

The Position of the Republic of Korea
Regarding WIPO External Offices

September 12, 2013

1. **Basic position**

- The Republic of Korea is of the position that the selection of locations for WIPO External Offices should be made after the policy and criteria for External Office selection has been established;
- The ROK favors the expansion and establishment of External Offices if that expansion is carried out in accordance with the policy and criteria which is agreed upon by the Member States;

2. **Classification of External Offices**

External Offices should be classified depending on the basis of both functions and services. The Republic of Korea considers that such differentiated policy and criteria should be applied to the two following categories of External Offices.

Consumer-oriented EOs

- Primary function: provide global IP services
- Policy : no limit the number of EOs, self-financing
- Criteria : clearly defined added-value, comprehensive review of financial factors

Region-oriented EOs

- Primary function: provide assistance for Member States in the region
- Policy : 2 or 3 EOs in each regional group
- Criteria: strategically positioned, geographically representative, clearly-defined added-value

3. **Suggested Selection Procedure**

- It is suggested that WIPO pursue consensus on the policy and criteria and proceed with that procedure by receiving applications from interested Member States;
- It is also suggested that the General Assembly determine and oversee the selection procedure.