 23 to October 1, 2002, see document A/37/14, paragraph 316.

PARTICULARS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) (ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE ORGANIZATIONS)

Boao Forum for Asia (BFA)

Headquarters: BFA was established in 2001 and has its headquarters in Boao, China.

Objectives: The main goal of the organization is to promote and strengthen economic exchange, interaction and cooperation within the Asian region, as well as between the region and other parts of the world. To that end, BFA provides a high-level venue for dialogue between leaders from governments, private enterprises, academia and other associations to discuss, exchange and develop ideas concerning economic, social, environmental and related issues. BFA focuses on economic development, while expanding its actions into five focal areas including technological innovation, health, education, culture and media in response to new economic needs. BFA is committed to contributing to peace, prosperity and sustainable development in Asia and the world.

Structure: BFA consists of the General Meeting of Members, the Board of Directors, the Secretariat, headed by the Secretary-General, the Research and Training Institute and the Council of Advisors. The General Meeting of Members is the ultimate authority of BFA. The Board of Directors functions as the supreme executive body. It is comprised of 19 members, of which 17 are elected by the full members at the General Meeting of Members, with the Secretary-General of BFA and the Chief Representative of the host country being *ex-officio* members. The Council of Advisors, consisting of 19 members, provides advice on significant questions related to the affairs of BFA.

Membership: BFA membership consists of 160 natural and juridical persons.

European Film Agency Directors (EFAD)

Headquarters: EFAD was established in 2014 and has its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

Objectives: EFAD aims to ensure the existence of an environment conducive to the development of European policy that supports audiovisual and cinematographic creativity in Europe, and which guarantees the effective distribution of European works both in Europe and worldwide.

Structure: The governing authority of EFAD is vested in a General Assembly, comprised of EFAD members. The association is managed by a Board of Directors comprised of 12 directors. The Board members are elected by the General Assembly for a period of three years and make decisions concerning operations contributing to the objectives of EFAD.

Membership: EFAD membership consists of 37 juridical persons.

European Platform of Intellectual Property Administrators (EPIPA)

Headquarters: EPIPA was founded in 2017 and has its headquarters in Eindhoven, Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Objectives: The objective of EPIPA is to enhance the cooperation between national associations of intellectual property administrators in Europe, through broadening and promoting professional knowledge regarding all aspects of intellectual property law, with an

emphasis on the related administrative processes. As part of its mission, EPIPA raises awareness and recognition of the profession of intellectual property administrators and develops an official certification for their professional education.

Structure: The main organ of EPIPA is the Management Board, consisting of 10 individuals that each represent a national association of intellectual property administrators. The Management Board has the power to conduct the business of EPIPA and may appoint a Director to manage the day-to-day activities of the organization. The Management Board can also institute an Advisory Board as needed for guidance.

Membership: EPIPA membership consists of six juridical persons.

Independent Music Publishers International Forum (IMPF)

Headquarters: IMPF was established in 2014 and has its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

Objectives: IMPF is the global trade and advocacy body for independent music publishers worldwide. IMPF helps to stimulate a more favorable business environment in various jurisdictions to facilitate artistic, cultural, and commercial diversity for the music publisher members, songwriters and composers they represent.

Structure: The governing bodies of IMPF consist of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors, the latter being elected by the General Assembly. IMPF is administered by the Board of Directors, consisting of at least three persons.

Membership: IMPF membership consists of 178 juridical persons.

International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA)

Headquarters: IFLA was established in 1948 and has its headquarters in Versailles, France.

Objectives: IFLA represents the profession of landscape architects globally. In that context IFLA promotes the landscape architecture profession within a collaborative partnership of the allied built-environment professions. IFLA advocates for the highest standards of education, training, research and professional practice, and provides leadership and stewardship. IFLA promotes international exchange of knowledge and experience in all matters related to landscape architecture and officially represents the world body of landscape architects in both governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Structure: The governing body of IFLA is the World Council, comprising members of the Executive Committee and the duly appointed members of the national or multi-national associations. The IFLA Executive Committee is responsible for the general management of IFLA and for developing policies and proposing these to the World Council. The Committee is comprised of a President and a Treasurer, five Regional Presidents and three Chairs. The Committee members are nominated by IFLA members and elected for a two-year term.

Membership: IFLA membership consists of approximately 100 juridical and natural persons.

