

Advisory Committee on Enforcement

Seventeenth Session
Geneva, February 4 to 6, 2025

SUMMARY BY THE CHAIR

adopted by the Committee

1. The seventeenth session of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE) was held from February 4 to 6, 2025. The session was attended by 238 participants, representing 85 Member States, one Non-State Member and 38 Observers. Mr. Taffy Yiu, Head of Enforcement Policy, UK Intellectual Property Office, served as Chair. Ms. Borana Ajazi, Director, Copyright Directorate, Ministry of the Economy, Culture and Innovation of Albania, Tirana, and Ms. Mercy K. Kainobwiso, Registrar General, Uganda Registration Bureau, Kampala, served as Vice-Chairs.
2. Under agenda item 1, the Chair and Mr. Edward Kwakwa, WIPO Assistant Director General, Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector, opened the session by welcoming the Committee and thanking Member States for their close engagement in the work of the Committee and the related activities undertaken by the Secretariat.
3. Under agenda item 2, the Committee adopted the Agenda (document WIPO/ACE/17/1).
4. Opening statements were given by the Delegation of Ukraine, the Group of Central European and Baltic States (CEBS), Group B, the Delegation of Poland, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), the Delegation of India, the Asia and the Pacific Group (APG), the Delegation of China, the Delegation of the European Union, the Delegation of the Russian Federation, the Delegation of Jamaica, the Delegation of Egypt, the Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Delegation of Lesotho and the Representative of the South Centre (CS).
5. The Delegation of Ukraine said that respect for intellectual property (IP) could not exist without respect for international law and the United Nations Charter. Recent attacks on Ukraine had included the first ever use of an intermediate-range ballistic missile in the almost three

years of war since the Russian Federation had launched its unprovoked invasion of the country in 2022. To date, Ukrainian and international authorities had documented more than 150,000 war crimes carried out by the aggressor, including the deaths of some 14,000 civilians and widespread cases of conflict-related sexual violence. In 2022, the Russian Federation had legalized IP infringements, targeting rights holders from countries that supported Ukraine. The Russian Federation should face legal consequences for its actions, including reparations to the Ukrainian IP sector, and it should not be allowed to host an external office of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

6. The Delegation of Estonia, speaking on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States (CEBS), said that the Group condemned the ongoing war of aggression by the Russian Federation on Ukraine. The war had unleashed a dire humanitarian situation, resulted in considerable destruction of civilian infrastructure and led many innovators, artists, creators, scientist and business-owners to flee their homes. For a third consecutive year, the war had caused unprecedented damage to the IP ecosystem in Ukraine and IP-related institutions. The CEBS Group welcomed the decision adopted in July 2024 by the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO to continue providing Ukraine with assistance for its IP sector. The principles of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders should be reflected in all relevant WIPO publications. Resolutions by the United Nations General Assembly made it clear that no territorial acquisition resulting from the use of force or the threat of its use would be deemed legal.

7. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, reaffirmed the Group's unwavering solidarity with the people of Ukraine. Group B Member States did not recognize the attempted annexation by the Russian Federation of Ukrainian territories, which was a violation of international law.

8. The Delegation of Poland, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that the war in Ukraine had caused great suffering and considerable damage to civilian infrastructure, as well as the flight of human intellectual capital. The adverse impact of the war was also affecting the efforts of WIPO to strengthen IP globally. The European Union and its member States supported the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. The Russian Federation must halt its aggression, withdraw its troops from Ukraine and be held accountable for the damage caused and crimes committed in the course of its invasion. The European Union and its member States looked forward to the full implementation of the decision adopted in 2024 by the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO to continue providing Ukraine with assistance for its IP sector.

