

Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)

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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 contains the annual report on the contribution of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its associated targets.¹ The report responds to the decision taken by the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP), at its eighteenth 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 eighth 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 2023 of the SDG-related:

- I. activities and initiatives undertaken individually by WIPO,
- II. activities undertaken by WIPO as part of the United Nations System, and
- III. assistance provided by WIPO to its Member States at their request.

3. Throughout the reporting period, WIPO was fully engaged in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda within its mandate. Guided by the Development Agenda, the Organization supported the achievement of the SDGs, through the promotion of a balanced and effective IP system that encourages innovation and creativity and facilitates the flow of knowledge and technical expertise in and among countries. While WIPO's work related mainly to SDG 9, it also contributed to many other goals and targets due to the importance that innovation and creativity had in achieving them.

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

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 2023, 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 assisted competent authorities and interested stakeholders (local communities and producers) in identifying, developing and protecting their appellations of origin or geographical indications (GIs), 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. The following activities have been undertaken upon request by Member States:

- Organization of, or participation in, national or regional events and trainings to explain the strategic use of appellations of origin and GIs 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 for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration](#) (1967) and/or the [Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications](#) (2015), 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 GIs through projects, such as “*Seda de Cajonos*” in Mexico, “*orégano de la Precordillera de Putre*” in Chile, “*Kampot-Kep (Sea) Salt*” in Cambodia, “*Mongolian pine nuts tree*” in Mongolia, “*Madd de Casamance*” in Senegal, and “*Riz de Kovié*” in Togo.

7. The mentioned projects reported the following results:

- As part of the WIPO COVID-19 Response Package,² producers of “*orégano de la Precordillera de Putre*” in Chile, who have been impacted by the pandemic, have been assisted in strengthening the collective management of their GI with a view to securing a better market positioning of their products. This project will continue in 2024 and focus on the branding and commercialization of the products. Other GI

² Further information on WIPO's COVID-19 Related Services and Support is available at: <https://www.wipo.int/web/covid-19>

projects, under the WIPO COVID-19 Response Package, have been implemented, at their request, in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Mexico, Mongolia, and Tonga.

- In the case of “[Madd de Casamance](#)” (a wild fruit and a valuable source of nutrition for the community (SDG 2)), the ongoing process of securing GI status has not only supported the community’s environmental goals (SDG 15), but has also galvanized the empowerment of young people and women (SDGs 1 and 5). Young people, for example, are traditionally responsible for gathering the fruit. They use their earnings to finance their studies (SDG 4). Women play a key role in processing and selling the juices, syrups and preserves derived from the fruit. They have been at the origin of the project and continue to lead by building the reputation of their products and establishing its value chain. In fact, these women took the first step towards seeking GI status for the denomination “*Madd de Casamance*”. The request for registration of the GI was submitted to the Senegalese authorities in November 2022 and to the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) in April 2023. This project has been implemented with the financial support of Funds-in-Trust (FIT) China, and in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the French Development Agency (AFD). Other projects with FIT China have been implemented in Cambodia and Togo.

8. These activities also contributed to the SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 15 and 17, more specifically, targets 1.4, 2.4, 2.5, 4.4, 5.5, 8.2, 8.3, 15.6, 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 2023 met twice. Additionally, an *Ad Hoc* Expert Group on Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs) was organized to address specific legal, policy or technical issues. Following the Committee’s request,³ the Secretariat organized *ad hoc* virtual meetings of experts on possible disclosure requirements, and virtual technical meetings on information systems, registers and databases of Genetic Resources (GRs), TK and TCEs. In July 2023, the WIPO General Assembly agreed to renew the mandate of the IGC for the 2024/2025 biennium. An agreement was also reached on a work program for the IGC in 2024 and 2025. As decided by WIPO Member States,⁴ the Secretariat started the preparation for the Diplomatic Conference. Two meetings were held in the second half of 2023. The IGC met in a Special Session and agreed on a number of revisions to the substantive articles of the text. The Preparatory Committee of the Diplomatic Conference approved the necessary modalities of the Diplomatic Conference, including the draft rules of procedure, administrative provisions and final clauses for the instrument, the dates (May 13 to 24, 2024) and the venue (Geneva, WIPO Headquarters).

10. WIPO GREEN programs continued to contribute towards targets 2.4 and 2.a. Launched at the twenty-eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in the United Arab Emirates, the second edition of the [Green Technology Book](#) presents technology trends and practical solutions to combat greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from cities, agriculture and land use, and the high-emitting steel and cement sectors. This edition focuses on solutions for climate change mitigation, and complements the 2022 publication on climate change adaptation. Over 600 climate mitigation and adaptation technologies have already been identified for the Green Technology Book collection in the [WIPO GREEN Database of Innovative Technologies and](#)

³ The forty-third session of the IGC requested the Secretariat to organize three virtual activities.

⁴ In July 2022, WIPO Member States decided to convene, no later than in 2024, a diplomatic conference to conclude an *International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources*.

[Needs](#). The Green Technology Book was created in cooperation with the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) and the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASTR).

11. Human-created CO₂ emissions come from two main sources, namely fossil fuels and land use change and management. Although fossil fuel is the dominant source, land use (change) is estimated to account for 11% of the annual global CO₂ emissions. The chapter on [Agriculture and Land Use](#) presents solutions that respond to climate change impacts on food security, and focuses on a few major emission sectors where innovation and technology can play an important role in climate change mitigation. It looks at specific livestock technologies for range management and methane reduction, as well as meat and dairy alternatives. As flooded rice fields are major GHG emitters, the chapter also examines rice cultivation. It further addresses increasing soil carbon, land use change, forest management, and use of climate-smart agriculture, and presents technology solutions for improving cultivation methods, reducing harvest loss, and improving rice varieties. As climate change is exacerbating the vulnerability of farming and farmers in which they have to adapt to both slow onset and abrupt changes and because the right information at the right time can be vital, the chapter provides insights on precision farming and the types of digital tools and data available to farmers at a time where the sector is responding to new consumer trends and changing climate conditions.

12. The WIPO GREEN Database of Innovative Technologies and Needs provided a free, solution-oriented, global innovation catalogue that has connected sustainable solutions to needs related to environmental or climate change problems. Since its 2013 launch, the platform has counted over 2,500 registered database users, and facilitated more than 1,000 connections among network members. The database also contained a section on [Farming and Forestry with 13,164 entries](#).

13. In 2023, WIPO GREEN continued its [Acceleration Project in Latin America](#), aimed to uncover sustainable technology solutions related to climate smart agriculture, and to further connections between technology seekers and providers. The project has centered around the key question of how to ensure food security, in the face of challenges posed by climate change and an ever-growing population. As this may require a radical transformation of the industry, with systemic investments in entrepreneurship, innovation, and digital and life science technology, the project helped to reduce the information gap between technology providers and organizations with environmental challenges, by researching and showcasing new technologies in these areas. Project partners included the national IP Offices and other government entities in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Peru. The third phase ended in 2023, and the fourth phase will be implemented in 2024 with an increased focus on matchmaking. As of the end of 2023, 250 technology solutions and 136 needs were uploaded to the [LAC Climate Smart Agriculture Collection](#) in the WIPO GREEN Database. As a result, 21 matches and 15 connections have been established.

14. As part of the [Acceleration Project in Argentina](#), the catalogue contained a selection of identified needs and technologies for sustainable farming practices, as well as detailed information on a variety of innovative green technologies to address environmental challenges, such as advanced crop monitoring, integrated pest management and crop rotation management. In 2023, WIPO GREEN started implementation of an Acceleration Project in Uruguay, which focused on climate smart technology options for livestock. This project has established seven connections between technology providers and need owners.

15. These WIPO GREEN initiatives also contributed to targets 13.1 and 13.3.

16. In the area of **Cooperation for Development**, the third International Conference on IP and Development, themed "[IP and Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture](#)", was held in a

hybrid format on April 24, 2023. This Conference brought together more than 600 representatives of IGOs, NGOs, academia and the private sector to exchange about the importance of IP, innovation and technology for sustainable agriculture, and the need for awareness raising and capacity building of farmers and other stakeholders in the agricultural value chain on IP tools for technology development. It highlighted the role of IP in providing incentives for innovations in agriculture to address its global challenges. The discussion held contributed to target 2.4.

17. In terms of project implementation, two projects aimed to support agricultural producers in using the IP system to add value to their products and to enter new markets through branding and marketing strategies. In Oman, 58 entrepreneurial Frankincense harvesters were trained on branding, commercialization, marketing and trade expansion. As a follow up, over 30 trainees will be invited to individualized mentoring sessions. In Georgia, 20 cheese producers were supported in adding value to the registered geographical indication for Guda cheese. By supporting the enhancement of agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, these projects contributed to target 2.3. The projects also contributed to target 8.3. by encouraging job creation and employment opportunities and target 9.b by adding value to commodities.

18. Another project on GIs, training and coaching, aimed to strengthen the legislative and institutional framework for the protection of GI and related IP rights, and to increase the competitiveness of local producers of quality agricultural products linked to origin through strategic use of GIs and related IP rights. The development of strategies for the registration, commercialization and branding of the agricultural products linked to origin would enable these products to be better promoted in the markets. The project's beneficiary countries were Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates. This project contributed to targets 2.4 and 2.a.

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

19. In the area of **Brands and Designs**, WIPO continued cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) on International Nonproprietary Names for Pharmaceutical Substances (INNs). Following the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2018, enabling the exchange of information contained in the WHO INN Global Data Hub and the WIPO Global Brand Database (GBD), the two organizations cooperated to provide Member States with up-to-date information on newly proposed and recommended INN names, thereby contributing to target 3.3. The replacement of previous paper circulars and hard carriers (CD-ROMs) for electronic communications further contributed to SDG 13.

20. In such a way, Trademark examiners in Member States were enabled to search the GBD for INN names in an accessible format, and use different filters that facilitate the textual comparison between INNs and verbal marks. This new tool allowed them 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. Meanwhile, 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 17 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. 128 Addendum (COVID-19 Special Edition) and 129 Addendum 1 (COVID-19 Special Edition), in January and August 2023.

21. In the area of **Patents and Technology**, the platform PAT-INFORMED provided a search engine and open-access database to facilitate easy access for procurement agencies and the public about the patent status of medicines. Launched in 2018, it is an initiative of WIPO, the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations, and 21 leading, research-based biopharmaceutical companies. At the end of 2023, the database contained 25 INN sets, 735 patent families, and 20,786 patents. This initiative contributed to target 3.d.

22. In the area of **Global Challenges and Partnerships**, several global health activities contributed to targets 3.3, 3.b, 3.4, and 3.8, some of which are highlighted below.

23. The *WIPO Global Health Innovation Fellowship* was launched in October 2023, an initiative with the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) and the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay). The DBT Biodesign Program aims to provide training to aspiring medical technology innovators to identify unmet health-related needs, invent health technologies to address these needs, and prepare the innovators to implement the technologies into patient care through start-ups, corporations, or other channels. Four MedTech fellows from Africa will be sponsored by WIPO to participate as part of the first cohort in 2024. This Fellowship also contributed to targets 17.6 and 17.7.

24. In partnership with the Stanford Biodesign Innovation Fellowship, the *WIPO Global Challenges Innovation Access Fellowship* was also established in 2023, aiming to provide the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience in IP-related access-to-medicines and technologies issues. The Fellow has been leading a joint study with the UN Technology Bank and Medtronic on the IP and innovation ecosystem required to support medical technology development and access in least developed countries (LDCs). This Fellowship equally contributed to targets 17.6 and 17.7.

25. Three sessions of the *Conversations on IP and Health for Health Attachés*, were held in 2023, covering the topics: (i) Practical Experiences in Using Compulsory Licenses to Expand Access to Medicines; (ii) Public Funding of Knowledge and Technology Transfer, IP Licensing for the Local Production of Medicines and WIPO's Work on the Interrelationship between the IP System and Access and Benefit-sharing; (iii) Access and Equitable Benefit-sharing under the Nagoya Protocol, TRIPS Flexibilities to Address Access to Medical Technologies and Use of Voluntary Licensing during Pandemics; (iv) International and National Examples of Access to Public-funded Research and Development (R&D).

26. Additionally, a *Dialogue on IP and Health for international organizations* was hosted to provide a forum for Geneva-based international organizations working in the intersection of IP and health to share experiences and challenges, and to strengthen WIPO's support to innovation access initiatives. The discussion focused on Socially Responsible Licensing (SRL) in publicly funded institutions and IP rights considerations in policymaking.

