Workshop on the Promotion of ARIPO Protocols

Mauritius, 31 May – 2 June 2023

Overview of ARIPO and its Mandates

Pierre Runiga – Head, Legal & International Cooperation, ARIPO
About ARIPO

Established by the Lusaka Agreement, 1976

(ESARIPO → ARIPO)

Vision

▪ To be Africa’s leading IP Organization that promotes socio-economic development.

Protocols

▪ Harare, 1982
▪ Banjul, 1993
▪ **Swakopmund, 2010**
▪ Arusha, 2015
▪ Kampala, 2021

Member States

▪ **22 Member States**
  (Eastern, Southern & Western Africa)
▪ Population: over 170 million

Mandates

▪ Patents, Utility Models, Industrial Designs
▪ Trademarks
▪ New Plant Varieties
▪ Copyright & Related Rights
▪ Traditional Knowledge, Geographical Indications

Fostering Creativity and Innovation for Economic Growth and Development in Africa
ARIPO Membership

- Botswana
- Cape Verde
- Eswatini
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Rwanda
- Sao Tome & Principe
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

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Potential MS:
- Angola
- Burundi
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Eritrea
- Nigeria
- South Africa
- South Sudan

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Grant/Registration of IP Rights – ARIPO route

Harare Protocol

Banjul Protocol

- Patents
- Utility Models
- Industrial Designs
- Marks

Swakopmund Protocol

TK & EoF

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ARIPO Finances

- The operations of ARIPO are financed through two main sources of income:
  - Annual contributions of Member States (Statutory obligation)
  - Revenue generated from processing applications under the Protocols
Awareness creation, Training & Capacity Building on IP

- Patents
- Trademarks
- Utility Models
- Industrial Designs
- Geographical Indications
- Traditional Knowledge
- Plant Varieties
- Trade Secrets
- Copyright

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Awareness Raising Programs

- Seminars, Workshops and Conferences on:
  - general IP and related rights
  - acquisition of IP rights (international, regional and national routes)
  - IP portfolio management
Capacity Building

- Masters Degree Programmes in IP (MIP) - offered at the African University, Mutare, Zimbabwe; University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana
ARIPO as an IP ICT Hub

- TM VIEW, DESIGNVIEW, TMCLASS
- POLITE +
- REGIONAL DATABASE
- COPYRIGHT DATABASE
- TK DIGITAL LIBRARY

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Cooperation…
ARIPO’s achievements on IP Development in Africa (1)

• Driving force for development of IP in the Member States

• Growing number of accessions to ARIPO and its Protocols

• Raising awareness on the need to domesticate ARIPO Protocols at national level to mitigate uncertainty on enforceability of titles granted or registered by ARIPO

• Growing number of grants/registrations of IPRs

• Assisted Member States in the development of IP policies
ARIPO’s achievements on IP Development in Africa (2)

• Established 3 MIP programmes – over 400 graduates in 14 years

• Trained Member States IP Office staff on IP

• Undertaken awareness raising programmes in the Member States (public awareness and academic research institutions)

• Modernization of ICT infrastructure for the Member States – integration of the Member States Module with IPAS in 13 Member States (target: all MS)
THANK YOU

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