9. The Delegation of the Russian Federation, exercising its right of reply, noted that the decision to work on drafting what would become the United Nations Charter had been taken in February 1945 at the conference of the three Allied States combating Nazi Germany, which had been held in Yalta, Crimea. The three Allies had overcome their differences in order to defeat Nazism and achieve peace and freedom for all peoples and countries. Unfortunately, much had changed since then. "Collective Brussels" and Washington were attempting to rewrite history, closing their eyes to the rise of neo-Nazism in Ukraine and keeping silent on the crimes committed by the Kyiv regime. By way of example, the bodies of elderly civilians had been found in the cellar of a building in a village in Kursk Province liberated by Russian forces in January 2025. They had been tortured and killed by neo-Nazi criminals. It was difficult to believe that such inhuman cruelty was possible in the twenty-first century. Western countries, rather than assist communities truly in need of medicines, food, education and technical assistance, were sending hundreds of millions of dollars to people who killed and tormented the elderly and children and subjected civilians to repression and reprisals. Nonetheless, the ideological successors to the Nazis would suffer the same fate as the latter. Perhaps now the discussion of

issues outside the Committee's mandate could stop and constructive discussions on its agenda items could begin.

10. The Delegation of Colombia, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), said that the Group welcomed the adoption in 2024 of the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge and the Riyadh Design Law Treaty. Addressing complex global challenges and rapid technological advances required not only stronger enforcement but also greater technological cooperation and dialogue between Member States. ACE provided a valuable platform for the discussion of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, issues that were gaining in importance in many areas of IP. It was to be hoped, therefore, that delegations would look favorably on the proposal to hold a discussion at the Committee's eighteenth session on the impact of counterfeiting on the biotechnology sector (document WIPO/ACE/17/19).

11. The Delegation of India affirmed that making IP education a national priority would help to drive growth and innovation. Since late 2021, the National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission in India had helped to educate students and enable businesspeople to protect their IP. A certificate of inventorship had also been launched as a means of acknowledging the achievements of inventors. Under the Cinematograph (Amendment) Act of 2023, stringent penalties had been introduced for the illegal recording and exhibition of films. In recent years, more than 140 IP enforcement programs had been conducted throughout the country for law enforcement agencies, including the police, the judiciary and Customs. The Committee should adopt a broader approach to enforcement in line with Recommendation 45 of the WIPO Development Agenda, Article 7 of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and the ACE mandate. The aim should be to support technical innovation and development goals, while maintaining a balance between rights and obligations.

12. The Delegation of Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Group (APG), welcomed recent activities undertaken by the Building Respect for IP Division in the Asia-Pacific region, including legislative advice, capacity-building and awareness-raising programs tailored to regional needs and reflecting the diversity of the region's Member States. The Group recognized the importance of raising awareness, in particular among young people, of the need to respect IP, and the significance of national frameworks and international collaboration, as outlined in document WIPO/ACE/17/16. The Committee should be guided in its work by the recommendations of the Development Agenda. There was a need for further dialogue on how to leverage technology and innovative methods to combat IP infringements effectively, including through the use of digital tools.

13. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B, said that the many contributions submitted for presentation at the session, including several from Members States of the Group, underlined the importance of enforcement for all Member States, rights holders and consumers, and the economy and civil society as a whole. It was crucial for the effective functioning of the global IP system. ACE provided a key platform for sharing best practices and lessons learned. Although laws and regulations differed around the world, the shared goal was to achieve meaningful IP protection.

14. The Delegation of Estonia, speaking on behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States (CEBS), said that the Group welcomed the opportunity to discuss ideas on awareness-raising activities and campaigns to build respect for IP among the general public, and in particular young people. Governments, international organizations such as WIPO and non-profit entities ran mass media campaigns on the risks associated with using counterfeit goods and the importance of respecting creators' rights. Social media and online platforms could be leveraged, for instance by using videos, contributions from influencers, informative

social media posts, games and mobile apps to raise young peoples' awareness of the consequences of piracy, plagiarism and counterfeiting, and of the need to respect IP. Given that small businesses accounted for more than three quarters of employment in the CEBS Member States, the Group was especially keen to exchange information on IP enforcement challenges and solutions for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Successful initiatives in that regard could serve as a beacon for CEBS members. Discussion about experiences in other countries with institutional arrangements for IP enforcement policies and regimes, including mechanisms for resolving IP disputes in an effective and balanced manner, would also be welcome. The Group welcomed the ongoing exchange of success stories on capacity-building, and support from WIPO for various training activities in line with the ACE mandate.

