

## II

### *Treaties and international agreements*

*filed and recorded*

*from 2 November 1977 to 28 November 1977*

*No. 793*

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### *Traités et accords internationaux*

*classés et inscrits au répertoire*

*du 2 novembre 1977 au 28 novembre 1977*

*Nº 793*

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**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
ORGANIZATION  
and  
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY**

**Cooperation Agreement. Signed at Geneva on 12 May 1977  
and at Addis Ababa on 24 May 1977**

*Authentic texts: Arabic, English and French.*

*Filed and recorded at the request of the World Intellectual Property Organization on 14 November 1977.*

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**ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ  
INTELLECTUELLE  
et  
ORGANISATION DE L'UNITÉ AFRICAINE**

**Accord de coopération. Signé à Genève le 12 mai 1977 et à  
Addis-Abeba le 24 mai 1977**

*Textes authentiques : arabe, anglais et français.*

*Classé et inscrit au répertoire à la demande de l'Organisation mondiale de la propriété intellectuelle le 14 novembre 1977.*

## COOPERATION AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

### PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the World Intellectual Property Organization (hereinafter referred to as “WIPO”) is recognized as a specialized agency of the United Nations and as being responsible for taking appropriate action in accordance with its basic instrument, treaties and agreements administered by it, *inter alia*, for promoting creative intellectual activity and for facilitating the transfer of technology related to industrial property to the developing countries in order to accelerate economic, social and cultural development, subject to the competence and responsibilities of the United Nations and of agencies within the United Nations system,

WHEREAS the Organization of African Unity (hereinafter referred to as “the OAU”) was established with the purpose, among others, of coordinating and intensifying the cooperation and efforts of African States to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa and to promote international cooperation, having due regard to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and, to these ends, of coordinating and harmonizing the general policies of its member States, especially in certain designated fields, including economic cooperation, educational and cultural cooperation, and scientific and technical cooperation,

WHEREAS WIPO and the OAU are desirous of contributing, within the general framework of the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization<sup>2</sup> and the Charter of African Unity,<sup>3</sup> to the effective accomplishment in Africa of those objectives which they have in common, in the light of their respective worldwide and continental responsibilities,

NOW THEREFORE WIPO and the OAU have decided to conclude a cooperation agreement and have agreed as follows:

#### *Article 1. COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION*

1. With a view to facilitating the effective attainment of the objectives set forth in their respective constituent instruments, WIPO and the OAU agree to act in close cooperation with each other and to consult each other regularly in regard to matters of common interest.

2. WIPO shall cooperate with the OAU in any plans for the development of its technical activities in fields of mutual interest in the territories of the members of the OAU and shall consider any observations concerning such plans which may be communicated to it by the OAU with a view to securing effective coordination between the two Organizations.

3. The OAU shall cooperate with WIPO in any plans for the development of its technical activities in fields of mutual interest and shall consider any observations concerning such plans which may be communicated to it by WIPO with a view to securing effective coordination between the two Organizations.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 24 May 1977, the date of signature, after having been approved by the Coordination Committee of the World Intellectual Property Organization (on 29 September 1975) and the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (on 28 February 1977), in accordance with article 12.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 828, p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 479, p. 39.

*Article 2. RECIPROCAL REPRESENTATION*

1. Representatives of WIPO shall be invited to attend as observers the sessions of the Economic and Social Commission, the Educational and Cultural Commission, as well as other relevant commissions and institutions of the OAU and, as appropriate, to participate without vote in the deliberations of such commissions or institutions with regard to items on the agenda which are of direct interest to WIPO.

2. Representatives of the OAU shall be invited to attend as observers the sessions of the WIPO Conference and, for the discussion of any item on the agenda of direct interest to the OAU, the sessions of the General Assembly of WIPO, of the Assembly of the Paris Union and of the Assembly of the Berne Union.

3. Appropriate arrangements may be made by agreement from time to time between the Director General of WIPO and the Administrative Secretary General of the OAU for the reciprocal representation of WIPO and the OAU as observers at other meetings convened under their respective auspices which consider matters in which the other has an interest.

