

PROGRAM 1 PATENT LAW

PLANNING CONTEXT

1.1. Program 1 covers issues relating to patents, utility models, layout designs (topographies) of integrated circuits and protection of confidential technical/business information (hereinafter referred to as "confidential information"). Key challenges addressed by this Program include promoting multilateral solutions in a manner that the development of international patent law keeps pace with the rapidly evolving technological, economic and social environment. The most important challenges anticipated for the 2016/17 biennium are as follows:

- The role of the patent system in increasingly complex and globalized innovation mechanisms, and different perceptions as to its role, including its benefits for society at large;
- The increasing demand for empirical information that supports policy makers in making public policy choices relating to the appropriate scope and application of the patent system;
- More targeted information about the role, impact and implementation of the international patent system, including flexibilities, in both multilateral fora and through legislative and policy advice to Member States;
- The increasing demand for legislative and policy advice to Member States;
- Against the backdrop of the increasing use of the patent system, the need to address effectiveness, efficiency and quality of patent administration work that supports the objectives of the patent system;
- Insufficient capacities for preparing, filing, and prosecuting patent applications;
- As a consequence of the better appreciation of the complexity of knowledge transfer mechanisms, the need to address patent law in the context of other closely related categories of IP, such as protection of [utility models](#), [layout designs \(topographies\)](#) of [integrated circuits](#) and confidential information; and
- Keeping pace with technological developments to understand what, if any, actions may be needed to address the developments at the international level, taking into account various needs of countries at different level of development while respecting their international obligations.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

1.2. The work of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) has been stalled because of the absence of agreement among Member States. As the normative process is Member State driven, the Program will focus its efforts on providing reliable information and supporting an environment conducive to engagement and dialogue among Member States regarding areas of common interest. The Secretariat will also endeavor to assist the Member States to conduct more efficient meetings, with outputs of the SCP better corresponding to the inputs. The Program will continue to improve its responsiveness and efficiency in legislative and policy assistance. The relevant DA recommendations will be taken into account in the context of the activities of this Program during the biennium. In particular, provision of patent-related information and legislative advice fully takes into account the relevant DA Recommendations thus supporting the DA objectives of "evidence-based international and national policy and decision making on IP" and "national and international IP regulatory frameworks that promote creativity and innovation and reflect the level of development of the different WIPO member States". In addition, the work undertaken under the completed DA projects, in particular, IP and the Public Domain, and Patents and the Public Domain will be taken into consideration.

1.3. Specifically, during the next biennium, the Program expects to:

- Organize sessions of the SCP;
- Organize, upon request, information meetings for Member State representatives, to provide information on topics related to patent policy, law and practices taking duly into account DA Recommendation 15 and 16;
- Continue to provide, upon request, legislative advice to Member States relating to patents, utility models, layout designs (topographies) of integrated circuits and protection of confidential information in line with DA Recommendations 17, 20 and 22;
- Continue to support and assist Member States regarding the Paris Convention, the Budapest Treaty and the Patent Law Treaty;
- Continue to support and assist Member States with a view to enhancing capacities for designing functional systems regarding patents, utility models, layout designs (topographies) of integrated circuits and protection of confidential information;
- Address issues relating to protection of [patents](#), [utility models](#), [layout designs \(topographies\)](#) of integrated circuits and confidential information in the context of promotion of innovation and dissemination of technology; and
- Continue to support the work of Program 9 (Africa, Arab, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean Countries, Least Developed Countries) relating to Patent Law issues, including the provision of studies relevant to DA Recommendations 12, 13 and 14, as requested by the CDIP.

Draft Proposed Program and Budget 2016/17
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RESULTS FRAMEWORK			
Expected Results	Performance Indicators	Baselines	Targets

I.4 Growing interest in WIPO as a forum for analysis of issues in relation to the international protection of patents, utility models, layout designs	% of recipients which found information concerning legal principles and practices on the protection of confidential information, useful	n/a	90%
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(topographies) of
integrated circuits and
confidential information

RESOURCES FOR PROGRAM 1

4Growing interest in WIPO as a forum for analysis of issues in relation to the international protection of patents, utility models, layout designs
(topographies) of integrated circuits and confidential information - - 494