27. WIPO commissioned the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) to produce a value study on the business case around the value of voluntary licensing for pharma companies to expand access to medical technologies in low- and middle-income countries. Moreover, an internal study on the fundamental differences between drugs, medical devices and diagnostics and the unique impact of IP was commissioned, aimed to promote awareness about the differences between the medical technologies. A WIPO publication on [IP and Technology Transfer for COVID-19 Vaccines](#) was published in November 2023, which analyzed the approaches to IP and technology transfer in the development, production and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines,

adopted by ten global vaccine manufacturers. In 2023, WIPO continued the Mission Imagination series of conversations with leading global health experts who are working to improve public health and innovation systems. [The third episode featured Mr. Patrick Tippoo](#), Chief Science and Innovation Officer at South Africa-based Biovac, and Executive Director and founding member of the African Vaccine Manufacturing Initiative (AVMI), who shared insights on what it takes to build sustainable vaccine manufacturing ecosystems.

28. In the area of **Traditional Knowledge**, the WIPO Training, Mentoring and Match-Making Program on IP and Traditional Medical Knowledge (TMK Program) was launched in September 2023, in 12 African countries with a comprehensive practical workshop on IP and traditional medical knowledge (TMK). Traditional medicine practitioners and local communities from these 12 African countries were trained on using IP tools to protect traditional medical knowledge-based innovation and products. The TMK Program supports the R&D of medicines that primarily affect developing countries and LDCs, and substantially increases the development and training of the health workforce in these countries. By building the capacity of traditional healers, research institutions and other stakeholders, the TMK Program has contributed to economic growth and reduced inequalities, thus contributing to targets 3.b, 3.c, 8.3, and 10.2.

29. The WIPO **Arbitration and Mediation Center** continued to provide dispute resolution advice and case administration services to facilitate contract negotiations and to help parties resolve disputes in the area of life sciences, hence contributing to target 3.3. As part of WIPO's COVID-19 related services and support, in 2023, the Center conducted a series of tailored ADR events for life sciences stakeholders, including in Africa and Asia.

30. In the area of **Cooperation for Development**, WIPO worked with [Khanh Thien Pharmaceuticals](#), a small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) in Viet Nam producing herbal-based medical products, which aim to improve public health and address various health issues, from headaches to respiratory problems. WIPO's assistance in the development of a branding strategy for market expansion contributed to targets 3.8 and 8.1. It is also notable that as decided by the CDIP, the sub-topic for the International Conference on IP and Development, to be organized in 2025, should be "The role of IP and innovation in addressing global public health challenges: fostering technological transfer and collaboration".

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

31. The **WIPO Academy** led WIPO's contribution to targets 4.3 and 4.5 through the provision of inclusive access to IP education. In the past five years (2019-2023), the WIPO Academy ensured gender parity amongst participants, with women participation constituting 50.6%. A total of 310,019 women received IP training in 17 languages. Scholarships for the Joint Master's Degree Programs and Distance Learning (DL) courses were awarded proportionally by gender, region and language. On International Women's Day (March 8, 2023), the WIPO Academy offered 50 scholarships to women from developing countries, LDCs and countries in transition for participating in the advanced DL courses.

32. In 2023, 230 students graduated from eight joint Master's Degree Programs, of which 53% were women and 47% men. A similar gender parity ratio was achieved in the IP Training Institutions (IPTIs) programs, in which the participation rate was 52% women and 48% men. In addition, partner IPTIs have historically reported the participation of 53% women and 47% men in their trainings. The IPTIs program also implemented four capacity building projects specifically targeting women: i) Capacity Building Program for Women Entrepreneurs and Innovators in the Dominican Republic; ii) IP for Egyptian Women Researchers; iii) IP as a

leveraging tool for Salvadoran women; and iv) IP Capacity-Building Project for Ukrainian Women in the Visual Arts.

33. Several university partnerships activities were organized, contributing to target 4.3:

- The nineteenth WIPO-WTO Colloquium for Teachers of IP took place from November 13 to 24, 2023 benefitting 27 IP teachers.
- The Second IP and Innovation for Latin America (IPILA) Conference was organized in hybrid mode from October 26 to 27, 2023, and attended by 100 participants.
- The fifth IP and Innovation Researchers of Asia (IPIRA) Conference took place from March 1 to 3, 2023 in Singapore, and was attended by 249 participants.

34. Other university partnerships activities included: a WIPO Seminar at the University of Indonesia and Universitas Padjadjaran for 1226 students; a WIPO Seminar Hamad Bin Khalifa University for 36 students; A WIPO- European Law Students Association (ELSA) United Kingdom Webinar Series with 93 participants across six sessions; a regional workshop on artificial intelligence (AI) and New Technology Trends in Business for 79 participants in Zimbabwe; an online IP intensive training program organized with the European Union IP Office for 500 participants; and various lectures on IP in the LLM program of the University of Alicante and the University of the West Indies.

35. The WIPO Academy continued to develop new Joint Master's Degree programs in various regions to promote quality education everywhere, contributing to target 4.7. The most recent Joint Master's Degree programs specialize in particular areas, such as: the LL.M. in IP and Technology Law at IE Spain University; the Master in IP and Innovation Management at Singapore University (SUSS); the Master in IP, Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Umm Al-Qura University; the Master in IP and Innovation at Université Mohamed VI Polytechnique (UM6P) de Ben Guerir; the LL.M. in IP and Management at National Law University of Delhi (NLUD); the Master in IP and Technology Transfer at Sofia University; the Master in Business Management of IP University of Nizwa; and the Master in IP and Innovation Policy at Tsinghua University.

36. Also contributing to target 4.7, the DL courses offered globally accessible and affordable IP training to users, administrators and other stakeholders of the IP ecosystem, including government and IP offices, tech-transfer offices, Collective Management Organizations (CMOs), diplomats, judges, lawyers, IP practitioners, and teachers. These courses aimed to instill a culture of innovation and creativity and emphasize the role of IP as a vehicle for sustainable development.

37. In 2023, the WIPO Academy continued to offer accessible versions of the General Course on IP (DL-101) in all six UN languages and in Portuguese, along with three additional courses developed with the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC), on Accessible Book Production and Publishing Concepts. These courses have been designed to bring greater opportunities for IP training and education to those with disability, and in line with the Marrakesh Treaty.

38. Contributing to target 4.5, the Accessible Training Portal hosted 15 online and hybrid courses in English, Arabic, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Russian. The Portal is a milestone towards ensuring equal access to all levels of education for learners with visual impairment or print-disability. 253 participants used the Portal in 2023 to follow an IP course.

39. The WIPO Academy further provided competency-based certification programs for specialized users and stakeholders of the global IP system to undertake practical upskilling and

career progression training: i) International Patent Drafting Training Program (for patent professionals); ii) TISC Staff Certification Program (for tech-transfer offices, universities, research centers); iii) Advanced International Certificate Course on IP Asset Management (for IP managers); and iv) WIPO Connect Training (for CMO staff). These programs contributed to target 4.4.

40. In 2023, the WIPO Academy also supported IPTIs in the design and implementation of 29 joint projects 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 is another contribution towards the achievement of target 4.4.

41. In support of target 4.c, the WIPO Academy assisted developing countries and LDCs in creating their own self-sustaining national and regional IPTIs that could respond to local training demands aligned with the national development goals. In 2023, five new IPTIs were established, one in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Ethiopia, and Ukraine, and two in Türkiye. More than 650 IP experts from 30 countries were trained in teaching and substantive technical skills to perform as trainers of these IPTIs.

42. Other activities contributing towards the achievement of target 4.c were:

- The DL Program, in collaboration with the National IP Academy of Egypt, conducted a Training of Trainers program on “Tutoring and Administering the WIPO Academy Distance Learning Courses,” for 15 experts from the National IP Office of Oman in October 2023.
- The WIPO Academy, in collaboration with the Romanian Copyright Office (ORDA) and the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks (OSIM) organized a national Seminar on “IP for Teachers”, in October-November 2023, for 59 secondary school teachers (17 male and 42 female) from all over Romania. The Seminar focused on IP teaching methodologies, integrating IP education in school curricula, and developing customized teaching plans.
- In partnership with the Korean IP Office (KIPO) and the General Directorate IP Office (GDIP) of Albania, the WIPO Academy organized a national Seminar on “IP Impact Certificate” in November 2023, in Albania. The Seminar aimed to strengthen the capacity of 35 primary and secondary school teachers from all over Albania, to integrate IP education in school curricula using creative and problem-solving approaches.

43. In 2023, a total of 108,292 participants from all 193 WIPO Member States benefitted from 580 hybrid and online courses offered by the WIPO Academy in up to 20 languages. 74,800 or 69% of these participants were aged 16 to 34. Another 9,703 participants benefitted from 20 courses translated and/or customized for their respective national IP systems.

44. In the area of **Brands and Designs**, WIPO organized and participated 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 GIs, thus enhancing the human resource capacities to deal with the broad range of requirements for the effective use of IP. These activities contributed to targets 4.4 and 4.7 as well as targets 5.5; 9.4; 9.a; and 10.a.

45. Phase II of the Development Agenda project on “*IP, Tourism and Gastronomy: Promoting the Development of Tourism and Gastronomy through IP*” in Cameroon, Malaysia, Morocco and Peru continued to promote the knowledge and use of IP related to culinary traditions (food and

beverages) for use in the tourism sector. The project contributed to targets 4.4 and 4.7, as well as targets 8.9; 9.4; 9.a; 10.a; 16.3; and 16.6.

46. Other projects, such as the WIPO – Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Pilot Project on the development of a mobile design application in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, the Collective Marks Project in Antigua and Barbuda, and the ASEAN Formalities Harmonization projects also contributed to SDGs 4, 8 and 9.

47. Under the Resolution Supplementary to the [Singapore Treaty](#) on the Law of Trademarks, WIPO shares, on a multilateral basis, information and experience on legal, technical and institutional aspects related to the implementation of the Singapore Treaty and how to take full advantage of the opportunities and benefits resulting therefrom. In 2023, WIPO provided such assistance to Albania, Angola, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe, which contributed to SDGs 4 and 16.

48. In the area of **Traditional Knowledge**, WIPO offered two DL courses, one on IP, TK and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs) and the other on IP in the Life Sciences. These courses contributed to targets 4.4 and 4.7. Under the theme “How We Wear Our Culture Is How We Tell Our Stories”, the 2023 WIPO *Photography Prize for Indigenous Peoples and Local Community Youth* (Photography Prize) encouraged young members of Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities to submit photographs with important messages about their communities' clothing. The Photography Prize also raised their awareness on how copyright can be used to protect their creativity expressed in photographs, as well as how the protection of TCEs relates to IP rights. The activity contributed to targets 4.4 and 10.2, by empowering youths in gaining relevant IP knowledge and promoting their inclusion.

49. The WIPO **Arbitration and Mediation Center** also offered a DL course on WIPO Arbitration and Mediation. The Center provided Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) training to women in IP and technology, and in the context of the 2023 World IP Day, the Center conducted a campaign on how women are making a difference in IP dispute resolution. The Center further supported the Equal Representation in Arbitration Pledge. 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 under 40 years with a background in IP and ADR. As of the end of 2023, the WIPO ADR Young group had over 1,300 members from more than 100 countries. These activities contributed to targets 4.4 and 4.5.

50. In the area of **Building Respect for IP**, WIPO provided educational tools and activities for young people, to empower them to understand, respect and harness the power of IP for the benefit of themselves and their communities. For example, the launch of a multilingual online game called IP Challenge, allowed children to develop knowledge of IP and how it can be used by young people to protect and commercialize their creations. Other noteworthy examples include the expansion of the IP and Citizen Journalism project and the WIPO – African Regional IP Organization (ARIPO) IP Club project, which integrates IP education into practical skills training for young students, providing them with tools to produce their own projects and to serve as IP Ambassadors in their communities. These efforts contributed to targets 4.4 and 8.6.

51. In the field of **Copyright and Creative Industries**, WIPO provided legislative assistance to help Member States to take full advantage of the flexibilities in the copyright system, such as the limitations and exceptions related to education and research. In 2023, WIPO implemented 17 copyright and collective management legislative assistance projects, which contributed to target 4.5. Additionally, the Preservation Toolkit was developed to support cultural heritage institutions, such as libraries, museums and archives, in their activities to safeguard the world's cultural heritage through digital preservation and to protect the material against natural

disasters. Law- and policy makers in Member States could use the tool to consider all relevant issues related to preservation copying, and to draft more coherent and authoritative legislation. By supporting the preservation of material that can be used for education and research, the toolkit contributes to target 4.7.

52. The 2023 World IP Day campaign was themed “Women and IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity”, which aimed to raise global awareness of the role of women in accelerating innovation and creativity through IP. The World IP Day webpage was visited by users from 209 countries. A combined impressions across all digital platforms totaled nearly 40 million (39,897,386), with 27,413,428 impressions on X (formerly Twitter), Meta and LinkedIn, 11,432,478 impressions on Google and 1,051,480 impressions on Baidu. The World IP Day Gallery featured 203 profiles of women inventors, entrepreneurs, creators and IP professionals from 62 countries. For the World IP Day video competition, 183 video entries from 73 countries were received, with 17,510,703 impressions on Google, Baidu and Meta combined. Through the international dissemination of case studies and videos that inspire the acquisition of knowledge on IP, and how it can contribute to economic development, the World IP Day contributed to targets 4.7 and 5.a.