15. The Delegation of China said that efficient IP enforcement could contain IP infringements and safeguard innovators' interests, while promoting respect for IP among the public. The rapid growth of new economic sectors, business models and technologies posed new challenges in the area of IP infringements. China welcomed the increasingly active debate in the Committee on enforcement and awareness-raising, including on many subjects relating to emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI). Experts from the National Copyright Administration of China, the State Administration for Market Regulation and the Zhejiang Province IP Office would make presentations on IP enforcement at the current session. In recent years, the Chinese Government had continued to tighten administrative IP enforcement and judicial protection, intensified international cooperation and committed itself to creating a market-oriented business environment that was guided by the rule of law and an international outlook. China was keen to join other Member States in sharing experiences, capacity-building and international coordination, and to advance the Committee's agenda in the framework of Recommendation 45 of the Development Agenda.

16. The Delegation of the European Union, speaking on behalf of its member States, stated that more than 150 million counterfeit articles, with a combined estimated retail value of nearly 3.5 billion euros, had been detained at the external borders of the European Union and within the internal market in 2023. The figures represented a rise over the previous year of 77 per cent in terms of the number of articles detained and a 68 per cent increase in their overall estimated value. That illustrated the scale of counterfeiting activities but also demonstrated that efforts in the Union to combat them were becoming increasingly effective. A recommendation on combating counterfeiting adopted by the European Commission in March 2024 had five main areas of focus. The first was the need for more effective cooperation and the recommended measures included one to designate a single IP enforcement contact point, as well as other measures to be implemented by social media, transport and logistics, payment and domain name service providers to prevent the misuse of their services for IP infringing activities. The recommendation built on the European Digital Services Act, reinforcing the role of trusted flaggers in IP enforcement and encouraging platforms to act on infringement notifications filed by rights holders. The second area related to IP enforcement rules, whereby member States of the Union would be encouraged to stiffen penalties for serious IP infringements and adapt their approach to such crimes, including by using dynamic injunctions, awarding damages to rights holders commensurate with the harm caused to them and fostering recourse to alternative dispute resolution procedures. Other areas covered the use of advanced technologies to enhance the detection of counterfeit goods, the provision of tools to help SMEs to protect their intangible assets and improve their knowledge of cybersecurity, awareness-raising activities for schools and law enforcement officers, and strategic campaigns designed to inform the general public, in particular young people, about IP matters. As the global IP forum, WIPO had a key role to play in encouraging the coordination of its Member States' efforts to combat IP infringements effectively.

17. The Delegation of the Russian Federation noted that discussions in the Committee had taken on a particular importance given the broadly differing approaches adopted by Member

States to IP enforcement matters and the multitude of bodies in them involved in IP protection. That was even more the case in the face of the rapid and ceaseless development of technology, the digital economy and the globalized market. Protecting IP was crucial for the country's socioeconomic development and as a driver of innovation, and the Russian Federation was actively honing its IP legal framework. In addition to improving its systems of IP registration and protection, it was also developing mechanisms for the legal protection of IP in the digital space and with regard to emerging technologies. Infringement prevention and efforts to combat counterfeiting and piracy were priorities. The Delegation looked forward to sharing its country's experience and approaches to IP protection, in particular the key role of specialized judges and blocking access to illicitly distributed copyright and related rights assets. Broadening access by developing and least developed countries to knowledge and technology would benefit the global IP ecosystem and help to bridge the technology and scientific research gap.