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Headquarters: The IOC was established in 1894 and has its headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Objectives: The mission of the IOC is to promote Olympism throughout the world and to lead the Olympic movement. The IOC conducts a wide range of programs and projects and acts as a catalyst for collaboration between all members of the Olympic movement. The IOC thus ensures the regular celebration of the Olympic Games, supports all affiliated member organizations of the Olympic movement and strongly encourages, by appropriate means, the promotion of the Olympic values.

Structure: The organs of the IOC are the Session, the IOC Executive Board, and the President, who represents the IOC and presides over all its activities. The Session is the general meeting of the members of the IOC and is its supreme body. The Executive Board manages the affairs of the IOC, such as monitoring the observance of the Olympic Charter, and consists of the President, four Vice-Presidents, and 10 other members, who are elected by the Session for a four-year term. IOC commissions may also be created to advise the Session, the IOC Executive Board or the President. The President establishes permanent, standing or *ad hoc* commissions and working groups whenever necessary.

Membership: The membership of the IOC consists of 106 natural persons, who are representatives of the IOC in their respective countries.

Latin American Federation of the Pharmaceutical Industry (FIFARMA)

Headquarters: FIFARMA was originally established in 1962 and relaunched in 2014 by formalizing its constitution in Mexico. FIFARMA has its headquarters in Mexico City, Mexico.

Objectives: FIFARMA represents biopharmaceutical research and development companies, as well as local associations from different Latin American countries, and establishes relations with companies from the same field around the world. The objectives of FIFARMA include the promotion of these industries and their related services in Latin America and the defense of interests of FIFARMA members. FIFARMA advocates for sustainable patient-centered health care systems with high regulatory standards and ethical principles.

Structure: FIFARMA conducts its activities and makes its decisions based on an equitable representation of all its members, through the Assembly and the Board of Directors. The Assembly is the highest governing body of the association and is comprised of FIFARMA members. The Board of Directors has the power to represent and manage the association and defines the projects to be pursued by FIFARMA.

Membership: FIFARMA membership consists of 27 juridical persons.

Wikimedia Foundation (WMF)

Headquarters: WMF was established in 2003 and has its headquarters in San Francisco, California, United States of America.

Objectives: The mission of WMF is to empower and engage people around the world to collect and develop educational content under a free license or in the public domain, and to disseminate it effectively and globally. WMF provides the infrastructure and an organizational framework for the support and development of multilingual websites (“projects”) that host user-generated knowledge in coordination with a network of individual volunteers and independent movement organizations. WMF will make and keep useful information from its projects available on the Internet free of charge, in perpetuity.

Structure: The governing body of WMF is the Board of Trustees, which consists of 12 persons. The Board of Trustees elects, from among the Trustees, the following officers: Chair,

Vice-Chair, and any Board Committee Chairs. The Board of Trustees also appoints the following non-Trustee officer positions: Executive Director, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as the Board may appoint.

Membership: WMF does not have member organizations but 146 user groups, 37 geographic chapters, and two thematic organizations with which it is affiliated. Chapters are independent non-profit organizations founded by Wikimedia community members to support and promote the Wikimedia projects in a particular region, whereas thematic organizations are organized around a particular subject matter. User groups are open-membership groups with less formal formation requirements that can be either geographic or subject-matter based. All affiliates are eligible to receive grants from WMF, apply to use trademarks that belong to WMF, and take part in conferences, strategy discussions, and community-building activities. However, these affiliates operate wholly independently of WMF and each group can choose its own affiliate name.

[Annex II follows]

PARTICULARS CONCERNING NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) (ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE ORGANIZATIONS)

Emirates Inventors Association

Headquarters: The Emirates Inventors Association was established in 2019 and has its headquarters in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Objectives: The Emirates Inventors Association promotes volunteer work in the area of innovation in the United Arab Emirates focusing on inventors, innovators, and scientific research, including topics such as artificial intelligence. The association aims to raise awareness about intellectual property, and to support people with new ideas by disseminating information about intellectual property laws. In particular, the Emirates Inventors Association advocates for inventors and innovators, including young people, through specialized scientific programs, and cooperates with educational institutions. The association also organizes related specialized courses, conferences and exhibitions.

Structure: The Emirates Inventors Association is governed by a General Assembly, which elects the Board of Directors of the organization, oversees its work, and monitors the progress of work plans. The Board of Directors consists of six members, including a Chair, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Membership: The Emirates Inventors Association membership consists of 691 natural persons.

