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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION | GENEVA

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

14 April 2015

To the Ambassadors of Lisbon Union Members
(Please see distribution list)

Excellencies,

A broad range of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) members, including a current member of the Lisbon Agreement, have expressed concerns that the Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Revised Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications would not be open for full and equal participation by all WIPO members.

Singapore shares these concerns. We had earlier supported a proposal for the Rules of Procedure of the Diplomatic Conference to be amended to allow for full and equal participation by all WIPO Members. This was done on the principle that transparency and inclusiveness are fundamental to the good working and credibility of WIPO and is especially relevant when what many consider to be a substantive change to a WIPO Treaty is now being contemplated. However, this proposal was rejected by the Preparatory Committee for the Diplomatic Conference held on 30-31 October 2014.

Singapore's concerns over the systemic impact and precedence setting value of a closed Lisbon Diplomatic Conference remain current. Singapore notes that for the past 25 years, WIPO Diplomatic Conferences have been open to all WIPO Members. Singapore therefore wishes to reiterate our concern that any Diplomatic Conference which does not allow for full and equal participation of all WIPO members is inconsistent with WIPO's historically inclusive and consensus-based approach to international norm setting.

Singapore encourages you as a Lisbon Member to reconsider the option of an open Diplomatic Conference allowing for full and equal participation, and looks forward to the WIPO Membership finding an acceptable compromise that would meet the concerns and interests of all sides.

Yours *Sincerely,*

TAN Yee Woan

cc : All WIPO Members

To the Ambassadors of Lisbon Union Members:

H.E. Ambassador Boudjemaa Delmi, Permanent Representative of Algeria,
H.E. Ambassador Milos Prica, Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina,
H.E. Ambassador Ivan Piperkov, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria,
H.E. Ambassador Prosper Vokouma, Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso
H.E. Ambassador Luc-Joseph Okio, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Congo,
H.E. Ambassador Elayne Whyte Gómez, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica,
H.E. Ambassador Anayansi Rodríguez Camejo, Permanent Representative of Cuba,
H.E. Ambassador Kateřina Sequensová, Permanent Representative of Czech Republic,
H.E. Ambassador So Se Pyong, Permanent Representative of Democratic People's Republic of Korea,
H.E. Ambassador Nicolas Niemtchinow, Permanent Representative of France,
H.E. Ambassador Baudelaire Ndong Ella, Permanent Representative of Gabon,
H.E. Ambassador Shalva Tsiskarashvili, Permanent Representative of Georgia,
H.E. Ambassador Pierre André Dunbar, Permanent Representative of Haiti,
H.E. Ambassador Zsuzanna Horvath, Permanent Representative of Hungary,
H.E. Ambassador Mohsen Naziri Asl, Permanent Representative of Islamic Republic of Iran,
H.E. Ambassador Eviatar Manor, Permanent Representative of Israel,
H.E. Ambassador Maurizio Enrico Luigi Serra, Permanent Representative of Italy,
H.E. Ambassador Jorge Lomónaco, Permanent Representative of Mexico,
H.E. Ambassador Zorica Marić-Djordjević, Permanent Representative of Montenegro,
H.E. Ambassador Carlos Robelo Raffone, Permanent Representative of Nicaragua,
H.E. Ambassador Luis Enrique Chávez Basagoitia, Permanent Representative of Peru,
H.E. Ambassador Pedro Nuno Bártolo, Permanent Representative of Portugal,
H.E. Ambassador Victor Moraru, Permanent Representative of Republic of Moldova,
H.E. Ambassador Vladislav Mladenovic, Permanent Representative of Serbia,
H.E. Ambassador Fedor Rosocha, Permanent Representative of Slovakia,
H.E. Mr Dusko Uzunovski, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,
H.E. Ambassador Nakpa Polo, Permanent Representative of Togo,
H.E. Ambassador Walid Doudech, Permanent Representative of Tunisia