

## **Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO**

### **Sixty-Second Series of Meetings Geneva, October 4 to 8, 2021**

#### **UPDATE OF THE LIST OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ADMITTED AS OBSERVERS AT WIPO**

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. At the Fifty-Eighth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and of the Unions administered by WIPO (the Assemblies), from September 24 to October 2, 2018, the Assemblies considered favorably the approach contained in document A/58/8 entitled “Update of the List of the Non-Governmental Organizations Admitted as Observers at WIPO.” The said document provided an analysis of the increase in the number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) admitted as observers by the Assemblies over the last two decades, as well as the respective participation rates of observers in meetings of the Assemblies and WIPO Committees; it further introduced a process to update the list of NGO observers in order to mitigate challenges associated with the increase (see documents A/58/8 and A/58/11 paragraphs 25 and 26). The Secretariat would thereafter report back to the Assemblies about the outcome of the updates of the list of NGO observers, i.e. the results of the survey, as well as any revisions made, which is the purpose of the present document.

#### **UPDATE PROCESS**

2. Based on the aforementioned decision, the Secretariat undertook several steps, as specified in document A/58/8 paragraph 10, to identify those NGOs that are defunct or no longer interested in participating in the sessions of the Assemblies and WIPO Committees.

3. In May 2019, the Secretariat distributed an initial survey through Note C. N 3904, requesting all NGOs admitted as Observers at WIPO, listed in the Annex to document A/58/INF/1Rev., but did not participate in the Assemblies or WIPO Committees<sup>1</sup> during the period between 2013 and 2017, to confirm that they remain interested in the work at WIPO and wish to retain their status as observers<sup>2</sup>.
4. This initial communication was followed by two reminders, Notes C. N 3925 and 4045, dispatched in December 2019 and November 2020 respectively, addressed to NGOs that had not yet replied. An additional third reminder was sent in March 2021 to a remaining group of NGOs that had not replied to any of the three previous Notes and for which the Secretariat had found new or additional contact details.
5. Finally, the Secretariat informed the NGOs concerned, i.e. those that did not reply to any of the aforementioned communications, through Note C. N 4067, dated April 19, 2021, that in accordance with the above-mentioned decision adopted by the Assemblies in 2018, the absence of any response to the survey and follow-up communications, had been considered as indication that the NGO did not wish to be retained as an observer at WIPO. Consequently, the NGOs concerned were removed from the list of organizations admitted as observers at WIPO on April 16, 2021.
6. The NGOs concerned were also informed that this removal did not affect an organization's status as *ad hoc* observer in any WIPO Committee and that a "restoration principle" had been put in place, according to which NGOs concerned may petition to resume their observer status at WIPO, without a new observer status application, within a period of one year after their removal from the list, i.e. until April 16, 2022.

## RESULTS

7. In line with the update procedure described above, the Secretariat identified 168 NGOs, out of a total of 341 NGOs admitted as observers at WIPO as of 2017, that did not participate in the Assemblies or WIPO Committee sessions during the period between 2013 and 2017. By the conclusion of the update process, a total of 64 NGOs (38 per cent) from the target group of 168 NGOs, had replied to the survey and provided the Secretariat with up-to-date contact information. This information was used to update relevant documents and databases regarding observers at WIPO. The vast majority, roughly 95 per cent, of NGOs that replied to the survey requested to keep their observer status, whereas only about 5 per cent of the NGOs asked explicitly for a removal from the list of observers. Consequently, the latter, as well as all those NGOs that did not reply to any of the communications sent, were removed from the list of observers – a total of 107 NGOs (roughly 64 per cent) out of the target group of 168 NGOs.<sup>3</sup> So far, three NGOs out of the 107 NGOs that were deleted requested to resume their observer status by invoking the "restoration principle" and were consequently re-included in the list of observers.<sup>4</sup> Together with the newly admitted NGO observers in the years 2018, 2019 and 2020, this results in a total number of 268 NGOs, consisting of 189 international and 79 national, currently admitted as observers at WIPO by the Assemblies.

