

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Contribution to the 2018 Integration Segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), May 1 to 3, 2018

This contribution has been prepared by the Secretariat of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in response to the Vice-President of ECOSOC's request for the Integration Segment of the Economic and Social Council on the theme *Innovative communities: leveraging technology and innovation to build sustainable and resilient societies*.

WIPO's mission is to lead the development of a balanced and effective international intellectual property (IP) system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all. As such, WIPO's activities are geared towards supporting its 191 Member States to use the IP system as a tool for the development and deployment of innovative technological solutions that can assist countries to build sustainable and resilient societies. Developing new technologies that can build resilience for sustainable development requires all countries to have an adequate, balanced and effective system of protecting IP. In this regard, the patent system is a key tool for incentivizing innovation and for bringing technologies to market that will accelerate efforts to build sustainable and resilient societies. The patent system is also of critical importance for transferring and disseminating knowledge and technological information.

The Patent Cooperation Treaty¹ (PCT), administered by WIPO, has 152 Contracting States and facilitates the international filing of patent applications. The PCT supports the international sharing of technology information and innovation through the disclosure function of the patent system: i.e. in return for the granting of a patent a full description of that technology and the associated know-how must be made publicly available. These published international applications are available on PATENTSCOPE², one of WIPO's global databases. This database provides public access, free of charge to 51 million patent documents in full text in Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Spanish.

It is recognized that access to affordable and reliable innovative technological solutions requires cooperation with multiple actors to address global challenges such as climate change, public health and food security. In this respect, WIPO actively works with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure that all members of society benefit from IP. For example, WIPO has developed a multi-stakeholder platform - WIPO GREEN³ - that promotes the innovation and diffusion of green technologies through public-private partnerships. This platform aims to accelerate global efforts to develop, disseminate, diffuse and transfer environmentally sound technologies to mitigate and adapt to the worst effects of climate change that adversely affect the most vulnerable populations. It does so by connecting technology and service providers with those seeking innovative solutions.

In the field of public health, WIPO has developed WIPO Re:Search⁴, a partnership platform that provides access to IP, including pharmaceutical compounds, technologies, and, most importantly, know-how and data available for research and development for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), tuberculosis, and malaria. The research and development of vaccines and

¹ <http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/>

² <http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/>

³ <https://www3.wipo.int/wipogreen/en/>

⁴ <http://www.wipo.int/research/en/>

medicines to cure diseases is critically important for building resilient societies. By providing a searchable, public database of available IP assets and resources, WIPO Re:Search facilitates new partnerships to improve the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalized in order to ensure that no-one is left behind.

Within the framework of WIPO's Development Agenda⁵, WIPO has initiated a project on "Capacity Building in the Use of Appropriate Technology Specific Technical and Scientific Information as a Solution for Identified Development Challenges". Knowledge and technology can be used as a tool to combat poverty because of the contribution they can make to sustained economic growth and development, enhanced market efficiency and the creation of employment opportunities. This project aims to contribute to the national capacity of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in particular to improve the management, administration and utilization of technical and scientific information with a view to building their appropriate technology base. This contributes to their efforts to meet national growth and development goals and, thereby, build more resilient societies.

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⁵ <http://www.wipo.int/ip-development/en/agenda/>