18. The Delegation of Jamaica said that the country, as a small island developing State with porous borders and few resources for interdiction and enforcement, had to be proactive in promoting public awareness of and respect for IP rights (IPRs). To that end, the Jamaica IP Office had hosted press conferences with the Counter Terrorism and Organized Crime Unit and the Jamaica Customs Agency during IP Week in 2024. The Office also ran an IP education program for young people and gave hybrid presentations on the subject in schools around the country.

19. The Delegation of Egypt expressed appreciation to the WIPO Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector and Building Respect for IP Division for their ongoing close cooperation with various bodies in Egypt, including the Ministry of Justice, through the conduct of capacity-building programs, exchanges on best practices and experiences, and awareness-raising efforts. Egypt had launched its national IP strategy in 2022 and subsequently established the Egyptian Intellectual Property Authority, the head of which had recently been appointed. The approach to IP enforcement should be guided by the Development Agenda recommendations, in particular Recommendation 45. Development considerations were at the heart of the work of WIPO and the protection and enforcement of IPRs should help to encourage innovation and technology transfer for the good of all, at the same ensuring a balance of rights and obligations, and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

20. The Delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of), aligning itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Pakistan on behalf of APG and underscoring the importance of the Committee's work, said that WIPO and Iranian authorities had conducted a joint training program for SMEs on the protection and enforcement of IPRs. How IP enforcement was conducted should be guided by Development Agenda Recommendation 45, given the impact of enforcement on the socioeconomic welfare of Member States, the development priorities of which needed to be taken into account. IP enforcement should not become too burdensome for SMEs. Awareness-raising was key to balanced IP enforcement. In that regard, the technical assistance provided by the WIPO Secretariat, guided by Recommendation 45, was significant.

21. The Delegation of Lesotho said that combating counterfeiting, piracy and other forms of IP infringement posed particular challenges to a landlocked developing country such as Lesotho. IP enforcement had to be balanced, taking into consideration national priorities and development goals, while ensuring compliance with international obligations. With the much-appreciated assistance of WIPO, Lesotho had made considerable progress in building its capacity to protect IP and enforce IPRs. Discussions on enforcement at the Committee's current session would be especially useful to Member States with limited resources.

22. The Delegation of Nigeria said that expert studies to be presented at the current session highlighting non-kinetic approaches to combating IP infringements and abuses would help the Nigerian authorities to shape enforcement policy and develop legislative and administrative

frameworks. The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control, the Standards Organization of Nigeria, the Nigerian Copyright Commission, and other agencies were working with the police, Customs, and financial intelligence and security agencies to monitor internal and cross-border activities. They had met with appreciable success with regard to physical goods, and more was being done to curb digital and online piracy. Amendments to the Copyright Act had been enacted in 2023 to better protect the rights of authors and enhance the capacity of the Nigerian Copyright Commission. The Commission was now able to focus on proactive enforcement and awareness-raising on copyright. It had also been given more investigative powers under the Proceeds of Crimes Act. IP had recently been singled out as a national priority under the country's national IP policy and strategy. A model IP policy for universities had also been drafted. Its aim was to foster innovation and creativity by ensuring greater predictability in the generation, ownership, use and marketing of IP. As part of the country's efforts to raise awareness of IP, the Copyright Commission regularly organized workshops for children and young people. It also worked with rights holder groups, professional associations and institutions to combat piracy, for instance through a short video on the ills of piracy that had been broadcast recently on national movie channels, reaching an audience of millions. Nigeria was among the countries that had been selected to pilot the WIPO Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) project to develop strategies and tools to address online copyright piracy in the African digital market.

