

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

WIPO DIGITAL AGENDA

In September 1999, the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) announced the WIPO Digital Agenda at the WIPO International Conference on Electronic Commerce and Intellectual Property. The Digital Agenda subsequently received approval of WIPO's Member States at their General Assembly later the same month.

The 10-point Digital Agenda lays down a set of guidelines and goals which reflect the Organization's commitment to seek practical solutions to the challenges raised by the impact of electronic commerce on intellectual property rights (IPRs), and its desire to ensure that all countries participate in the process of defining policy and addressing the issues in order to adapt intellectual property law for the digital age.

1. Broaden the participation of developing countries through the use of WIPONET and other means for
 - access to intellectual property (IP) information;
 - participation in global policy formulation;
 - opportunities to use their IP assets in e-commerce;
2. Entry into force of the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT) before December 2001.
3. Promote adjustment of the international legislative framework to facilitate e-commerce through
 - the extension of the principles of the WPPT to audiovisual performances;
 - the adaptation of broadcasters' rights to the digital era;
 - progress towards a possible international instrument on the protection of databases.
4. Implement the recommendations of the Report of the WIPO Domain Name Process and pursue the achievement of compatibility between identifiers in the real and virtual worlds through the establishment of rules for mutual respect and the elimination of contradictions between the domain name system and IPRs.

5. Develop appropriate principles with the aim of establishing, at the appropriate time at the international level, rules for determining the circumstances of IP liability of Online Service Providers (OSPs) which are compatible and workable within a framework of general liability rules for OSPs.

6. Promote adjustment of the institutional framework for facilitating the exploitation of IP in the public interest in a global economy and on a global medium through administrative coordination and, where desired by users, the implementation of practical systems in respect of:

- the interoperability and interconnection of electronic copyright management systems and the metadata of such systems;
- the online licensing of the digital expression of cultural heritage;
- the online administration of IP disputes.

7. Introduce and develop online procedures for the filing and administration of international applications for the PCT, the Madrid System and the Hague Agreement at the earliest possible date.

8. Study and, where appropriate, respond in a timely and effective manner to the need for practical measures designed to improve the management of cultural and other digital assets at the international level by, for example, investigating the desirability and efficacy of:

- model procedures and forms for global licensing of digital assets;
- the notarization of electronic documents;
- the introduction of a procedure for the certification of web sites for compliance with appropriate intellectual property standards and procedures.

9. Study any other emerging IP issues related to electronic commerce and, where appropriate, develop norms in relation to such issues.

10. Coordinate with other international organizations in the formulation of appropriate international positions on horizontal issues affecting IP, in particular:

- the validity of electronic contracts;
- jurisdiction.

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