53. The Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) continued to offer a practical implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty for the benefit of people who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. The ABC implements Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) projects in developing countries and LDCs on a two-year cycle. These TTA projects aim to improve access to education for youths who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled by transferring knowledge to regional organizations to enable them to independently produce educational titles that are part of the national school curriculum in accessible formats. As of the end of 2023, 19,000 accessible format copies of educational titles in national languages in 38 countries. Further, TTA partners are contractually obligated to provide training to both women and men at a proportion of 50% each. ABC’s TTA projects contribute to targets 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 and 4.7.

54. The **WIPO Pulse** is the first-ever global IP perception survey that generated strategic insights into the awareness and attitudes of people around the world toward IP rights (patents, trademarks, designs, copyright, and geographical indications), personal touchpoints with innovation and brands, and the impact of IP rights on the economy. A total of 25,000 interviews were conducted across 50 countries covering over 80% of the world’s Gross domestic product (GDP). The general target group was individuals aged 18 to 65 years. The survey results could guide the development of IP education programs to equip individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills for engaging effectively with IP. The full report was published on September 14, 2023 on the [WIPO website](#), and contributed to targets 4.4, 8.2, and 9.5.

55. In the area of **Cooperation for Development**, WIPO continued the implementation of the Pilot Project to Support Young Designers in Leveraging IP, which aimed to enhance the skills and knowledge of young designers on the protection and management of IP. WIPO partnered with higher education Design Schools in Brazil and Chile, and identified a group of students (the “pilot group”) to develop “packaging” solutions that addressed functional challenges, aesthetics needs and images for selected GIs, certification marks and collective marks, which would help improve the commercialization of the products. The students visited the communities to see the production processes. In Brazil, a group of 25 students worked with: i) Saffron from Mara Rosa; ii) Guaraná; iii) Arabica Coffee from Matas de Minas; iv) Socol from Venda Nova; and v) Renda de Agulha em Lacê. In Chile, a group of 100 students worked with: i) Alhué Honey; ii) Punucapa Sider; iii) Curacaví Candies; iv) La Lingua Candies; v) Prosciutto from Almirante Pastene; vi) Lemon from Pica; and vii) Olives from Azapa. WIPO organized a seminar in Chile and in Brazil to exchange experience between the beneficiaries from the two countries, and to explore business opportunities between the students and producers. As part of a sustainability strategy, the Brazilian Support Service for the Micro and Small Enterprises (SEBRAE) decided

to provide funding for the packaging solution prototypes designed by the students. This project contributes to target 4.4, as well as targets 9.b and 17.9.

56. In March 2023, the WIPO-Brazil Summer School on IP and the Climate: Special Edition for Lusophone Countries was organized, which aimed to develop the skills of 100 Portuguese-speaking professionals in the strategic management of IP-related aspects to climate. The program contained seven modules: i) Climate and Policy; ii) Eco-innovation; iii) Green Patents; iv) Business and Climate; v) Brands, Designs and GIs; vi) Traditional Knowledge and Plant Varieties; and vii) Multi-Disciplinary Aspects of IP and Climate. Participants included lawyers, academics, researchers, business representatives, and government officials from seven countries. This activity contributed to SDGs 4, 7, 12, and 13. WIPO further offered the 2023 edition of the Course on IP for Media Professionals: IP, Inclusion and Diversity, which aimed to build the knowledge of media professionals on the intersection between IP and inclusion and diversity. This Course contributed to SDGs 4 and 10.

57. As part of the umbrella project on “Bridging the Gaps in the IP Ecosystem”, a Conference on “Diff-ability and IP From Bullying to Building: Hand Solo’s Innovation Journey towards Inclusion and Empowerment” was held in December 2023, which aimed to reduce inequalities by promoting inclusivity and understanding of diff-ability. The Conference provided a transformative educational experience for young students in Geneva, showcasing hands-on prosthetics construction with LEGO bricks and promoting inclusivity and understanding of diff-ability. A segment of the Conference took place at the Palais des Nations in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, highlighting the mutual commitment to joint initiatives and laying the groundwork for collaborative efforts. This Conference contributed to target 4.4, as well as targets 8.5, 9.3, 10.2, and 17.16. A webinar on “IP and Traditional Producers” was also organized, which addressed issues related to the preservation and promotion of traditional craftsmanship, responsible consumption and production practices, and the use of modern technology. The Webinar aimed to ensure access to education, knowledge sharing, technology, and skills in the field of IP for traditional producers, and contributed to targets 4.4 and 4.7, as well as targets 5.b, 8.3, and 10.2.

58. A Project on the *Elaboration of Guidelines for the Examination of Trademark Applications* in Bahrain was implemented, which aimed to develop Guidelines that would serve as essential reference materials for trademark examiners, help standardize administrative decisions, and reduce the possibility of mistakes based on the texts of the relevant national and regional Trademark Laws. The Guidelines have proven to be beneficial for the trademark examiners to assess efficiently and accurately trademark applications, leading to quicker and more consistent decisions. The implementation of the Project was completed in 2023, and contributed to targets 4.4 and 4.7, as well as targets 9.4, 9.a and 10.a.

59. Another project on the Development of IP and Branding Strategy for Selected SMEs was implemented in The Gambia, which aimed to educate female-owned SMEs on how to leverage IP tools effectively for strengthening their competitiveness in the local, regional and global markets and to promote the use of IP Tools and Marketing strategies for product protection and commercialization. This project contributed to targets 4.4 and 4.7, as well as targets 5.5, 5.b, 8.6, 9.3, 9.b, and 10.2. Meanwhile, the Project on GIs for Kente Cloth from Ghana aimed to assist weavers in the registration of a GI for Kente Cloth and in the development of a branding and marketing strategy. Local producers would be equipped to safeguard their livelihood, prevent infringement, and obtain better recognition for the quality of their Kente in the global market. This project contributed to targets 4.4 and 4.7, as well as targets 8.6, 9.3, 9.b, and 10.2.

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

60. WIPO's work on **IP and Gender** reached a major milestone in 2023 with the launch of the first WIPO [IP and Gender Action Plan](#) (IPGAP), representing the Organization's contribution to global initiatives aimed to achieve economic equality and women empowerment. In alignment with WIPO's 2022-2026 [Medium-Term Strategic Plan](#) (MTSP), the IPGAP envisions a world where innovation and creativity by women anywhere are supported by IP for the good of everyone. Contributing to the implementation of the development agenda, the IPGAP initiatives include: i) government support for integrating a gender perspective into P legislation, policies, programs, and projects; ii) research to identify and close the gender gap in IP; and iii) implementation of new gender-oriented projects to effectively educate and bolster the IP skills of women and supporting institutions. In 2023, an internal IP and Gender Working Group was launched to promote effective internal and external strategic collaboration on all IP and gender initiatives and partnerships focusing on the economic empowerment of women and other underrepresented communities. Such collaborative partnerships were launched or being developed with the International Trade Centre (ITC), the World Trade Organization (WTO)'s Gender Research Hub and other economic-/science-oriented organizations. WIPO's work in this area contributed to targets 5.5, 5.a, 5.b and 5.c.

61. Through an extensive consultation process, WIPO's work on gender mainstreaming resulted in a new [Policy](#) on Gender Equality, which succeeds the 2014 Policy, and supports the implementation of the [IP and Gender Action Plan](#) (IPGAP 2022-2026). The new Policy, to be launched in January 2024, aims to mainstream gender equality considerations across all areas of work, and to foster an inclusive organizational culture and the equal representation of women at all grades and levels. These objectives will be achieved through knowledge building and sharing on gender equality, women empowerment, a gender-balanced workforce, and an enabling work environment supported by inclusive, gender-responsive policies. These targeted and mainstreamed actions enable WIPO to build inclusive structures, processes and initiatives, and address gender gaps in access to rights and opportunities.

62. Designed to encourage women's participation in the international IP system, WIPO's 2023 initiatives contributed to the achievement of various SDG 5 targets:

- WIPO generated statistics and research on the participation of women in the patent system. In 2023, WIPO published the report entitled "The [Gender Gap in Global Patenting](#): An International Comparison over Two Decades". This work contributed to target 5.5.
- Neutral language was used when providing, upon request, legislative advice to prospective and current Members of the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks. Contributing to target 5.5, such legislative assistance included advice on compatibility, drafting implementing provisions or explaining the context and application of this international standard. The use of neutral language contributed to WIPO's endeavor to eliminate the long-standing gender bias in legal texts.
- The most recent episode of WIPO's Mission Imagination series focused on FemTech, featuring Ms. Kemisola Bolarinwa, inventor of the "Smart Bra" capable of detecting early-stage breast cancer, and Ms. Josefa Cortés, founder of Palpa, a company working to spread awareness among women on how to spot and feel anomalies through a breast-shaped shower sponge. This conversation contributed to target 5.6.
- The WIPO Academy developed a "Pocket Guide for Women Innovators", tailored to meet the unique needs of women innovators and scientists in the Life Sciences sector. Contributing to targets 5.5 and 5.b, the WIPO Academy further organized the training

“Bringing the Gender Gap for women digital entrepreneurs”, benefitting 25 women advocates and community leaders from seven regions. Two [roundtables](#) on Women and IP education were also organized for partner IPTIs to share best practices in delivering training initiatives, contributing to target 5.1.

- The WIPO *Training, Mentoring and Matchmaking Program on IP for Women Entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities* (the [WEP](#)) provided training and mentoring to women entrepreneurs from indigenous peoples and local communities on the strategic and effective use of IP tools for their businesses. The training phase of the 2023-2024 WEP took place from September 18 to 22, 2023 in Geneva, while the mentoring and matchmaking phase of the 2022-2023 WEP (for the Andean region) continued throughout 2023. A practical workshop to launch the WEP for the Central European and Baltic States (CEBS WEP) was held from March 6 to 10, 2023, which aimed to support 21 women entrepreneurs from local communities in 15 CEBS countries, working on textile-based traditional production and designs. The WEP is implemented in cooperation with the International Trademark Association (INTA), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Trade Centre (ITC), contributing to target 5.5, as well as targets 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, and 8.3.
- 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*”. On October 12, 2023, the sharing session on [Women in the Creative Industries](#) took place, contributing to target 5.5. Panelists included women experts from Hungary, Kenya, Pakistan and Saint Kitts and Nevis, and highlighted the role of IP in fostering economic growth and women’s participation in the creative industries. This series of sharing sessions will continue with other topics to bridge the gender gap in IP.
- A series of projects on IP and Women Entrepreneurship aimed to promote inclusive IP and entrepreneurship by supporting women entrepreneurs to leverage the IP system for business growth and value addition. These tailor-made and demand driven projects included broader business considerations, such as connections to markets, financing and development of branding and marketing strategies. Using a training and mentorship approach, the projects focused on narrowing the gender innovation gap by ensuring the practical application of the IP system through, for example, trademark applications. As a result, 18 trademark applications and two design applications have been submitted in Pakistan. In Brazil, the project supports Quilombo afro descendent women to catalyse value from their products. The project is further implemented in Bangladesh, Egypt, Jordan, Namibia and Pakistan, and initiated in four Caribbean countries, namely Belize, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, and the Grenadines. The project contributed to targets 5.1, 5.5, and 5.a, as well as targets 8.3, 8.5, 9.3, and 9.b.
- A Regional [Conference](#) on IP for African Women in Agribusiness was held from May 15 to 17, 2023, in Kigali, Rwanda. The Conference served as a platform for awareness raising and knowledge exchange on IP among 120 women entrepreneurs in agribusiness. As a direct follow up, 30 women entrepreneurs from 25 African countries were selected to participate in a six-month tailor-made coaching and mentoring program, taking place from October 16, 2023 to April 15, 2024. The program aims to equip these women entrepreneurs with knowledge on the utilization of the IP system for business competitiveness. This program contributed to targets 5.5 and 5.b, as well as targets 4.4, 8.3, 9.2, 9.b, and 10.2.
- A virtual Regional Arab Meeting on “IP and Women” was held from June 6 to 7, 2023, which aimed to raise awareness about the role of IP in advancing women's

entrepreneurship, provide practical tools for women entrepreneurs in the Arab region, and foster networking and knowledge-sharing among these women entrepreneurs. This Meeting contributed to target 5.5.