23. The Representative of the South Centre (SC) said that it supported the inclusion of a discussion on the impact of counterfeiting on the biotechnology sector in the Committee's work plan. That sector had a crucial role to play in addressing global challenges relating to public health, food security and environmental sustainability. Together with counterfeiting, the misappropriation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge, which disproportionately affected biodiverse developing countries, was a major cause for concern. Beyond questions of fair, ethical and legal access to such resources held by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, biopiracy undermined efforts to preserve biodiversity, created legal uncertainty, stoked economic losses and hindered efforts to achieve the SDGs. In order to ensure a balanced, development-oriented IP enforcement framework, the Committee ought to examine how countries dealt with the misappropriation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge, identify instances where IP enforcement had been misused to facilitate biopiracy, explore possible legal and policy responses, enhance the training of enforcement officials, promote international cooperation in that regard and work more closely with other WIPO bodies, in particular the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, on enforcement issues. The South Centre strongly supported efforts to combat counterfeiting in the biotechnology sector. At the same time, it was equally important to ensure that IP enforcement did not inadvertently facilitate the unjust exploitation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge. A well-calibrated enforcement approach must protect legitimate rights while preventing misappropriation in line with the Development Agenda and broader international commitments.

24. Under agenda item 3, officers for the eighteenth session of ACE were elected on the understanding that ACE officers will hold office for one ACE session, including the time leading up to that session, regardless of the duration between sessions. Mr. Tim Werner, Legal Advisor, Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property, Berne, was elected as Chair. Mr. Diego Pérez-Bernal, Director General of Enforcement, National Directorate of Intellectual Property (DINAPI), Paraguay and Ms. Christine Pangilinan-Canlapan, Supervising Director, IP Rights Enforcement Office, Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL), Taguig City, were elected as Vice-Chairs.

25. Under agenda item 4, the Committee approved the participation of one non-governmental organization (NGO) as an ad hoc Observer, namely, INDICAM (document WIPO/ACE/17/3).

26. Under agenda item 5, the Committee heard 30 expert presentations, two panel discussions and four Secretariat presentations relating to various items of the work program (documents WIPO/ACE/17/4 to WIPO/ACE/17/18).

27. Under work program item A (exchange of information on national experiences on awareness-building activities and strategic campaigns as a means for building respect for IP among the general public, especially the youth, in accordance with Member States' educational or any other priorities), presentations were grouped into five topics. A contribution was presented on *The Neuropsychology and Cognition of Counterfeiters (Fraudsters): A Legal and Forensic Psychology Perspective* by Prof. Javier Morales, Ph.D., President and Senior Consultant of CCG – Psyche Legalis, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and another on *Development and Application of United Kingdom Consumer Research to Counter-Infringement Interventions – A United Kingdom Case Study* was presented by Ms. Tamsyn Wedlake-James, Head of Enforcement and Counter-Infringement, Research and Analysis, United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office (UK IPO), London. The contributions may be found in documents WIPO/ACE/17/4 and WIPO/ACE/17/5, respectively. In addition, three Member States shared their national experiences in connection with efforts to raise awareness of the importance of respecting IP: *The Current Status of Domestic Awareness-Raising Initiatives Regarding Counterfeit Goods* by Japan; *Awareness-Raising Activities to Combat Counterfeiting and Piracy: A Strategic Approach to Foster Awareness of Intellectual Property (IP) in the Philippines and Encourage Respect for IP Rights* by the Philippines; and *Intellectual Property Awareness-Raising Initiatives by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises* by India. Reference is made to document WIPO/ACE/17/6. In addition to those contributions, a panel discussion took place on *the Role of IP Education in Building Respect for IP and Effective IP Enforcement*, moderated by Ms. Mercy K. Kainobwiso, Registrar General, Uganda Registration Bureau, Kampala, with interventions by India, the United Kingdom and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). Ms. Kainobwiso highlighted the IP educational activities undertaken in Uganda. Reference is made to document WIPO/ACE/17/7.