*Article 3. COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS*

In appropriate cases, meetings convened by one Organization may call for the cooperation and participation of the other Organization. The scope of such cooperation and participation shall be the subject of arrangements in each case, taking into account any relevant resolution approved by the Organization responsible for the convening of the meeting.

*Article 4. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS*

1. Subject to such arrangements as may be necessary for the safeguarding of confidential material, a full and prompt exchange of information and documents concerning matters of common interest shall be made between WIPO and the OAU.

2. WIPO shall be kept informed by the OAU of the progress of work carried out by the latter which is of interest to WIPO.

3. The OAU shall be kept informed by WIPO of the progress of work carried out by the latter which is of interest to the OAU.

*Article 5. EXCHANGE OF PERIODICALS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS*

1. WIPO and the OAU shall arrange for the furnishing free of charge, by each Organization, of copies of its periodicals and other publications which may be of interest to the other.

2. The number of copies to be furnished shall be decided jointly by the Director General of WIPO and the Administrative Secretary General of the OAU.

*Article 6. STATISTICAL AND LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION*

1. WIPO and the OAU recognize, in particular, the desirability of avoiding duplication in the collection, analysis, publication and dissemination of statistical and legislative information. WIPO and the OAU agree to combine their efforts to ensure that better use is made of such information and to minimize the expenses imposed on the governments and other organizations from which such information is sought.

2. WIPO and the OAU agree to keep each other informed of their work in the field of statistical and legislative information and to consult each other in regard to all statistical and legislative information projects dealing with matters of common interest.

*Article 7. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE*

Should the OAU wish to avail itself of the technical assistance of WIPO, the OAU shall communicate its requirements to the Director General of WIPO. WIPO and the OAU shall consult each other to establish jointly a detailed plan of action. Should the program and budget of WIPO require modification to enable any such joint plan of action to be carried out, the Director General of WIPO shall ask the competent bodies of WIPO to grant the necessary authorization.

*Article 8. FINANCING OF SPECIAL SERVICES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE*

If special services or technical assistance requested by either Organization of the other under the terms of this Agreement would involve substantial expenditure, consultation shall take place with a view to determining the most equitable manner of meeting such expenditure.

*Article 9. JOINT ACTION*

1. WIPO and the OAU may, through special agreements, together decide upon joint action with a view to attaining objectives of common interest.

2. These agreements shall define the ways in which each of the two Organizations shall participate in such action, and shall specify the financial commitments that each is to assume.

*Article 10. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS*

The Director General of WIPO and the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU may enter into administrative arrangements to secure collaboration and effective liaison between the Secretariats of the two Organizations.

*Article 11. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT*

The Director General of WIPO and the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU may enter into such supplementary arrangements for the implementation of this Agreement as may be found desirable in the light of experience.

*Article 12. ENTRY INTO FORCE*

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date on which it is signed by the authorized representatives of WIPO and the OAU after having been approved by the Coordination Committee of WIPO and by the Council of Ministers of the OAU.

*Article 13. FILING AND RECORDING WITH THE UNITED NATIONS*

On the entry into force of this Agreement in accordance with the provisions of Article 12, it shall be communicated by WIPO to the Secretariat of the United Nations for filing and recording.

*Article 14. TERMINATION*

This Agreement may be terminated by either WIPO or the OAU. In order to terminate this Agreement, notice shall be given by the Organization which desires to withdraw from this Agreement. The termination shall take effect at the expiration of six months from the date of the notice.

*Article 15.* AMENDMENT AND REVISION

This Agreement may be amended or revised by agreement between WIPO and the OAU and any such amendment or revision shall enter into force in the same manner as this Agreement.

This Agreement was approved by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity on February 28, 1977, and by the Coordination Committee of the World Intellectual Property Organization on September 29, 1975.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have affixed their signatures to six originals of this Agreement, in the English, Arabic and French languages, all texts being equally authentic.

For the World Intellectual  
Property Organization:

[Signed]

ARPAD BOGSCH  
Director General

Geneva, May 12, 1977

For the Organization  
of African Unity:

[Signed]

ETEKI WILLIAM MBOUMOUA  
Administrative Secretary-General

Addis Ababa, 24 mai 1977<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 24 May 1977.