- The International Conference on “Women in Tradition, Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship” took place from October 19 to 20, 2023 in Tirana, Albania, to facilitate discussion on the role of women in IP, innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship, by looking at the challenges, recent developments and trends. The Conference also addressed new initiatives on IP education and geographical indications in Albania, contributing to target 5.5.
- Another International Conference on “Women in Innovation and Business: Inspiring, Involving, Investing” was held virtually on November 22, 2023, which explored the multifaceted role of women in IP, innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship, with a particular focus on the challenges faced and opportunities available. This Conference was organized, in cooperation with the Library of the State Agency on IP of the Republic of Moldova (AGEPI), and contributed to target 5.5.
- Under the Women Innovators and Entrepreneurs Project, a country-specific program was developed in Viet Nam, Sri Lanka and Indonesia to address the challenges faced by local women inventors and entrepreneurs in accessing IP education and services. The programs therefore aimed to empower them with the necessary knowledge and skills in IP, and to create an informal network comprising women innovators and entrepreneurs, women businesses, support groups, national institutions and innovation agencies. A total of 40 clinics were conducted in the periods of October to December 2022 and March to September 2023. The project was implemented in cooperation with the ITC.
- In Bangladesh, WIPO assisted women-led, small-scale producers in the development and design of a collective mark for their “[Rangpur Shataranji](#)” carpets. The FIT Korea funded Project has been implemented in cooperation with the Korean Invention Promotions Association for the benefit of 100,000 weavers, and contributed to target 5.5.
- In Cambodia, WIPO assisted a locally-made toy company, [Cambodia Knits](#), to foster a growth and development strategy for its business based on IP. Through skill building and education, marginalized women in Cambodia became empowered to earn a living. With WIPO’s guidance, Cambodia Knits has leveraged IP to strategically position itself in the market and drive product innovation using eco-friendly material and sustainable production. This success story also contributed to targets 5.5 and 8.1.
- The Regional Program on IP, Innovation and Gender Equality aimed to create a link between gender-oriented public policies and the IP ecosystem i) to encourage gender equality and women empowerment by promoting their innovative potential; and ii) to implement gender sensitive managerial practices in the national IP Offices within the Latin American region. A Regional Meeting was held from April 19 to 23, 2023, in San Jose, Costa Rica to present the developments and future actions of the Regional Program. The Regional Meeting attracted the participation of Heads of 13 national IP Offices, high-level representatives of the Costa Rican Government, and representatives of the academic and institutional sectors and other international organizations.
- The Project on IP for Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Careers aimed to train and mentor women entrepreneurs in STEM careers on integrating IP management and commercialization in their business development and innovation plan. 83 women from Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico and Peru benefited from this Project, and 40 women entrepreneurs

from Argentina, Costa Rica, Peru and Uruguay have been selected to participate in the third edition, which will start in 2024. By providing quality education to promote gender equality, this Project contributed to targets 5.1, 5.5, 5.b, as well as targets 9.5, 9.b, and 17.9.

- The Pilot Project on IP for Women Entrepreneurs: Creating Value through IP was implemented from September 2022 to April 2023, which aimed to empower 40 women entrepreneurs in Argentina, El Salvador, Panama, Paraguay with the necessary IP tools and skills for their business development, by raising their awareness of the important role of IP protection and its strategic use. In Jamaica, the Project benefited 29 women entrepreneurs, and resulted in a partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ), to provide access to finance to the women entrepreneurs.
- A Regional Forum on IP for Women in STEM and Entrepreneurs was held from December 11 to 13, 2023 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, which aimed to share experiences and create a community network of women in IP among the 25 women entrepreneurs who have reached the mentoring phase in the abovementioned projects for Latin America and the Caribbean region. The Forum also provided the space for participants to give feedback on the value and methodologies of the projects.
- In 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the IP Offices of Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru and WIPO, as an honorary member, for the creation of the Latin American Network of IP and Gender aimed to promote gender equality in IP. In 2023, the Network counted 13 members, with the inclusion of the IP Offices of Argentina, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay in 2022, and the subsequent addition of the IP Offices of Cuba, Panama, and Paraguay in 2023.
- The “Women and IP: International Dialogues” was organized in the context of International Women’s Day on March 8, 2023. Attracting 360 participants, this event aimed to create a forum for the exchange of experiences and promotion of best practices in initiatives dedicated to reducing gender inequality.
- In the context of the 2023 World IP Day themed “Women In IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity”, three activities were organized in Brazil to promote gender equality, including a roundtable of women in STEM careers, an all-day exhibition of technology and art created by female university students, and a community event to inspire girls to consider a STEM career. Furthermore, WIPO participated in an online (YouTube) Fireside Chat with women leaders in IP from Africa, Asia, Latin and North America. These activities contributed to target 5.5.

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

63. In the area of **Global Challenges and Partnerships**, the WIPO GREEN Database of Innovative Technologies and Needs had a [Water section](#) with 3,307 entries as of the end of 2023. The WIPO GREEN Acceleration Project on the Deployment of Green Technologies for Better Access to Water in Tajikistan started implementation in December 2023. The project focused on providing secure and affordable access to clean water for local communities in Tajikistan by facilitating tangible links between entities looking for green solutions and corresponding potential technology providers. These activities contributed to target 6.a.

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

64. In the area of **Global Challenges and Partnerships**, the WIPO GREEN Acceleration Project on Solutions for treating and valorizing [palm oil mill](#) effluent in Indonesia continued in 2023. With more than 600 palm oil mills, Indonesia is the largest producer of palm oil in the world. Palm oil mill effluent (POME) is one of the by-products of palm oil production, which is wastewater that emits large amounts of the highly potent greenhouse gas methane. This methane content, however, has a great potential for biogas production and other environmentally friendly uses. To showcase possible options for treating POME, environmental-friendly technologies in POME have been published in the WIPO GREEN catalogue. As part of the WIPO GREEN Acceleration Project on climate smart agriculture in [Brazil](#), the WIPO Green catalogue also contained a selection of needs and technologies identified in relation to renewable energy in agriculture. In addition, the WIPO GREEN Database of Innovative Technologies and Needs included a category dedicated to [Energy](#) with 56,647 entries. These activities contributed to targets 7.a and 7.b, as well as the SDG 12.

65. The WIPO **Arbitration and Mediation Center** provided dispute resolution advice and case administration services to help parties resolve disputes in the area of green technology and sustainability, thereby contributing to target 7.a.

66. WIPO's work to administer and manage its **Premises Infrastructure** promoted 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-19 pandemic full year of reference). In 2023, 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 attached 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.

67. In addition, since WIPO has compensated its unavoidable carbon emissions by converting them into the purchase of Certified Emission Reduction Credits (CERs⁵), *via* a UNFCCC mechanism, WIPO contributed 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 contributed to a lower carbon footprint in the Host

⁵ Certified Emission Reduction credits (CERs) issued for Clean Development Mechanism projects under the Kyoto Protocol meet the criteria established by the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (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.

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

68. In the area of **Brands and Designs**, WIPO provided balanced, demand-driven, country-specific policy and legislative advice in the fields of trademarks, industrial designs and GIs to Member States, in particular developing countries, LDCs, and countries in transition. In 2023, 18 pieces of policy and legislative advice were provided to eight countries from five different geographical regions. This contributes to target 8.9, as well as targets 9.4; 9.a; 10.a; 16.3; and 16.6.

69. WIPO also continues to provide services related to the Madrid, Hague and Lisbon systems.

70. The Madrid System facilitated and widened access to international trademark protection, which contributed to the goal of promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic 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.

71. 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% for brand owners from LDCs. The international registration has the effect of a domestic registration if protection of 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.

72. In 2023, the Madrid Registry undertook a number of activities to assist developing countries and LDCs, hence contributing to target 8.3. Such activities included the organization of seminars, training of IP Office examiners, and technical and legislative assistance to IP Offices in preparation for accession to the Madrid Protocol or its implementation. Beyond the IP Offices, webinars, videos and other communication tools were also developed to address the needs of a broad range of IP stakeholders, notably trademarks users and IP attorneys.

73. Some of these activities are highlighted below:

- ✓ Financing the participation of delegates from members of the Madrid Union, and other WIPO Member States considering accession to the Madrid System, in sessions of the Madrid Working Group to discuss various topics of interest for Madrid System users, and explore ways to improve and simplify the Madrid System.
- ✓ Virtual training workshops on the Madrid System for IP Office staff in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Qatar, The Gambia, and Zambia, which aimed to review the roles that need to be performed under the Madrid System by the IP Office as Office of origin and Office of a designated Contracting Party.
- ✓ Accession review missions to Belize and Mauritius – following their accession, pre/post-accession activities were organized to provide trademark officials and examiners from the national IP Office with detailed and specific training on the procedural and practical aspects of the Madrid System; to explain the role of the national IP Office in the Madrid System, both as Office of origin and Office of a designated Contracting Party; to review the national IP Office's practices and implementation of the Madrid System; to increase the understanding of the main features of the Madrid System among trademark law practitioners; and to ensure that the Madrid-specific workflows were rolled out in the IT system.
- ✓ Awareness raising seminars for industry and trademark agents on the Madrid System, to raise awareness and understanding of the Madrid System among the relevant stakeholders and present the main procedures of the System to trademark agents and right holders. In 2023, such seminar was held in Belize.
- ✓ Virtual training on specific issues was held for IP Office staff of Jamaica, Malaysia, Namibia and the United Arab Emirates.
- ✓ Bilateral meetings were also held with IP Office staff of Nigeria, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia on the Madrid System for their potential accession.
- ✓ Monthly Madrid webinars were organized offering practical information on topics related to filing and managing international registrations of marks.
- ✓ Madrid Fellowship Program provided examiners from national Offices of the Contracting Parties of the Madrid System with experience to strengthen their knowledge and professional competence. In 2023, up to 19 fellows were working under this Program.
- ✓ Online training workshop for national IP Offices on the procedures and operations of the Madrid System aimed to strengthen the capacity of the national IP Offices on the procedures for obtaining and maintaining holder's rights deriving from the international registration of marks. In 2023, one session was held with the national IP Office of Albania, Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Romania, Syrian Arab Republic and Viet Nam.
- ✓ Online training workshop for national IP Offices on XML data exchange was held to
 - i) raise awareness of the relevant WIPO standards, in particular ST.96;
 - ii) provide recommendations and guidelines for the processing, dissemination and exchange of Madrid data using XML system;
 - iii) standardize the structure of XML documents; and
 - iv) improve the quality of data sent by Member Offices.

- ✓ Translation of the Madrid Goods and Services Manager (MGSM) helped trademark applicants compile and classify their lists by providing access to an extensive collection of terms and descriptions. WIPO funded the translation of those terms into the language of the Member Office. In 2023, WIPO cooperated with the Offices of Armenia and Mongolia.
- ✓ Delivery of technical assistance to IP Offices with electronic communication in the Madrid System. This involved providing IP Offices access to the Madrid Office Portal (MOP) tool and helping them to receive and communicate notifications under the Madrid System, including the exchange of information on new multimedia representation of marks; and assistance during and after the accession process (Belize, Hong Kong, special administrative region of the People's Republic of China, Mauritius and Saudi Arabia). A Regional Workshop on Transitioning to Extensible Markup Language (XML) Data Exchange was held in December 2023, in Astana, Kazakhstan to promote electronic communications under the Madrid System.
- ✓ Rolling-out of Madrid e-filing to six new IP Offices (Croatia, Israel, Mongolia, San Marino, The Gambia and Trinidad and Tobago); and availability of the Madrid Application Assistant for an additional 77 IP Offices (including Germany, Mexico, the Philippines, and the United States of America). Consultations are ongoing with Hong Kong, special administrative region of the People's Republic of China and the United Kingdom to promote and advise on possible transition to Madrid eFiling tools.

74. The Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs facilitated and widened access to international design protection, which contributed to targets 8.2 and 8.3. Under the Hague System, a single international application may contain up to 100 industrial designs and have effect in as many as 96 countries covered by the 79 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 SMEs and larger companies alike, regardless of their sector of activity. Industrial designs are applied to a wide variety of products of industry and handicraft items: from packages and containers to furnishing and household goods, from lighting equipment to jewelry, and from electronic devices to textiles. Industrial designs may also be relevant to graphic symbols, Graphical User Interfaces (GUI) and logos.

75. 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, as well as the standard designation fees of designated Hague members, are reduced by 90% for design owners/creators from LDCs.

76. In 2023, the Hague Registry undertook a number of activities to assist developing countries and LDCs, hence contributing to targets 8.2 and 8.3. Such activities included the organization of seminars, training of IP Office staff, and technical and legislative assistance to IP Offices for accession to the Geneva Act (1999) of the Hague Agreement, or its implementation. Beyond the IP Offices, webinars, videos and other communication tools were also developed to address the needs of a broad range of IP stakeholders, notably the design community and IP attorneys.