28. Under work program item B (exchange of information on national experiences relating to institutional arrangements concerning IP enforcement policies and regimes, including mechanisms to resolve IP disputes in a balanced, holistic and effective manner), presentations were grouped into seven topics. Under the topic, Enforcement Regimes: National Frameworks and International Collaborations, seven Member States shared their experiences. *Simplified Procedure for the Destruction of IP-Infringing Goods in Small Consignments* by Mr. Tim Werner, Legal Adviser, Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property Switzerland, *Follow the Money and Organized Crime* by Detective Sergeant Robert Madden, National Intellectual Property Crime Unit (NIPCU), Garda National Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Dublin; *The Necessity of International Enforcement Cooperation to Combat Cross-Border Copyright Infringement* by Ms. Keiko Momii, Director, Japan Copyright Office, Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, *The Republic of Korea's Approach to Enhancing Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement through International Cooperation* by the Republic of Korea by Ms. Jia Kim, Investigative Consultant (Public Prosecutor), Dispatched to the Intellectual Property Protection & Cooperation Bureau, Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), *China Continues to Strengthen Intellectual Property Protection through Administrative Enforcement* by Mr. Yang Weitao, Deputy Director, Inspection Division III, Enforcement Inspection Bureau, State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR), China, *Lessons Learned from the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Increase in Counterfeiting and Piracy and the Effect of Economic Pressure on Consumers' Attitudes Towards Counterfeits* by Mr. Roger A. Hildebrandt, Head of "Promotion of the use of IP", German Patent and Trademark Office, and *Public-Private Anti-Piracy Alliances and Cooperation: Progress and Perspectives - The Experience of Peru* by Mr. Fausto Vienrich Enríquez, Director of Copyright, National Institute for the Defense of Competition and Protection of Intellectual Property. Reference is made to document WIPO/ACE/17/16.

29. Following the presentation on *The Republic of Korea's Approach to Enhancing Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement through International Cooperation*, the Delegation of the Republic of Korea made a statement, providing additional insight into the country's IP protection framework, its organizational structure and national copyright enforcement policies.

30. The Delegation of the Russian Federation addressed the roles of different government entities in enforcing IP rights in that country, noting that the Office of the Prosecutor General worked with Federal Service for Intellectual Property (Rospatent), including through the adoption of AI-based solutions to identify and combat illicit online sellers. The judiciary was continuing to adapt and develop. The Russian Federation remained committed to enforcing IPRs, digital transformation and interagency cooperation.

31. The Delegation of Indonesia, emphasizing the need to enforcement through international cooperation, highlighted that country's response to a copyright infringement complaint brought by a broadcasting rights holder regarding an illegal IPTV service. In that case, the Government had worked with INTERPOL and the Busan Police (Republic of Korea) to identify the infringer.

32. The Representative of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) emphasized its role in monitoring IP enforcement and counterfeiting across its member States. The Commission was working on a coordinated strategy to combat online IP violations, including by blocking illegal content and enhancing enforcement mechanisms. The aim of its annual Anti-Counterfeit Forum was to strengthen international cooperation.

33. The Delegation of Paraguay highlighted the importance of regional collaboration in tackling counterfeiting and piracy, expressed appreciation to the National Institute for the Defense of Competition and the Protection of Intellectual Property (INDECOPI) of Peru for its capacity-building work and noted that Paraguay had taken part in Operation 404 to combat digital piracy.

34. The Delegation of Tonga said that Tonga was a collective society in which cultural values such as love, sharing, respect and commitment shaped people's worldviews. Some creators chose not to claim or enforce their IPRs, while others expected users to seek permission before using their work. Traditional IP enforcement mechanisms were unsuited to the situation in Tonga. Creators lacked the time and resources to establish collective management organizations and research suggested that the best approach would be for the Government to serve as the enforcement agency. However, it had too few resources to do so. There was a need for WIPO and developed countries to tailor capacity-building initiatives to address those challenges.

35. The Chair invited the delegates and other participants to discuss the proposal submitted by GRULAC, titled *The Impact of Counterfeiting on the Biotechnology Sector* (document WIPO/ACE/17/19).

36. The Delegation of Colombia, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), said that the proposal contained in document WIPO/ACE/17/19 was supported by the majority of that Group's Member States. The positive intention behind the proposal was to open a dialog on the growing problem of counterfeiting in the biotechnology sector. The impact of that issue was felt not only in mega biodiverse countries, but across all Member States. The Group invited them to seize the opportunity for dialog on the issue.

