

Joint summary of the study visit to the EUIPO

The study visit of the ARIPO Heads and delegates of Intellectual Property (IP) Offices and the ARIPO Secretariat to the EUIPO was organized within the framework of the AfrIPI project in Alicante, Spain, on 12-14 December 2023. The Heads of the ARIPO IP Offices, the ARIPO secretariat and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO):

- Acknowledged that trade marks, industrial designs and geographical indications are vital in the economic development of the ARIPO region and the European Union;
- Reaffirmed their intention to continue collaborating in the areas of trade marks, industrial designs and geographical indications, to assure that the ARIPO IP Offices, ARIPO secretariat and the EUIPO continue efforts to provide high quality, efficient, and cost-effective services to the business community, including SMEs doing business in the region;
- Exchanged views on the upcoming EUIPO Strategic Plan 2030 and the ARIPO IPR initiatives, the priorities of both the EUIPO and the ARIPO Member States under their respective strategic and action plans;
- Discussed the progress of the implementation of the 2023 Annual Work Plan of AfrIPI and the upcoming 2024 Annual Work Plan and reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring the successful completion of all the activities under the plans;
- Acknowledged the commitment of the ARIPO IP Offices and the Secretariat in ensuring the management and maintenance of the ARIPO Member States IT tools jointly developed under the AfrIPI project;
- Identified areas of common interest and initiatives that may be integrated in a potential AfrIPI follow-up phase as from 2025 and agreed to continue discussions in 2024 to further determine priorities and areas of cooperation;
- Recognized that the gains achieved under the AfrIPI project resulted from the commitment of the ARIPO IP Offices in fostering the enhancement of the IP system in the region and the good collaboration between the ARIPO IP Offices, the ARIPO Secretariat and the EUIPO;
- Reaffirmed their commitment to deepen their collaboration towards improving intellectual property rights protection, specifically trade marks, industrial designs and geographical indications, and further the development of mechanisms to ensure a balanced and highly effective IP system in the ARIPO region that benefit stakeholders, including SMEs.

The Heads and delegates of the ARIPO IP Offices, ARIPO secretariat and the EUIPO adopted this Joint Summary of the study visit in Alicante, Spain on 14th December 2023.