77. Some of these activities are highlighted below:

- ✓ Public webinars organized in English, French and Spanish, for current and prospective Hague users.
- ✓ Delivery of lectures and presentations, as well as participation in trainings and meetings organized by different institutions, and addressed to different audiences, notably students and IP professionals.
- ✓ Trainings for IP Office staff, accession-related activities and legislative assistance.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Enhancement of the Hague System's customer-facing tools through the deployment of improved functionalities in the Hague System Member Profiles (HSMP) and eHague. Identification of priorities for the 2024/2025 IT roadmap.
- ✓ A series of marketing / business development tools: promotional videos on the Hague System for SMEs; a mini-video on the Benefits of the Hague System; a promotional strategy for the new eHague self-service features and multi-factor authentication; two Hague System Stories; two "Designs in action" stories; and a range of news articles.
- ✓ Information-dissemination material: launch of a series of "How to" video tutorials and other video tutorials on strong authentication; development of the Hague System Podcast Series; preparation for the launch of the specialized Distance Learning course on the Hague System (DL-304); updated User Guide, Guidance on multiple designs and Guidance on reproductions for Brazil's accession; and an update of the Hague Forms and legal information webpages on new accessions and changes in/for Contracting Parties.
- ✓ Improvements in the delivery and IT system efficiency of Hague Offices.

78. The Lisbon System for the international registration and protection of appellations of origin and GIs helped 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 GIs, the Lisbon System contributed 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.

79. The intrinsic characteristics of appellations of origin or GIs – in particular their qualitative link with a specific geographical location and their collective management – can be instrumental in achieving the SDGs. The collective quality and branding schemes linked to appellations of origin and GIs 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 GIs 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 IP 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](#)”, 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 Senegal, 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.

80. Under the Lisbon System, small-scale farmers, artisans and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) may collectively benefit from a simplified application process with WIPO and a reduced cost for protecting their appellations of origin and GIs in foreign markets, hence contributing to target 8.3. 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.

81. Following the accession of the Russian Federation, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Tunisia to the Geneva Act in 2023, registered appellations of origin and GIs under the Lisbon System may obtain protection in up to 70 countries. In addition, the effects of the registration will extend to potential future members joining the Lisbon System under the same conditions. The Lisbon System includes LDCs, developing and developed countries.

82. In the area of **Building Respect for IP**, WIPO initiated a new strategy on impact-driven capacity building activities, which aims to enhance human and institutional capacities and achieve more sustainable training results for law enforcement officials, such as police officers, customs officers, market inspectors, and prosecutors. The pilot phase is underway with the participation of three Member States. Moreover, the continued customization of the specialized training materials on “Investigating and Prosecuting IP Crime” for law enforcement officials, contributed to WIPO’s commitment in ensuring that capacity building resources meet the real and specific needs of Member States. In 2023, WIPO implemented or participated in over 30 [activities](#) at the national, sub-regional, and regional levels, benefiting 78 Member States. These capacity building activities contributed to target 8.3, as well as targets 16.3 and 16.6.

83. WIPO’s work in this area also supported target 8.3, and targets 9.6 and 9.b by contributing to the empirical information available to inform policy makers in establishing effective development-oriented policies to support creativity and innovation. A [WIPO Consumer Survey Toolkit on Respect for IP](#) was made available for use by public- and private-sector bodies to measure consumer attitudes towards pirate and counterfeit goods.

84. In the area of **Traditional Knowledge**, WIPO initiated the New Technologies and Indigenous Peoples’ Project to address the rapid advancement of new technologies, including AI, that often outpace regulatory and ethical frameworks. Gaps in regulatory and ethical frameworks can leave indigenous peoples and local communities at risk of potential inappropriate disclosure, misuse or misrepresentation of their knowledge systems, cultural appropriation, and the reinforcement of existing biases. Then again, new technologies can also enhance the rights and interests of indigenous peoples and local communities by facilitating the digitalization, documentation and preservation of Indigenous languages, TK and TCEs. This Project, aiming to empower indigenous peoples and local communities to use new technologies in innovative ways, contributed to targets 8.3 and 10.2.

85. The WIPO High-Level Dialogue on Indigenous Peoples, TCEs and Fashion (Fashion Dialogue) provided the opportunity for deepening dialogue and building trust between the fashion world and Indigenous Peoples, and explored forward-looking ways for collaboration

between fashion companies, Indigenous Peoples and ethnic groups. This activity supported economic growth, reduced inequalities, and helped to build partnerships, while contributing to targets 8.3, 10.2, 17.6, 17.9, and 17.17.

86. In the area of **Patents and Technology**, WIPO provided legislative assistance on patents, utility models, layout designs of integrated circuits, and trade secrets to Member States. This included commenting on drafts submitted for review, or developing new drafts (laws, implementing regulations, administrative instructions, and manuals). In 2023, WIPO provided legislative and policy advice to 19 developing countries, LDCs and countries in transition (two in Africa, five in Asia and the Pacific, six in Latin America and the Caribbean, three in the European/Eurasian region, and three in the Arab region). Such legislative assistance is tailored to the requesting Member States' own level of development, policy priorities, and international obligations and supports them to develop or amend their own legislative and policy frameworks. This activity contributed to target 8.3, as well as targets 9.a and 9.b.

87. The thirty-fifth session of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) took place from October 16 to 20, 2023 in a hybrid format. The SCP continued to serve as a forum for discussing issues, facilitating coordination and providing guidance on the progressive international development of patent law. The work of the SCP 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 work of the SCP contributed to target 8.3, as well as 9.b, 16.6 and 17.16.

88. WIPO also provided support to prospective and current Contracting Parties to the Paris Convention, the 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 and the International Depositary Authorities under the Budapest Treaty on the national implementation of the treaties.

89. In the area of **Infrastructure and Platforms**, the development and free access to the WIPO PATENTSCOPE promoted the technical transfer knowledge between the inventor applying for a patent and any technical interested party worldwide, reduced duplication of R&D and fostered open innovation. The development and free access to WIPO Translate integrated into PATENTSCOPE helped reduce the language barriers in the transfer knowledge of technical information contained in patent disclosures in 13 different languages. The PATENTSCOPE contributed to targets 8.2 and 9.c.

90. WIPO also provided assistance on digital transformation for IP Offices. This included WIPO's IP Office Suite with the WIPO Industrial Property Administration System (IPAS) as the main component. It supported the processing of patents, trademarks and industrial designs from filing through to the grant of rights and post-grant processes. In addition, WIPO file enabled IP Offices to offer full online services to applicants and agents, and WIPO publish enabled IP Offices to disseminate official publication information and related IP information online to users and to WIPO Global IP databases and platforms. These provided for efficient and reliable data exchange to interconnect IP Offices with the WIPO Global IP systems and data contributing to applicants, IP Offices and the public.

91. In the area of **Copyright and Creative Industries**, WIPO held a series of [webinars](#) on copyright infrastructure, to raise awareness on a range of topics relevant to copyright infrastructure, such as metadata, identifiers, and technology solutions. The copyright infrastructure is essential to ensure that the copyright holders receive equitable remunerations in the digital age for the use of their creative works. The series therefore aimed to promote development-oriented policies that support creativity and encourage the formalization and

growth of MSMEs. It featured speakers from the public and private sector. In 2023, eight webinars were organized. The series contributed to target 8.3.

92. The WIPO publication on "[Collective Management of Text and Image-Based Works](#)" offers a general description of the collective management of copyright in the text and image sector. It provides insight into the legislative framework and national operational systems in different parts of the world. This publication contributed to target 8.3.

93. A regional Seminar on the Audiovisual Industry in the era of Streaming was held from June 12 to 13, 2023, which provided valuable information about the latest developments of the audiovisual industry and the approaches taken by governments to ensure that the local audiovisual industry and creators benefit from the global audiovisual market. The participation of women in the audiovisual industry was also highlighted. This Seminar contributed to targets 8.3 and 8.9.

94. Recognizing that SMEs play an important role in the creativity and innovation ecosystem, WIPO assisted Member States in the implementation of tools and material on **IP for Business**. In 2023, four IP for Business Guides were adapted to the national legal, regulatory and procedural context of OAPI member states, Algeria, Indonesia, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, and Viet Nam: i) [Enterprising Ideas](#); ii) [Looking Good](#); iii) [Making a Mark](#); and iv) [Inventing the Future](#). The Enterprising Ideas guide was also adapted to the national legal, regulatory and procedural context of Bulgaria and Serbia, and the adapted version for Cambodia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Slovenia is being finalized. The [WIPO IP Diagnostics](#) tool was used by 21,500 visitors and generated over 3,000 reports. The tool was translated into non-UN languages, such as Albanian, Bulgarian, Portuguese and Kiswahili. It was also adapted to the legal, regulatory and procedural context of OAPI member states (in French) and India (in English). An industry-specific adaptation for publishers was further launched. The IP Management Clinics program benefited 170 SMEs from 28 countries specialized in the industry of Agriculture, AI and Business, Crafts, E-commerce, Education, Franchising, Green Technologies, Healthtech, Biotech and Medtech, and Manufacturing. These activities contributed to target 8.3. A presentation entitled "*An introduction to IP Management and WIPO Tools and Resources for Businesses*" in three regional workshops held virtually in December 2023. This contributed to target 8.3.

95. In the area of **Cooperation for Development**, the CDIP, under the agenda item "IP and Development", discusses topics that were 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 WIPO's work and technical assistance in various fields of IP. During its thirtieth session, held from April 24 to 28, 2023, the Committee discussed the topic "*IP and youth: investing in the future*" and revisited the topic "*Women and IP*". At its thirty-first session, held from November 27 to December 1, 2023, the Committee discussed the topic "*Addressing Climate Change: IP Helps Achieve the Goals of Carbon Peaking and Carbon Neutrality*", and agreed on three topics to discuss at its future sessions. During the reporting period, seven new project proposals were approved by the CDIP, increasing the total number of DA projects approved by the end of 2023 to 55. This work of the CDIP contributed to target 8.3, as well as targets 17.16 and 17.7.

96. The Development Agenda project on the [Registration of the Collective Marks of Local Enterprises as a Cross-Cutting Economic Development Issue](#) has supported the use of collective marks by local businesses in four beneficiary countries (Brazil, the Philippines, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Tunisia). The implementation strategy focused on facilitating the development and registration of a collective mark for a group of local producers in each

beneficiary country, as well as delivering capacity building activities and developing awareness-raising material. In 2023, a collective mark was developed and registered in all four beneficiary countries, and launched in Brazil, the Philippines and Tunisia. The collective mark in Bolivia is scheduled to be launched in early 2024. The Project contributed to target 8.3.

97. The **WIPO Academy** contributed to target 8.6, through, for example, the Tracer Study Reports of WIPO-University of Ankara and WIPO-Turin University, which shows that the Master's programs in IP help alumni to secure better jobs or create their own jobs after graduation.

98. To celebrate their graduation, WIPO organized two Masters in IP Alumni [Conferences](#), contributing to targets 4.4, 8.6 and 9.3. In cooperation with OAPI, University of Yaoundé II, and the Japan Patent Office, the first Conference took place from February 1 to 2, 2023, in Yaoundé, Cameroon. This Conference aimed to empower 100 graduates and alumni with skills and know-how on the practical use of IP for business, and to establish a network of Francophone IP experts. The second Conference was organized in cooperation with ARIPO, African Union (AU) and the Japan Patent Office, and took place from December 6 to 7, 2023, in Harare, Zimbabwe. With the objective to strengthen the understanding of the importance of AI and other emerging technology trends in various IP-related sectors, such as the creative industries, agriculture, research, education and the informal economy, this Conference was attended by 70 participants, consisting of alumni, IP experts and professionals from those sectors.

99. WIPO has also been working closely with its Member States in building capacity and creating awareness on the potential contribution of IP to boost competitiveness of community-based businesses. In this regard, a [Workshop](#) on IP Protection of Traditional Medical Knowledge was held from September 26 to 28, 2023, for the benefit of traditional medical practitioners in 10 African countries. The Workshop aimed to strengthen their knowledge on the international legal framework related to IP and traditional medical knowledge, and to share experiences on the IP protection of traditional medical knowledge. This Workshop contributed to target 8.3, as well as targets 4.4, 9.3, 9.b and 10.2.

100. Further, a six-month program on Youth Entrepreneurship and Start-ups Mentoring and Coaching for IP Commercialization was held from October 2022 to March 2023, which aimed to provide guidance and support to 15 start-ups from nine African countries through the development of effective IP strategies for their businesses. This included, for example, the successful filing of a patent application for a particular innovation. The program contributed to target 8.6, as well as targets 4.4, 9.3 and 10.2.

101. Contributing to target 8.3, a Project on the Development of Business Support Services by IP Offices was implemented in Egypt. It aimed to provide both the Egyptian Patent Office and the Egyptian Trademarks Office, with diagnostic tools and material for innovative SMEs and start-ups to be equipped with the necessary information on IP for their business strategies. By becoming better users of the IP system, the Project contributes to their economic development, and increased opportunities for job creation.