Emirates Science Club

Headquarters: The Emirates Science Club was established in 1990 and has its headquarters in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Objectives: The Emirates Science Club aims to spread scientific literacy and to raise levels of scientific understanding in society. The Emirates Science Club strives to provide an environment for the youth, as well as to discover young talents by focusing on creativity, innovative thinking and acquisition of technical skills. In cooperation with a team of experts, the Emirates Science Club supports inventors to translate their ideas into real-world, innovative products and disseminates information about intellectual property.

Structure: The Emirates Science Club is governed by the Board of Directors, which is the highest authority of the organization and consists of nine members, including the Chair of the Club.

Membership: The Emirates Science Club membership consists of 2000 natural persons.

Global Access in Action (GAiA)

Headquarters: GAiA was established in 2014 and has its headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States of America.

Objectives: GAiA is a global health institute based at Harvard Law School. It focuses on improving access to lifesaving medicines in low- and middle-income countries through the implementation of legal, policy, and regulatory reform. GAiA also seeks to reduce the incidence of falsified and substandard medicines in developing countries, expand education and

knowledge of patent law and global health laws, and improve copyright legal systems in developing countries.

Structure: GAIa is governed by a Board of Directors, which has the power to establish policies and directives governing the business and programs of GAIa. The Board of Directors may have up to 10, but no fewer than three, members and currently consists of a Chair and three other members.

Membership: GAIa is not a membership-based organization.

Hugo Grotius gGmbH

Headquarters: The Hugo Grotius gGmbH was established in 2014 and has its headquarters in Bremen, Germany.

Objectives: The Hugo Grotius gGmbH seeks the advancement of science and research through two research institutes, namely the Institute for the Law of the Sea and International Marine Environmental Law (ISRIM) and the Institute for IT, Media and Intellectual Property Law (MLS LEGAL). The institutes conduct independent scientific research, while also focusing on teaching, as well as meetings, events and publication projects to foster knowledge transfer. The Hugo Grotius gGmbH also provides scholarships to students and scientists.

Structure: The supervisory and decision-making organ of Hugo Grotius gGmbH is the meeting of shareholders, which takes decisions that are of a fundamental nature for the organization. Two Managing Directors represent the Hugo Grotius gGmbH in legal transactions.

Membership: Hugo Grotius gGmbH is not a membership-based organization.

Intellectual Property International Forum – Québec (FORPIQ)

Headquarters: FORPIQ was established in 2001 and has its headquarters in Lasalle, Québec, Canada.

Objectives: FORPIQ aims at increasing the level of knowledge of Canadian companies with respect to intellectual property assets, to enable them to gain more value therefrom. To attain this objective, FORPIQ organizes forums, and brings together business leaders, intellectual property experts, investors, as well as government representatives, to exchange experiences and share best practices with respect to intellectual property.

Structure: FORPIQ is governed by a Board of Directors, consisting of four persons, who are elected by the annual FORPIQ General Assembly, comprised of the members of the Forum. The Directors represent and administer the work of FORPIQ. The officers of FORPIQ are the President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Membership: FORPIQ is not a membership-based organization.

Japan Commercial Broadcasters Association (JBA)

Headquarters: JBA was founded in 1951 and has its headquarters in Tokyo, Japan.

Objectives: The objectives of JBA include the enhancement of broadcasting ethics and the promotion, progress and development of public welfare through broadcasting.

JBA works to identify and solve common issues that exist in broadcasting and promotes cooperation among its members.

Structure: The governance structure of JBA consists of a General Assembly, a General Council, a Board of Directors and 13 councils and committees. The Secretariat, which is composed of 10 divisions, handles the practical business affairs of each of these bodies.

Membership: JBA membership consists of 208 juridical persons.

Virtual Rights Specified Nonprofit Corporation

Headquarters: The Virtual Rights Specified Nonprofit Corporation was established in 2021 and has its headquarters in Inzai City, Japan.

Objectives: The purpose of the Virtual Rights Specified Nonprofit Corporation is to advocate for freedom of expression in the field of entertainment and to promote privacy protection in virtual reality spaces. The Virtual Rights Specified Nonprofit Corporation advocates for the development of virtual reality culture and contributes to the realization of an internet space where individuality and personality are mutually respected.

Structure: The governing structure of the organization consists of three bodies: the General Assembly, the Board of Directors, and the Secretariat. The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the organization and is comprised of the regular members. The Board of Directors is the executive decision-making body of the organization, and the Secretariat handles the day-to-day affairs of the Virtual Rights Specified Nonprofit Corporation.

Membership: The Virtual Rights Specified Nonprofit Corporation regular membership consists of 46 natural persons and two juridical persons.

[End of Annex II and of document]