

PROGRAM 18 IP AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES

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PLANNING CONTEXT

18.1. This Program addresses innovation and IP at the nexus of interconnected global issues, in particular global health and climate change, and, to a lesser extent, food security. The choice of priorities reflects both the focus of Member States (e.g., in the post-2015 Development Agenda) and the potential for innovation-driven solutions to deliver tangible results.

18.2. Solutions to these global problems depend in part on unlocking the potential of innovation in such a way that countries, at all levels of development, benefit. Increasingly, capacity building, technology transfer and the diffusion of practical tools are taking place via novel forms of collaborations involving a broad range of stakeholders.

18.3. The Program's has implemented ~~experience with its two~~ two multi-stakeholder platforms, WIPO Re:Search (with the goal of facilitating access to IP to accelerate research and development into drugs against neglected tropical diseases, malaria and Tuberculosis) in global health and WIPO GREEN (a marketplace to enhance the environment for innovation while enabling faster diffusion of green technologies) in climate change, ~~demonstrates that such initiatives can stimulate early-stage research and/or the transfer of existing technologies, e.g., in global health, and lead to a better understanding of IP and capacities to address policy challenges.~~ Across both platforms, the Program will undertake a number of steps, in line with the functions of the Secretariat as defined in the Guiding Principles of WIPO Re:Search and the Charter of WIPO GREEN, to and continue developing and implementing strategies to maintain momentum of the consortia and mobilize additional capacity to adequately resource ongoing and planned activities.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

18.4. Effective and constructive contribution to innovation-based solutions and to the global policy dialogue will be pursued through a three-pronged implementation strategy:

Developing and maintaining practical IP-based platforms and tools for addressing global challenges

18.5. The core element of the Program's strategy rests on the further implementation and sustainability of its two multi-stakeholder platforms that facilitate effective collaborative networks and technology transfer relevant to health and climate change. Initiatives will build on partnerships and collaborations using open innovation structures, networked innovation and other forms of partnerships to accelerate their impact. Emphasis will also be placed on increasing North-South and South-South collaborations and partnerships that facilitate the global connectivity of developing country innovators.

18.6. Together with external partners, technology sharing tools to facilitate the diffusion and transfer of both health and green technologies will be increased, consistent with the goals of the DA, in particular Recommendations 19 (access to knowledge and technology), 25 (transfer of technology) and 30, 40 and 42 (cooperation with IGOs and NGOs).

18.7. A strategy to address IP and food security that builds upon WIPO's previous activities in this area will also be developed during the biennium in consultation with relevant WIPO Programs, as well as external stakeholders, notably IGOs, the private sector and civil society.

Providing enhanced access to, and use of IP information to support Member States, IGOs, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders and assisting them in the identification of feasible approaches

18.8. The Program will continue to ~~engage-contribute to~~ policy dialogues on IP and global challenges, with the aim of reinforcing WIPO's role as a credible source of fact-based information and analysis, ~~serving-offering WIPO events~~ as a forum for ~~international discussion on these issues~~. ~~Working in close coordination with Program 20, the Program will ensure that WIPO, as a part of the UN System and as an observer organization to various UN processes, responds in a timely and quality manner to requests for such information from the UN, international organizations and Member States through formal cooperation with other UN and intergovernmental agencies.~~ Work will be guided by the relevance of IP and innovation to global health, climate change, and food security, the DA and the UN post-2015 Development Agenda.

18.9. Policy studies will continue to be developed on topics such as the role of IP and IP management in innovation, technology transfer and technology diffusion in addressing global challenges. Substantive analyses, in the forms of reports and briefs, will aim to facilitate a better understanding of the policy and strategic drivers of innovation; and demonstrate proactively the value of IP as a development tool. This includes the sharing of experiences from the two platforms through case studies aimed at raising awareness of the Program's activities.

18.10. Also, in response to requests from Member States, IGOs, civil society, and other stakeholders, the Program will provide input, as appropriate, in fora related to the Program's core issues. Ensuring WIPO's constructive engagement in relevant public policy discussions provides support to other actors and helps establish WIPO as the forum and reference point on IP as it touches on global public policy issues. Integral to this objective is the Program's ongoing successful trilateral cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and World Trade Organization (WTO).

Enhancing human resource capacities on the relationships among global challenges, innovation and technology transfer

18.11. A key aspect of this work will be the exploration of synergies with other Programs of WIPO. For example, as the substantive platforms have been developed, they should increasingly serve as entry points for developing country institutions to access a range of relevant WIPO services and training programs that facilitate access to technical IP information (e.g. patent databases). Projects funded under Funds-in-Trust will continue and build on previous accomplishments from earlier biennia.

IP AND COMPETITION POLICY

PLANNING CONTEXT

18.12. WIPO's work on IP and competition policy is linked to Strategic Goals I and III. In the context of Strategic Goal I, the work aims at providing WIPO Member States the tools for establishing – at the national level – a balanced normative setting that ensures that IP remains the legal framework for free and open markets. At the same time, ensuring the freedom of markets is a strong catalyst for development.

18.13. WIPO will continue to serve as a forum for the sharing of experiences between Member States on IP and competition policy through awareness raising and dissemination of information, with a special focus on developing and least-developed countries.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

18.14. Activities linked to the exchange of experiences and assistance to Member States in addressing the interface between IP and competition policy will be continued in 2016/17. These activities will include study and analysis of the use by a number of Member States of the rules of protection against unfair competition as complementary mechanisms to competition law enforcement.