102. In the framework of the Project on IP and Videogames in the Dominican Republic, trainings were provided to over 40 videogame developers on using the IP system to unlock further value and support economic diversification and technological upgrading. By encouraging entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation, this Project contributed to targets 8.2, 8.3 and 9.b.

103. Another Project on IP and Tourism to support SMEs in the spa and handicrafts sector was implemented in Bali, Indonesia. 25 selected SMEs in the spa and craft industries in Bali

benefited from training and mentoring programs on the use of IP for value addition and enhanced market access. The Project has resulted in 16 trademark registrations, and the development of 16 business strategies. As part of the project, policy recommendations are being developed to support the strengthening of the national framework for the tourism industry. This Project contributed to targets 8.3, 8.9, and 9.3.

104. Meanwhile, the project for the youth continued in Cabo Verde, aiming to provide IP training and business support to 300 young and/or aspiring entrepreneurs seeking to commercialize their IP assets in Cabo Verde and beyond, through a problem-solving approach and mentoring. In 2023, a hackathon (innovation marathon) was organized to find solutions for development challenges pertinent to Cabo Verde. By supporting young people to gain knowledge and skills, and promoting creative, innovative and entrepreneurial endeavors to achieve development goals, the Project contributed to targets 4.4 and 8.3.

105. A number of tailor-made IP-related projects were implemented in the least developed countries, through a new approach with hands-on mentoring, support and training of stakeholders throughout their IP journey. All these thematic projects aim to empower the relevant IP stakeholders in using IP to add value to their products, create local jobs, strengthen their network, and amplify their economic and growth opportunities. The following projects contributed to target 8.3:

- Project on Facilitating Transfer of Appropriate Technologies for Community Development through Universities and Research Institutes aimed to facilitate the use of technical and scientific information from patent documents for identifying appropriate technologies to address specific development needs and socio-economic challenges. In 2023, the Project was launched in Bhutan and Malawi. While the Project in Bhutan has focused on developing a multi-purpose electric drier for drying vegetables for storage by farmers and vendors, the Project in Malawi has sought to identify appropriate bio-fertilizer technology for enhanced crop yield and quality as well as improving soil nutrition for maize production. The Project contributed to target 8.3, as well as targets 1.4, 2.3, 9.b, 12.3 and 12.5.
- Pilot Project on the Use of IP for Traditional Medicine Practitioners (TMPs) in Ethiopia has supported 84 practitioners in the creation of business opportunities for their products through a trademark registration, and led to the development of an online platform for TMPs to provide consultation and sell their products. The registration of all 84 trademarks was granted by the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (EIPA), in collaboration with the University of Gondar and local traditional medicine associations. This project contributed to targets 1.4 and 8.3.
- Project on the Use of IP for Women Entrepreneurs implemented in Cambodia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, with more than 225 women entrepreneurs mentored, and around 183 trademark registrations granted. The Project has focused on the creation of jobs and business opportunities for women entrepreneurs through branding, and contributed to target 8.3, as well as targets 1.4, 5.1, and 5.5.

106. The video game industry is a key driver of innovation and technological growth for countries with economies in transition. The industry often requires multi-stakeholder collaboration between, for example, publishers, developers, manufacturers, platforms, and policymakers. Such cross-sectoral, public-private partnerships are directly linked to targets 17.6 and 17.7. In 2023, WIPO completed the implementation of the Cross Regional Project on Videogame Development: A Quest for IP, which efficiently helped small game developers, particularly from the CEBS region, Latin America and Asia and the Pacific, with their IP strategies for the different stages of videogame development. Each stage included: i) podcast

interviews with leading gaming companies to share best practices; ii) key IP takeaways through the PowerUps checklist; iii) personalized IP advice from legal experts through the IP Clinics; and iv) a network of game developers. To maximize impact, the Project closely cooperated with leading players in the field, such as European Game Developers Federation, Video Games Europe (formerly ISF), Tencent, Riot Games, and CD Project Red. This Project contributed to target 8.2.

107. To further contribute to target 8.2, Service Level Agreements (SLA) were signed between WIPO and the IP Office of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, respectively, for the establishment of national TISC networks to build knowledge and support innovation and creativity in these Member States.

108. Contributing to target 8.3, the following events were organized to support creators and innovators, and provide them with technical and legislative assistance:

- Sixteenth International Conference on Innovation and Creativity in the Economy: Designing Sustainable Transport, held in hybrid format, on June 21, 2023, in Warsaw, Poland. The Conference facilitated discussion between local designers, entrepreneurs, and institutions, on the impact of IP, innovation and creativity for sustainable transport.
- International IP Congress: Future Challenges and Trends, held in hybrid format, from September 21 to 22, 2023, in Warsaw, Poland. The Congress facilitated discussion on the IP-related challenges and trends in the science, business and administration triangle, and the impact on future technologies.
- Fifth Regional Conference on IP in the Digital Economy for SMEs: Film Industry in the Digital Environment, in hybrid format, from January 17 to 18, 2023, in Bucharest, Romania. The Conference efficiently promoted ways to harness the IP system in the digital economy by SMEs in the film industry within the CEBS Region.
- National Workshop on IP for Start-ups, held on November 14, 2023, in Belgrade, Serbia. The Workshop allowed for the efficient deployment of the WIPO guide on Enterprising Ideas for Serbia and supported the enhanced use of IP tools by startups.
- National Seminar on IP for Business: Creating Opportunities for SMEs, held on June 29, 2023, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The Seminar encouraged representatives of the business community in Tajikistan to use WIPO IP tools and resources in their work and to support local SMEs Intermediaries in expanding their portfolio of IP-related services.

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

109. In the area of **IP and Innovation**, WIPO Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISCs) networks were established in 93 countries with over 1,530 individual TISCs hosted in institutions, such as universities and R&D centers, 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 15 national TISC workshops and five regional meetings held in 2023. Best practices and experiences in patent search, analytics and other related areas are also shared by TISCs through a virtual network provided through the eTISC platform, which had over 1,300 registered members as of the end of 2023. In 2023, the TISC Project and Performance

Management (TPPM) platform was rolled out to additional TISC countries to facilitate TISC data and performance monitoring. These activities contributed to target 9.5.

110. The WIPO TISC webpages continued to provide access to information on various resources that support knowledge and skills development, and were visited by 81,595 unique users. The WIPO technology transfer webpages experienced substantial growth with 80,885 unique visitors and 146,269 page views.

111. A second patent landscape report on COVID-19 related vaccines and therapeutics (preliminary insights on related patenting activity during the pandemic) was published in April 2023 reflecting insights on data and trends throughout the declared pandemic. In 2023, patent landscape reports on graphite and ilmenite and their respective applications were also published. The two COVID-19 patent landscape reports have been downloaded over 19,000 times in total, while the ilmenite report over 6,000 times and the graphite report over 3,000 times in 2023. A compendium lists a further 265 patent landscape reports on various technologies from other organizations.

112. An e-tutorial on using patent information has been offered by the WIPO Academy in the form of a Distance Learning course (DL-177). Learners were enabled to track their progress and certify their completion of the e-tutorial. Furthermore, the Patent Register Portal, which aims to provide information on online patent registers, gazettes and legal status-related information from over 200 jurisdictions and patent information collections, had 11,184 unique visitors and 728 pdf downloads of its jurisdiction files in 2023.

113. The [WIPO INSPIRE](#) (Index of Specialized Patent Information Reports) platform provided 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 continued to grow and reached 46 reports in 2023. 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.

114. For SMEs, IP is a valuable asset that can be used as collateral to secure loans or investments. IP finance is a field that helps businesses access the capital they need to grow and succeed. In this context, WIPO implemented the Project on Promoting the Use of IP as a source of financing for entrepreneurs and MSMEs in Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama. Specialized IP-support services were created in 15 SME Support Institutions, and 54 staff members followed a WIPO Academy course on IP as a source of financing. Workshops on IP and e-commerce were organized, which were attended by over 113 participants from intermediary institutions, government officials and entrepreneurs. As part of a pilot program on IP and e-commerce, local experts held more than 160 bilateral mentoring sessions to train and mentor 49 MSMEs. This initiative contributed to target 9.3.

115. In the area of **Brands and Designs**, WIPO facilitated discussions aimed at enhancing cooperation among Member States to develop a balanced international normative framework for agreed topical subjects regarding trademarks, industrial designs and GIs. This activity also promoted an exchange of information and experiences regarding IP 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. Following the WIPO General Assembly decision, taken at its fifty-fifth (30th extraordinary) session, to convene a Diplomatic Conference to conclude and adopt a Design Law Treaty to take place no later than

2024,⁶ the third Special Session of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) took place in 2023, to further close any existing gaps to a sufficient level, prior to the holding of the Preparatory Committee of the Diplomatic Conference. The Organization also continued to broaden the geographical coverage of the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks, to further the simplification of trademark registration procedures worldwide. These activities contributed to targets 9.4 and 9.a, as well as targets 10.a; 16.3; and 16.6.

116. In the area of **Global Challenges and Partnerships**, the WIPO GREEN Database of Innovative Technologies and Needs covered several sectors relevant to infrastructure, and had [a Building and Construction](#) section with 13.538 entries. To encourage innovation and support entrepreneurs, in 2023, WIPO GREEN hosted, in cooperation with the IP for Business Division, an [IP Management Clinic on Agriculture](#). The IP Management Clinic helped SMEs develop solutions for the agriculture sector to enhance food security, reduce pollution, water use or carbon emissions, and improve their business and IP strategies through workshops and one-on-one coaching sessions. Launched in 2022 with funding from the Japan Patent Office, the [IPO GREEN](#) initiative brought together IP Offices to share their experiences and insights, and provided research and analysis about IP Offices' activities that help stimulate the development and deployment of new green technology solutions. 16 webinars were hosted in the *IPO Green Webinar Series* in the period of Spring 2022 to Summer 2023, in which IP Offices from across the globe shared their experience and best practices with implementing IP related initiatives. These activities contributed to target 9.4.

117. In the area of **International Classifications and Standards**, the Committee on WIPO Standards approved the revision of WIPO Standards ST.26, ST.61 and ST.88 and noted the revision of WIPO Standard ST.96. The WIPO Standards continued to be mapped to SDG 9, published on [UNECE Portal on Standards for the SDGs](#).

118. The Organization's work on **Economics and Data Analytics** contributed to targets 9.5 and 9.b through the publication of statistical and analytical reports that support policymakers in promoting vibrant innovation systems. WIPO's flagship publications in this area are the World Intellectual Property [Indicators](#), which provide original statistics on the use of IP in the different fields of technology and economic sectors worldwide, and the [Global Innovation Index](#) (GII), which benchmarks the innovation performance of around 130 economies based on 80 different indicators.

119. In the area of **Cooperation for Development**, WIPO supported Member States through several initiatives and projects, contributing to SDG 9 as highlighted below.

120. The Project on Facilitating Transfer of Appropriate Technologies for Community Development through Universities and Research Institutes continued implementation in three LDCs, namely, Mozambique, Senegal and Uganda. This Project contributed to target 9.b, as well as targets 1.4, 2.3, 8.2, 12.3, and 12.5. In Mozambique, appropriate technologies were identified for the: i) development of a fish incubator adapted for the production of high quality "tilapia fry"; and ii) design and production of anaerobic digesters for waste conversion into biogas and bio fertilizers. These identified technological solutions contribute to food production, reduction of food waste and promotion of reuse. In Senegal, appropriate technologies were identified for: i) easy and sustainable drying of fruit (onion and mango); and ii) extraction of oils for waste recovery and value-addition. Those identified technological solutions contribute to reducing food waste, and post-harvest losses, as well as promoting the reuse of waste. In Uganda, the technological solutions "Rainwater Harvesting and Treatment" and "Alternative Technologies to Fired Bricks" were identified, which contribute to socio-economic growth and poverty alleviation through the provision of a cost-effective solution for addressing the scarcity of

⁶ See document WO/GA/55/12, paragraph 309.

clean water, and for an environmentally friendly alternative solution to existing fired bricks housing. In all three LDCs, business plans for implementing and deploying the technologies were finalized. Local stakeholders were also trained on using technical and scientific information contained in patent information databases for identifying appropriate technologies to address specific development needs, and prepare technology landscaping and business plans.