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<sup>1</sup> The term "Committees" includes: Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE), Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP), Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC), Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) and Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT).

<sup>2</sup> The update process only concerned the observer status granted by the Assemblies. Any *ad hoc* observer status, granted by a WIPO subsidiary body, was not affected.

<sup>3</sup> For a detailed list of the NGO observers that were removed from the list of observers at WIPO, please refer to "Table A" (international NGOs) and "Table B" (national NGOs) in the Annex to this document.

<sup>4</sup> For a detailed list of the NGO observers concerned, please see "Table C" and "Table D" in the Annex to this document.

8. *The Assemblies of WIPO, each as far as it is concerned, are invited to take note of the document entitled "Update of the list of the non-governmental organizations admitted as observers at WIPO" (document A/62/4 Rev).*

[Annex follows]

Chart: Share of NGO observers targeted in the update process and eventually retained, respectively not retained, as observers (figures take into account those NGO that resumed observer status)

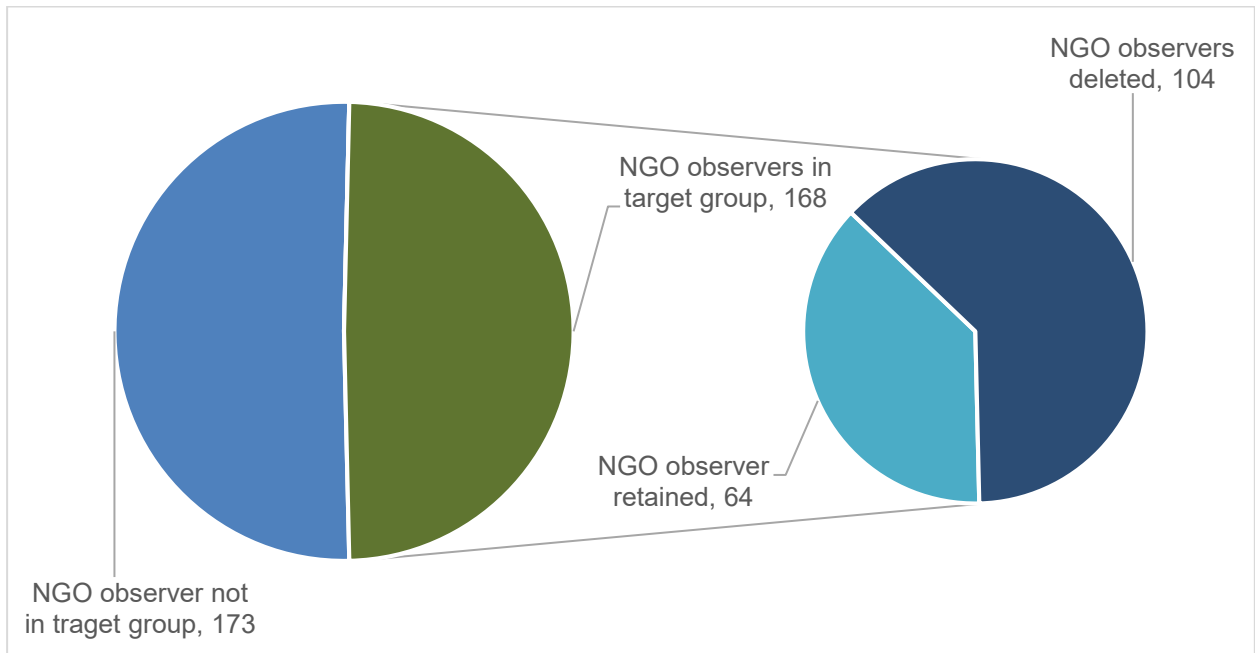


Table A: International NGOs removed from the list of observers

**Name of international NGO**

ActionAid  
Afro-Asian Book Council  
Alfa-Redi  
Arab Federation for the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights  
Arab Society for Intellectual Property (observer status has been restored, see "Table C")  
Asia & Pacific Internet Association  
Association for the Protection of Industrial Property in the Arab World  
Association IQSensato  
Association of European Radios  
Association pour la promotion de la propriété intellectuelle en Afrique  
Caribbean Broadcasting Union  
Centre for Innovation Law and Policy  
Coalition for Intellectual Property Rights  
Committee of National Institutes of Intellectual Property Attorneys  
Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility  
Conseil francophone de la chanson  
Consumers International  
Entidad de Gestión de Derechos de los Productores Audiovisuales  
European Alliance of Press Agencies  
European Cable Communications Association  
European Composer and Songwriter Alliance  
European Consumers' Organization  
European Council of American Chambers of Commerce  
European Crop Protection Association  
European Federation of Agents of Industry in Industrial Property  
European Film Companies Alliance  
European Generic medicines Association  
European Industrial Research Management Association  
European Information and Communications Technology Industry Association  
European Tape Industry Council  
Federation of European Audiovisual Directors  
Federation of Scriptwriters in Europe  
Foundation for a Free Information Infrastructure  
Hipatia Cultural Association  
Ibero-American Television Organization  
Independent Film Producers International Association  
Institut de droit communautaire  
International Advertising Association  
International Air Transport Association  
International Alliance of Orchestra Associations  
International Anticounterfeiting Coalition, Inc.  
International Association for Mass Communication Research  
International Association of Art  
International Association of Authors of Comics and Cartoons  