37. The Delegation of Brazil, supported by the Delegations of Chile, the Dominican Republic, Iran (the Islamic Republic of) and Mexico, and noting the expectation that the work of WIPO contribute to the implementation of the recommendations of the Development Agenda, including

those contained in clusters B and F, said that the ACE should take a more comprehensive approach to IP enforcement. There was a need to discuss the far-reaching impact of the illicit use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge on the sovereignty and custodianship of Member States and their Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The Committee should, therefore, organize a panel discussion or seminar on institutional arrangements concerning IP enforcement policies and regimes to address issues relating to the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge when registering IPRs. Protecting genetic resources and traditional knowledge was fundamental to preserving cultural heritage and safeguarding the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Conducting such a discussion would foster a more balanced approach to IP enforcement. The proposal was especially timely in light of the adoption in 2024 of the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge.

38. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of Group B and supported by the Delegations of Estonia and Poland, speaking on behalf of the CEBS Group and the European Union and its member States, respectively, said that Group B could not accept the proposal as currently drafted. It contained terms that did not have official definitions and were not clear in meaning, and it believed that some of the discussions were not appropriate for this particular Committee. Group B accepted the proposal's title and stood ready to discuss a revised version of its content.

39. The Delegation of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that the proposal had merit. The Group looked forward to achieving a compromise version agreeable to all.

40. The Acting Chair, after informal consultations, said that agreement had been reached on the proposal, which was now presented as WIPO/ACE/17/19 Rev.2.

41. There were no presentations under Work Program Item C. Under Work Program Item D, a Secretariat presentation titled 'Impact Capacity Building Project: Building a Sustainable Intellectual Property Enforcement Mechanism. Reference is made to document WIPO/ACE/17/18.

42. Under agenda item 6, the Secretariat introduced document WIPO/ACE/17/2 on recent activities of WIPO in the field of building respect for IP, guided by the 2024/2025 Program of Work and Budget, Strategic Pillar 2, and Development Agenda Recommendations 40 and 45. The document sets out key activities in areas of legislative assistance provided to requesting Member States, including the review of national IP laws and support for draft IP policies. The document also includes capacity-building activities to strengthen national enforcement systems, where international cooperation remains a focus, with WIPO collaborating with other intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, and the private sector to promote respect for IP globally. The document also includes awareness-raising initiatives such as the "IP Clubs" project in Africa, the "IP Challenge" online game and campaigns like "Stop Piracy" in the Philippines and the "Respect the Game, Respect Copyright" campaign rolled out during the 2024 Paris Olympics, which reached more than 60 million viewers. In addition, the document highlights the progress of the WIPO ALERT database and new initiatives such as WIPO ALERT-Pay, aimed at combating online counterfeiting, and the WIPO Customs Recordation and Information System (CRIS), which is under development to support IP enforcement at borders. The Committee took note of the information contained in the document.

43. Under Agenda Item 7 the Work of the ACE, the Committee agreed to consider at its eighteenth session, the following work program items:

- exchange of information on national experiences on awareness-building activities and strategic campaigns as a means for building respect for IP among the general public,

especially the youth, in accordance with Member States' educational or any other priorities;

- exchange of information on national experiences relating to institutional arrangements concerning IP enforcement policies and regimes, including mechanisms to resolve IP disputes in a balanced, holistic and effective manner;
- exchange of information on national experiences in respect of WIPO's legislative assistance, with a focus on drafting national laws of enforcement that take into account the flexibilities, the level of development, the difference in legal tradition and the possible abuse of enforcement procedures, bearing in mind the broader societal interest and in accordance with Member States' priorities; and
- exchange of success stories on capacity building and support from WIPO for training activities at national and regional levels for Agencies and national officials in line with relevant Development Agenda Recommendations and the ACE mandate.