121. In the Arab region, the following activities contributed to targets 9.5 and 9.b:

- The WIPO TISC Regional Meeting for Arab countries was organized, in collaboration with the Algerian National Institute of Industrial Property (INAPI), Ministry of Industry, and with the financial support of the FIT/Japan IP Global, from May 23 to 24, 2023, in Algiers, Algeria. Representatives from the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council Patent Office (GCCPO), as well as 18 national TISC coordinators and resource persons participated in the meeting to review the status of the national TISC projects in the Arab region, and explore opportunities for strengthening regional cooperation among the TISC networks. It also enabled the sharing of new developments in WIPO's support to TISCs and their associated national and regional networks.
- The third Session of the Asian-Arab IP Dialogue on utilizing the IP System for Economic, Social and Cultural Development in the Digital Era between Japan and selected Arab countries (Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Tunisia) was held from January 31 to February 1, 2023. The Session explored areas of cooperation for establishing effective IP systems using modern technologies, and resulted in the selected Arab countries benefitting from the WIPO program "IP Management Clinic for SMEs", aimed to support SMEs and Start-ups from IP-intensive industries in the effective and strategic use of IP through one-on-one expert advice tailored to their business needs, and guidance on the different options for building their IP strategies and for making their products more competitive. As another follow-up, a Project on IP and AI: Implications for SMEs was implemented to provide training and practical advice on IP management to SMEs in the AI industry.
- The Interregional Conference on IP perspectives in the SMEs Ecosystem in the African and Arab Region was held from October 5 to 6, 2023 in Casablanca, Morocco. The Conference provided a forum for awareness raising, sharing of experience and good practices on the effective use of IP for business by SMEs in the African and Arab regions. The Conference also promoted South-South cooperation, and was attended by representatives of Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Jordan, Niger, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Republic of Tanzania, and Tunisia.
- A WIPO Webinar on the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and related IP services was organized on November 16, 2023, for members of the Dubai Police (DP) and staff of the UAE Patent Office. The aim was to train them on PCT-related topics, provide a bird's eye view on the new "look and feel" of the ePCT platform, promote PCT awareness and exchange best practices, and foster patent enforcement and build respect for IP in the UAE. The Webinar was held in Arabic and attended by 125 participants.
- The implementation of a pilot Project on IP and Think Tanks in the Arab Region has set the stage for a transformative journey toward IP excellence within Think Tanks. Through tailored coaching sessions, asset assessments, and strategic guidance, the Project strengthened the intellectual foundations of the participating Think Tanks, fostered a culture of awareness, collaboration, and strategic management across the selected countries, and elevated the status of Think Tanks as knowledge producers and IP influencers to leave a lasting impact on the broader IP landscape.

- The Project on Upgrading the capacity of TTOs for delivering technology transfer and IP commercialization services to innovation stakeholders, was implemented in cooperation with the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT). It benefited six Academic and Research Institutions in Egypt, which led to the creation of a national pool of 22 experts in IP commercialization, and the creation of a national TTOs Network. The Project also resulted in the development of an IP Commercialization Capacity Building Module for Academic and Research Institutions and other relevant institutions from the public and private sectors in Egypt.
- The Project on Strengthening the IP capacity of SME intermediaries in Morocco and Saudi Arabia resulted in a mapping of relevant service providers, such as Chambers of Commerce, business support services, incubators, and innovation agencies, as well as ground assessments on the IP-related needs of SMEs and the extent of their awareness, access to and use of the IP system.

122. In Transition and Developed Countries, the following initiatives contributed to targets 9.5 and 9.b:

- 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 2023.
- Joint project with the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) on *Enhancing IP Commercialization Capacity of Techno-Parks in EAPO Member States*. The Project aimed to establish and maintain efficient IP management practices and innovation activities in techno parks, as well as to enhance IP collaboration among innovation stakeholders, including SMEs, academic institutions and intermediary institutions (TTOs, techno parks) in the region. Creating a collaborative and supportive environment for techno parks to share experiences, improve IP management practices, and promote innovations, is crucial for promoting sustainable economic growth. This Project also contributed to targets 8.2 and 8.3.

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

123. In the area of **Copyright and Creative Industries**, WIPO celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the adoption of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled on July 12, 2023. The celebration aimed to encourage more Member States to adhere to and implement the Marrakesh Treaty, and to explore initiatives to achieve the goals of the Marrakesh Treaty. One of the initiatives is the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC), which facilitates cross-border exchange of works in accessible formats without formalities between contracting parties. The celebration contributed to target 10.2.

124. WIPO also provided legislative assistance related to the Marrakesh Treaty, to ensure that visually impaired people (VIPs) have equal access to education as non-VIPs, thus enabling them to a full participation in society. Such legislative assistance contributed to target 10.3.

125. Through the WIPO International Network for IP Education (WINIPE), the **WIPO Academy** expanded the number of programs, such as the WIPO-Harvard PatentX course, and increased the number of academic resources on IP, making these accessible to students of the WIPO Joint Master's Degree Programs and contributing to target 10.2.

126. The ABC Global Book Service is a global online catalogue of books in accessible formats that provides participating libraries for the blind with the ability to search, order and exchange accessible books across borders. By the end of 2023, 133 libraries of which 74 from developing countries and LDCs signed an agreement with WIPO to participate in the ABC Global Book Service and have access to 900,000 accessible books for exchange under the provisions of the Marrakesh Treaty. Additionally, 40 participating libraries of which 13 from developing countries and LDCs, have also opted to make the ABC Global Book Service available directly to their print-disabled patrons by participating in the ABC Supplementary Application. In order to provide libraries with solutions that are best adapted to their own markets, in 2023, the ABC launched a family of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) that allows libraries to integrate the ABC Global Book Service catalogue into their own user interfaces. Currently, two libraries in Thailand and the United States of America are piloting the APIs. In addition, the ABC took an active role in the promotion of the principles of “born accessible” publishing, which prescribe that newly published books must be fully usable by all persons regardless of their abilities. As part of these efforts, ABC has invited publishers and publisher associations around the world to sign the ABC Charter for Accessible Publishing, containing eight high-level aspirational principles. By the end of 2023, 143 publishers of which 96 from developing countries and LDCs, have signed the Charter. The ABC further offered an online course titled ABC Accessible Publishing Concepts Course for Publishers, which is primarily designed for publishers but also open to the public and is free of charge. By making accessible books available for exchange across national borders for free and by promoting the principles of born-accessible publishing with publishers around the world, ABC’s activities contributed to target 10.2.

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

127. In the area of **Global Challenges and Partnerships**, WIPO contributed to SDG 11 through **WIPO Green**. The ongoing [Acceleration Project in China](#) has been seeking solutions to environmental challenges related to energy, water, pollution and waste in Beijing with expected expansion into other large cities. The project aimed to support China in achieving its commitment of reducing carbon emissions by 2030 and reaching carbon neutrality by 2060. Two deployments have already resulted from this project: a composting technology to deal with kitchen waste in a hotel complex and a charging station for electric vehicles. In 2023, there were two matches related to a carbon management system and the management of photovoltaic systems, and five connections established.

128. The 2023 Mitigation edition of the Green Technology Book has a chapter dedicated to climate technologies for cities including buildings, heating and cooling transport, as well as waste management. Covering just a small percentage of our planet’s surface, cities generate 50 to 80% of the world’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and consume nearly 75% of global material resources. Technology and innovation therefore play a vital role in transforming cities from carbon emitters to carbon sinks. The chapter explores proven, frontier and horizon technologies for decarbonizing cities. Topics addressed include low-carbon mobility, heating, cooling and material efficiency. Key trends presented in the introductory section focus on technology, finance and patents.

129. In the area of **Traditional Knowledge**, WIPO provided services and programs aimed to assist indigenous peoples and local communities to participate in and benefit from WIPO’s activities with a view to better protecting their TK, TCEs and genetic resources. The WEP, the TMK Program, the Photography Prize, the New Technologies and Indigenous Peoples’ Project, as well as the Fashion Dialogue work towards safeguarding the cultural heritage of indigenous peoples and local communities by helping them to protect their TK and TCEs. Furthermore, the IGC continued to negotiate instruments for the IP protection of TK and TCEs at the international

level, which intend to safeguard TK and TCEs against unauthorized or inappropriate use by third parties. WIPO's work in this area contributed to target 11.4.

130. Contributing to target 11.4, the decentralized production of accessible materials spurred by ABC's Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) projects allowed regional partners to create accessible versions of works that have particular importance to their cultural heritage and further to share them with the world through the ABC Global Book Service.

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

131. WIPO has sought to promote sustainable **procurement** while ensuring fairness and effective competition. Depending on the market maturity, suppliers' sustainability efforts are documented for information only, or as part of the overall bid evaluation. WIPO adopted the UN High Level Committee on Management (HLCM) Procurement Network (PN)'s definition of sustainability, which encompasses three pillars: i) environmental factors, including responsible use of natural resources, electricity and water consumption, waste reduction and management; ii) social factors, including equality, diversity and respect of human rights, accessibility, observation of labor standards; and iii) economic sustainability, which refers to the entire life cycle cost including acquisition, maintenance, operations, and end-of-life management costs (including waste disposal). The WIPO procurement framework is fully accessible to visually impaired persons (VIPs), and has contributed to target 12.7.

132. In the area of **Global Challenges and Partnerships**, the WIPO GREEN Database of Innovative Technologies and Needs had a section on [Pollution and Waste](#) with 17,899 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 included a section on [Products, Materials and Processes](#) with 11,007 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. The Database further developed a [collection](#) of 190 technologies related to reducing the environmental impact of the fashion industry. A related publication is currently being developed. This activity contributed to target 12.a.

133. The 2023 Mitigation edition of the Green Technology Book includes a chapter on Industry 4.0 technologies. Steel and cement are responsible for around half of all industrial GHG emissions and nearly 14% of emissions worldwide. The growing global population and urbanization trends are key drivers for the increasing demand for steel and cement in the construction and transport industry. Advancements in technology therefore have a pivotal role to play in mitigating the effects of climate change by optimizing material use, improving production processes and adopting alternative fuels.

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact

134. Air travel is responsible for high levels of CO₂ and other GHG emissions. In a continuous effort to make a positive impact on climate action (SDG 13), WIPO issued a new Travel Policy in 2023, limiting official travel to "important only" travel, using the most direct and economical route and mode of transportation. Favoring the most direct route meant that multiple connecting flights are to be avoided. Third party travelers can only travel in economy class, which results in fewer GHG emissions per passenger. Train travel is also strongly encouraged as an alternative to air travel from Geneva to European destinations or in circumstances where travel by train can

result in a lower carbon footprint. This initiative by the **Central Services Division** contributed to target 13.2.

135. In the Caribbean region, WIPO implemented the Project on Use of IP, Technology Transfer and Commercialization to Address Problem of Plastic Waste, which aimed to strengthen the capacity of Caribbean scientists from the University of the West Indies (UWI) and commercial stakeholders, and to facilitate collaborative development and technology transfer with international partners to address plastic waste contamination of seawater, waterways and landfills. With a focus on IP protection and commercialization, the Project was designed to encourage and assess Caribbean research to development to commercialization of technologies in this field. As part of the Project, a Forum will be organized, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs, the IP Office of Trinidad and Tobago (TTIPO), and with the support of FIT/Japan Intellectual Industrial Global Industry, and the Japan Patent Office. Scheduled to take place in the St. Augustine campus of UWI, Trinidad and Tobago, in early April 2024, the Forum will present the findings of the researchers to their peers, public sector officials and private sector interests, and to foster public-private partnerships. Three proposals have been received: i) Using natural fibers to replace Styrofoam for food packaging by Dr. Ruel Ellis; ii) Biobased materials as alternatives to polyethylene, polypropylene and polystyrene (Styrofoam) packaging by Dr. Joyann Marks; and iii) Examination of the Plastics Problem from a "Micro-Solutions" Perspective: Possible approaches to new inventions, which match the small scales of needed solutions in Small Caribbean nations by Dr. Legena Henry, Felicia Cox and Shamika Spencer. This Project contributes to targets 13.1 and 13.b, as well as targets 8.2, 9.4, 9.5, 9.b and 14.7.

136. In the Asia and Pacific region, WIPO continued to assist the government of Niue in the creation of a brand for its innovative financing mechanism for ocean conservation, and the development of its broader climate resilient natural environment and blue economy. In cooperation with the Ocean Wide (NOW) Trust, the Blue Nature Alliance, the Conservation International and McKinsey Consulting, the [Ocean Conservation Commitments](#) (OCC) mechanism was developed and launched on September 29, 2023, at a side-event during the seventy-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 78) in New York. At COP28 that took place from November 30 to December 12, 2023, the OCC started selling with a capitalization target of NZ\$ 32 million (US\$ 18 million). Through the development of a branding strategy, WIPO helped ensure the long-term conservation of Niue's ocean environment and natural resources. This initiative was partly funded by FIT Korea, and contributed to SDG 13.

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

137. In the area of **Building Respect for IP**, WIPO's work continued to reduce illicit trade and combat organized crime through [WIPO ALERT](#), which is a secure online platform that allows authorized bodies in Member States to share information with authorized users in the advertising industry about websites or applications determined to have infringed copyright. In 2023, WIPO also provided legislative assistance to six Member States related to the establishment of a sustainable environment for respect of IP and compliance with obligations under Part III of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS Agreement).

