

## **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Input to Secretary-General's Report on SIDS 2017**

- What specific activities has WIPO introduced specifically targeting the vulnerabilities of SIDS?

WIPO works with many of its SIDS member countries in different regions to build capacity in the fields of creativity and innovation with a view to producing solutions to the critical challenges they face in fields as diverse as education, food security, health, Indigenous issues and climate change. For example, WIPO's Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) provide innovators in developing countries with access to locally based high-quality technological information and related services to assist them to create, protect and manage their intellectual property (IP) rights. There are currently 519 TISCs globally. WIPO has recently engaged in TISC activities with numerous SIDS including Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Sao Tome and Principe. These activities include on-site national training activities, regional meetings, and online participation in webinars on the e-TISC platform. WIPO is engaged in discussions on establishing new TISCs in a number of SIDS, and welcomes further expressions of interest.

In the Caribbean region, for example, one of the areas of vulnerability is the lack of, or limited, innovation ecosystem, and that has prevented the countries of the region from being competitive in the global markets. In this context, WIPO has undertaken work to support and develop with the SIDS of the Caribbean region the structuring of National Intellectual Property Strategies (NIPS). The aim of these strategies is to encourage and facilitate the effective creation, development, management and protection of IP at the national level and serve as a tool for the establishment and consolidation of an ecosystem for innovation.

Considering the particular needs of the region, innovation in this sense is not only focused on technological development, but covers a broader range of issues including innovative business processes, the design and implementation of branding projects, and strengthening of creative industries including music, film, ICT apps development and sports.

Agro-business sustainability has also been identified as one of the sectors of vulnerability for SIDS in the Caribbean. WIPO, in partnership with international and regional entities, has undertaken training programs with SIDS in the region, targeting producer groups with a view towards the protection of geographical indications and origin-linked quality products. The aim is to stimulate the development of private enterprises in the agriculture sector, provide training to producers and the agro-sector businesses, thereby enhancing the skills set of the producers and increasing knowledge on the importance of the IP system to the sector's development.

A further area of WIPO's focus has been in the field of IP commercialization and technology transfer. WIPO, in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and in cooperation with the University of the West Indies, carried out

a series of training workshops. The aims are: to create awareness of IP asset management; build capacity with respect to key IP and technology issues spanning the research process to commercialization; build capacity in technology transfer, knowledge sharing and licensing; and enhance approaches to commercialization of university research as well as industry/university collaboration challenges in the region.

The needs of SIDS to access environmentally-sound technologies to provide solutions to the challenges posed by sustainable development is recognized by the WIPO GREEN project. WIPO GREEN is an interactive marketplace that promotes innovation and diffusion of green technologies by connecting technology service providers with those seeking innovative solutions. Collaborations (seekers or providers from SIDS countries) are encouraged. The WIPO GREEN experts database currently includes seven experts from SIDS countries (of 286 registered experts), and WIPO is actively encouraging SIDS-based experts to register their services.

Water and agricultural technologies, for example, are fundamentally important issues for SIDS, and WIPO has conducted a matchmaking project on agriculture and water technologies in East Africa to address these issues (see [https://www3.wipo.int/wipogreen/docs/en/wipogreen\\_eastafrica\\_matchmaking\\_report2016.pdf](https://www3.wipo.int/wipogreen/docs/en/wipogreen_eastafrica_matchmaking_report2016.pdf)). Also in the field of water, in June 2017, WIPO will co-organize an event on 'Innovate 4 Water' that aims to bring together innovations from the water sectors with investors and organizations working on water issues.

Finally, WIPO prepares Patent Landscape Reports (PLRs) that provide a snapshot of the patent situation for specific technology in a given country, region or globally. The PLRs inform policy discussions, and assist with strategic research and planning and technology transfer. Of particular interest to SIDS, WIPO together with external partners has recently published PLRs on palm oil production and waste treatment technologies, microalgae related technologies, water treatment and water desalination technologies.

- To what extent has WIPO integrated the SAMOA Pathway and or the SDGs into cooperation frameworks, programs and activities, to ensure effective follow-up and implementation at regional and national levels?

In the Caribbean Region, for example, WIPO works with SIDS in the region to provide technical assistance and capacity building. For the Caribbean SIDS, WIPO's Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean coordinates with regional bodies such as CARICOM and their development partners in capacity-building activities, allowing for an effective coordinated approach to the planning and implementation in 2016 of nine technical assistance activities. These training activities focus on key areas including: IP innovation, commercialization of research results and IP assets, and the empowerment of knowledge transfer through effective IP and knowledge transfer regimes.

WIPO also supports several projects on the automation of Industrial Property Offices in more than 14 countries of the Caribbean resulting in greater efficiency in the administration of IP in the region.

- To what extent have the issues and concerns of SIDS been given due consideration in conferences and processes organized or supported by WIPO?

The WIPO Development Agenda is a member State-driven process which seeks to place the 'development dimension' at the core of the global IP system. The design, planning and implementation of technical assistance cooperation activities continues to be informed and guided by the relevant WIPO Development Agenda recommendations and principles. The emphasis is on empowering developing and least developed countries (LDCs) such as the SIDS to use the IP system as a contributing factor in achieving their economy. On this basis, WIPO has focused on the development of national IP and innovation strategies and on country plans to respond to the needs and realities of recipient countries. The WIPO Committee on Development and IP (CDIP) was established for this purpose; to work within the framework of undertaking projects based on the member States' demands/requests and development priorities they have identified. As such, it is one of the forums in which the SIDS are able to put forward and to have addressed various development issues. Within this framework, projects are formulated to specifically address areas of interest raised by member States.

WIPO's Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) meets several times annually at WIPO's Headquarters in Geneva, to enable the member States to discuss and negotiate normative developments on these issues. WIPO provides support to a number of Pacific Island countries to enable their participation in the IGC.

- Have any projects or partnerships with SIDS been initiated in the least year by WIPO?

In addition to ongoing partnerships with SIDS in various fields such as global IP databases, Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, Patent Landscape Reports (PLRs) and Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs), as well as responding to SIDS' needs at the regional level. For example, in the Caribbean Region WIPO is working towards establishing a Caribbean Patent Administration System and a joint WIPO/Inter-American Development Bank Regional Entrepreneurship Commercialization Hub, addressing IP commercialization and technology transfer, and the protection of geographical indications and origin-linked products. WIPO has been working with Caribbean countries to bring about increased harmonization on trademark procedures for greater efficiency in serving business communities at national, regional and global levels.

As part of WIPO's practice, upon request the Organization provides confidential policy and legislative advice on issues of IP law to member State governments. Recently, WIPO provided such advice in relation to Indigenous issues to a country in the Pacific Region.