

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Input for the Report of the Secretary-General on Implementation of the  
Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)  
for the Decade 2014 – 2024

(Reporting Period: 2021-2022)

As a UN specialized agency, which leads the development of a global intellectual property (IP) ecosystem to promote innovation and creativity, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has been contributing continuously to the implementation of relevant recommendations of the Vienna Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) for 2014-2024.

The contribution of WIPO to the UN Road Map for the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action has been focusing on promoting innovation and technological capacity building, which is instrumental for structural transformation in LLDCs. These included technical assistance projects and support activities in specific areas such as, the development of national innovation systems; access and use of technical, scientific and patent information; skills and capacity building for the effective use of IP system for development and economic growth; facilitating transfer of appropriate technologies for development; and capacity building for universities and research institutes on establishing and functioning of Technology Transfer Offices.

During the reporting period, there has been continued progress in WIPO's technical cooperation programs and activities delivered to LLDCs in the following relevant areas:

- To facilitate the **development of national innovation systems**, an increasing number of LLDCs have received assistance from WIPO in developing and implementing national intellectual property (IP) strategies. Currently, out of 32 LLDCs, 21 have already adopted and implementing national IP strategies; and five LLDCs have developed such strategies.
- WIPO has continued its support to LLDCs on **access and use of technical, scientific and patent information** for technological capacity building. As of March 2022, the number of LLDCs included into the programme on Access to Research and Development Information (ARDI) has reached 30, whereas 16 LLDCs benefited from Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI) Programs. Moreover, currently 21 LLDCs have the networks of Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) established with support from WIPO.
- A substantial part of WIPO's technical assistance to LLDCs has focused on capacity building to enable the **effective use of intellectual property (IP) system for development and economic growth**. For instance, in 2021-2022, 53 participants from 22 LLDCs have taken part in Master Degree Training Programs, organized with support from WIPO Academy. Furthermore, 60 participants from nine LLDCs were included in the WIPO-PRV-Sida Training Program on Intellectual Property Rights for the LDCs.

Also, during this period, more than ten technical assistance projects continued in various LLDCs to support a wide range of stakeholders, such as women entrepreneurs, SMEs, youth, artists, local and indigenous communities, in using IP rights in branding,

innovation, research and development, creative industries, as well as traditional knowledge for wealth creation<sup>1</sup>.

- The Project on capacity building for the **transfer of appropriate technologies for development** is being implemented in Uganda. Discussions and preparatory works are underway to launch a similar project in Bhutan.
- In the context of **capacity building for universities and research institutes on establishing and functioning of Technology Transfer Offices (TTO)**, WIPO continued support for the Royal University of Bhutan in building capacity, creating an institutional policy framework, structure and support services for the effective management and commercialization of the outputs resulting from research and innovation activities.

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<sup>1</sup> These include: - Project on Branding, Product Development and Commercialization to support women entrepreneurs in Cambodia, Liberia, Tanzania, Sudan, Uganda; - IP Assets Creation by the Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in Nepal; - Project on IP for Youth Innovation in LDCs in Zambia; - Project on Increasing the Role of Women in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Encouraging Women in Developing Countries to Use the Intellectual Property System in Uganda; - WIPO Project-Based Training and Mentoring Program on IP for Women Entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan; - Project on IP capacity building for national SME support institutions, Bolivia; - Project for Development of Music Sector and New Economic Models of Music in Burkina Faso; Projects on Enabling IP Environment to Strengthen the Business Competitiveness through Brands and Designs in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Lao, Mongolia and Nepal; - Project on Branding Using Intellectual Property (IP) for "Chobe Baskets" in Botswana. Also, support was provided by WIPO for the Project on Enhancing Economic Growth by Securing Intellectual Property Rights for Traditional and Herbal Medicines in Ethiopia.