International Association of Conference Interpreters  
International Association of Entertainment Lawyers  
International Association of IT Lawyers  
International Association of Lawyers  
International Commission of Jurists

**Name of international NGO**

International Communications Round Table  
International Confederation of Professional and Intellectual Workers  
International Copyright Society  
International Dance Council  
International Federation of Associations of Film Distributors  
International Federation of Interior Architects/Interior Designers  
International Federation of Press Clipping and Media Monitor Bureaus  
International Franchise Association  
International Hotel and Restaurant Association  
International Institute of Communications  
International Intellectual Property Alliance  
International Law Association  
International Music Managers Forum  
International Organization of Hotel and Restaurant Associations  
International Organization of Journalists  
International Organization of Performing Artists  
International Poetry for Peace Association  
International Policy Network  
International Writers Guild  
Latin American Federation of Music Publishers  
Latin American Institute for Advanced Technology, Computer Science and Law  
Licensing Executives Society (International)  
Organisation ibéro-américaine des droits d'auteur-Latinautor Inc. (observer status has been restored, see "Table C")  
Public Interest Intellectual Property Advisors  
Rights & Democracy  
Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House)  
Scandinavian Patent Attorney Society  
Southern and Eastern Africa Copyright Network  
Special Libraries Association  
The Royal Society for Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce  
The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition  
Union of African Journalists  
World Federation of Advertisers  
3 → Trade – Human Rights – Equitable Economy

Table B: National NGOs removed from the list of observers

<b>Name of national NGO</b>
Alliance Towards Harnessing Global Opportunities Corporation
American BioIndustry Alliance
Association Bouregreg
Association for the Promotion of Scientific Innovation
Association nationale des artistes interprètes
Brazilian Center for International Relations
Center for Information Society and Intellectual Property
Creators' Rights Alliance
EXIT Centre – Information Technology Business Support Centre
Fundação Getulio Vargas
Fundación para la Difusión del Conocimiento y el Desarrollo Sustentable Vía Libre
Healthcheck
Innovation Business Club
Institute of International Trade Law and Development
Intellectual Property Left
Korean Progressive Network
Mexican National Association of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers
Picture Archive Council of America
South African Institute of Intellectual Property Law
Syrian Intellectual Property Association
The International Intellectual Property Society
The Italian Library Association
The Korean Patent Attorneys Association (observer status has been restored, see “Table D”)
United States Telecommunications Association

Table C: International NGOs for which observer status has been restored upon request

<b>Name of international NGO</b>
Arab Society for Intellectual Property
Organisation ibéro-américaine des droits d'auteur-Latinautor Inc.

Table D: National NGOs for which observer status has been restored upon request

<b>Name of national NGO</b>
The Korean Patent Attorneys Association

[End of Annex and of document]