138. WIPO's work with the judiciaries recognizes the vital role played by national and regional judicial systems in ensuring a balanced and effective IP and innovation ecosystem. Activities undertaken by the **WIPO Judicial Institute** aim to: i) inform judges of diverse judicial

approaches to strengthen their analyses and decision-making when adjudicating IP disputes within their applicable legal systems; ii) assist in building and developing the human and institutional capacities of national and regional judiciaries; and iii) provide free and online access to IP legal information from around the world to judges, decision-makers and IP stakeholders.

139. In 2023, the following activities contributed to targets 16.3 and 16.6:

- 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 2023 WIPO Intellectual Property Judges Forum, which was held in a hybrid format, bringing together over 360 judges from 101 countries and four regional courts; (ii) an edition of the Webinars for Judges series, that facilitated the exchange on landmark cases and new developments on compulsory licenses; and (iii) The Master Class on IP Adjudication promoted peer-to-peer judicial exchange of patent-related experiences and jurisprudential developments among 31 experienced patent judges from 21 jurisdictions.
- 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 national judicial education programs in Albania, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, and the United Republic of Tanzania as well as regional and sub-regional judicial trainings in Africa, the Baltic region, and Lusophone countries.
- Resources for Judiciaries: In 2023, WIPO published: i) the International [Guide](#) to Patent Case Management for Judges; ii) the IP [Benchbook](#) Series; and iii) a volume of the WIPO Collection of Leading Judgments on IP Rights.

140. The [WIPO Lex](#) database provided free access to up-to-date legal information on IP from around the world, including laws and regulations, treaties, and leading judicial decisions, allowing policy-makers to draft appropriate, non-discriminatory policies to support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation. The WIPO Lex database is curated and updated by experts, so that IP professionals, legislators, judges, students and others can easily keep up with rapidly evolving IP laws and their interpretations. In 2023, the WIPO Lex database added 406 new laws from 66 countries. It now contains over 17,000 laws, covering national IP and IP-related legislation of 201 jurisdictions; and 236 IP treaties, including the 26 WIPO-administered treaties. In addition, the WIPO Lex Judgments collection expanded to include leading IP decisions from the Court of Justice of the European Union, India, Mongolia, Nigeria, Singapore, and Ukraine, covering 35 jurisdictions. The WIPO Lex database contributed to target 16.10, as well as targets 8.3 and 10.3.

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

142. In the area of **Cooperation for Development**, WIPO, in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Qatar, held a Webinar on Arbitration and Mediation of IP and Technology Disputes, on November 14, 2023, which aimed to raise awareness on the importance of arbitration and mediation in IP and technology disputes and the role of the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, as well as to exchange best practices among Qatari stakeholders in this area. The Webinar was attended by 50 Qatari participants, and contributed to target 16.3.

143. Supporting and developing effective arbitration and mediation services in the Member States serves to provide access to justice for all and build effective enforcement institutions. In Transition and Developed Countries, the following activities contributed to targets 16.3 and 16.6:

- An *MoU with Turkpatent on alternative dispute resolution (ADR)* was signed in July 2023.
- An *MoU with the General Directorate of Industrial Property and the Magistrate School of the Republic of Albania* on strengthening the judicial system and services for IP protection was signed in July 2023.
- An *MoU with Poland* on the continuation of a judicial education program was signed on September 20, 2023.
- A *Virtual Regional Webinar on the Calculation of Damages for IP Infringements* took place on February 28, 2023, which helped deepen the knowledge of participants from the CEBS Region on the calculation of damages for IP infringements through the sharing of relevant experience from different European countries.
- A *WIPO Webinar on Mediation of IP and Technology Disputes* was organized, in collaboration with Sakpatenti and the Mediators Association of Georgia, on March 23, 2023.
- A *Regional Judges Seminar on Current Issues in IP Rights*, took place on September 12-13, 2023, in Liepāja, Latvia, to inform judges from the Baltic region about the newest developments in the field of IP, facilitate the exchange of IP-relevant judicial experiences and jurisprudential developments, and assist in building a network of IP judges.
- WIPO supported and participated in the *International Conference on Mediation for SMEs* on May 30, 2023, in Šamorín, Slovakia.
- A *Workshop on the Judicial Review of Trademark Registrability and Judgment Writing* was organized on September 6-7, 2023, in Tirana, providing tools for effective judgment writing to Albanian judges and appeal board members of the IP Office.
- A *National Workshop on IP Enforcement* took place from November 7 to 8, 2023, in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina, to build the capacity of prosecutors and enforcement officials from Bosnia Herzegovina to deal with IP infringements in and promoted the use of the customized WIPO Training Manual, and to encourage strategic cooperation between stakeholders from both the public and private sectors.

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

144. In the area of **South-South and Triangular Cooperation**, WIPO has been working towards creating a platform for exchange of information and expertise, in particular, amongst developing countries and LDCs. In 2023, the *Second Roundtable on Fostering South-South and Triangular Cooperation in IP and Innovation* took place in hybrid format on May 16, 2023, which focused on the exchange of experiences and the prioritization of thematic clusters for future initiatives. Building on the first Roundtable held on October 14, 2022, 120 participants engaged in discussions on best practices for delivering development-oriented projects, and the

importance of South-South and Triangular cooperation in achieving the SDGs. The priority thematic clusters identified were green innovation and technology transfer, agricultural innovation, IP and digitalization, IP management, and creative economies. WIPO's work in this area contributes to target 17.6.

145. Completed in 2022, the Project on Tools for Successful DA Project Proposals delivered the following outputs, which have been mainstreamed into the regular work of WIPO: (i) a Guidebook for the preparation, implementation and evaluation of DA projects; (ii) a searchable online Catalogue of DA Projects and Outputs; (iii) a Distance Learning course on DA Project Management, benefitting around 114 participants in 2023; and (iv) customized trainings on project development and implementation for Member States and other relevant stakeholders, including some informative videos and infographics. This new DA project methodology contributes to target 17.9.

146. In the area of **Global Challenges and Partnerships**, [WIPO GREEN](#) brought together key players to catalyze green technology innovation and diffusion through its database, network and acceleration projects, hence making tangible contributions towards target 17.7. Its partner network comprised over 150 organizations committed to fight climate change and environmental challenges worldwide, and the acceleration projects provide for another way to cooperate with IP offices, relevant ministries, and local actors to address these challenges on the ground.

147. The [WHO, WIPO, WTO Trilateral Cooperation on Public Health, IP and Trade](#) continued to contribute to targets 17.9 and 17.14. On June 27, 2023, a joint [webinar](#) on *Technology Transfer from the Perspective of Practitioners* was held to strengthen the capacity of policymakers and experts to achieve equitable access to COVID-19 health technologies and to be better prepared for future pandemics. The event was the fourth in the series of trilateral workshops organized within the existing collaboration framework.

148. A *Regional Trade and Public Health Workshop* took place from December 10 to 14, 2023 in Kuwait, which was organized in close collaboration with the WTO and WHO and hosted by the International Monetary Fund Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (IMF-CEF). This Workshop provided interdisciplinary training on issues at the intersection of public health, IP and trade, and a forum for government representatives from Arab and Middle Eastern Member States and Observers to share countries-specific and regional experiences, policies, practices, and approaches to solve issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

149. The [WIPO Lex](#) database continued to contribute to target 17.10, by implementing Article 2 of the [Agreement Between the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Trade Organization](#), in which it makes publicly available the laws submitted by Member States pursuant to their treaty obligations and for purposes of assisting in the administration of the multilateral trading system under the WTO.

150. Contributing to target 17.17, the annual WIPO-NGO Stakeholder [Dialogue](#) was held during the sixty-fourth Assemblies of Member States of WIPO in July 2023. Over 50 accredited NGO representatives from around the world attended this event, in which the important role of NGOs as critical partners in building a more inclusive global IP ecosystem was highlighted.

151. Along with the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM), WIPO organized the 2023 International Knowledge/Technology Transfer Leadership Summit, which took place from November 6 to 7, 2023 in Santiago, Chile. At this Summit, knowledge and technology transfer (K/TT) leaders from associations around the world engaged in discussions to further develop and address the requirements, challenges, and potential solutions associated with the K/TT fields. WIPO also made a presentation on its technology transfer initiatives at an annual

conference of Réseau Curie, that took place in June 2023 in France. These events contributed to target 17.7.

152. 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 provided access to 55,000 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. It 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, having over 80 active institutional users.

153. The Technology Transfer Network in the Baltic States continued to create conditions for the further development of technology transfer professional human resources. The Network comprised a pool of IP commercialization professionals in the region. An MoU was signed with the Network on October 28, 2022. As a result of WIPO's commitment to provide capacity building and technical assistance under the MoU, a Mentorship program for Baltic States TTO Network aimed at fostering spin-offs has been formulated in 2023 and is set to be initiated in 2024.

154. In the area of **Cooperation for Development**, the **WIPO Academy's** distance learning program continued to serve as member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG): Learn – Steering Committee, hence contributing to target 17.9. The UNSDG: Learn – Steering Committee is an initiative established by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (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 General Course on IP was offered to the UNSDG Learn platform to reinforce the relevance of IP knowledge to innovation and economic, social and cultural development and in particular the SDGs 9 and 4.

155. The 10th Arab Regional Coordination Meeting for the Heads of Industrial Property Offices was held from October 24 to 26, 2023 in Tunis, Tunisia. The Meeting sought to improve the functions of the IP Offices in encouraging innovation and supporting business to make better use of the IP system in the Arab region, by providing a forum to share national success stories and challenges, and to discuss the use of the IP system for business competitiveness by SMEs and start-ups, and the development of an inclusive IP and Innovation Ecosystem favorable for women and youth. The Meeting also highlighted the need to raise awareness on regional environmental issues and to identify potential actions that IP Offices can take to support green technology innovation and deployment. The Meeting contributes to target 17.8, as well as targets 5.5, 5.b, 6.a, 7.b, 9.4, 14.1 and 14.a.

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

156. WIPO continued to partner with other UN agencies for achieving the SDGs.

157. In support of targets 13.1 and 13.3, the WIPO GREEN Database of Innovative Technologies and Needs was recognized as a game-changing digital solution addressing climate change during the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) [Digital Event](#), that took place on September 17, 2023, at the UN headquarters in New York.

158. In support of targets 3.3, 3.8 and 3.b, the WHO, WIPO, WTO Trilateral Cooperation on Public Health, IP and Trade held the 10th Joint Technical Symposium on "Facing the Future:

Human Health and Climate Change”, on November 14, 2023, which underscored the importance of exploring the intersections between public health, trade, and IP to leverage existing tools, and develop new technologies, to address the effects of climate change on human health.

159. The WHO, WIPO, WTO Trilateral Cooperation also launched in 2023, a [second update](#) of the extract on “Integrated health, trade and IP approach to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic”, which maps the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to the integrated health, trade and IP policy frameworks.

160. WIPO further contributed to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation [Framework](#). As part of the UN Country Team Joint Workplan Activities for [Cabo Verde](#), WIPO provided legislative assistance, in the form of reviewing the national IP Code and supporting the drafting of proposals for a GI regulation, the Statute of IP Agents, and electronic submission of IPR registration applications. WIPO also provided technical assistance for the drafting of operational guidelines for the NIPPS governing bodies, and development of an IP awareness and capacity building program, and its implementation roadmap in the priority sectors. These activities contributed to targets 4.4, 4.7, 8.3, 9.3, and 9.b.

161. In cooperation with UNESCO, the WIPO Academy organized the fifth edition of the [Leadership Course](#) on *IP, Science and Innovation for Women Scientists and Innovators*, that took place from April 25 to 28, 2023, which aimed to empower 20 award-winning women scientists from 16 countries to benefit from the IP system, and use IP as a tool in their potential journey of research to commercialization. These women scientists also participated in a Roundtable Discussion on “[Women in Science](#) – Shaping the Future”, which was held in hybrid format in the context of the World IP Day on April 26, 2023. Over 1,500 participants engaged in discussions on strategies to create enabling environments for women and girls to enter STEM fields and the IP system.

162. In cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)’s “[eTrade for Women](#)” initiative, the WIPO Academy further conducted a series of Masterclasses on IP for Digital SMEs, and Scaling-Up Women-Led Digital Businesses, benefitting 50 women entrepreneurs from Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as from ASEAN and the Pacific. These activities were undertaken in support of targets 5.5 and 5.b.

163. In the field of **South-South and Triangular Cooperation**, WIPO continued its regular coordination and cooperation with the 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. During the *Second Roundtable on Fostering South-South and Triangular Cooperation in IP and Innovation* that took place in hybrid format on May 16, 2023, Ms. Dima Al-Khatib, Director of the UNOSSC delivered a special address and moderated a session. Around 120 participants of Member States and relevant IGOs and NGOs joined the meeting in person and online.

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

164. During 2023, the Secretariat did not receive any request from Member States seeking assistance specifically related to the attainment of the SDGs.

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