

HLPF Task Team

WIPO's Input to the narrative (Focus on Innovation & Partnerships)

Draft

WIPO contributes to the SDGs in various ways and, in particular, by promoting a balanced and effective IP system that encourages innovation and creativity and supports the flow of knowledge and technical expertise within and among countries. The IP system is designed to encourage inventors and creators to do what they do best – innovate and create – and to enable them to earn a living from their work, while ensuring that the public has access to and can benefit from their outputs.

Only through human ingenuity and innovation will it be possible to develop solutions to eradicate poverty; boost agricultural productivity; ensure food security and good nutrition; increase access to energy and improve energy efficiency; fight disease; improve education; protect the environment; accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy; increase productivity and boost business competitiveness; in other words, promote sustainable development.

Innovation has a central role to play in achieving most, if not all, SDGs. WIPO's Platforms promote innovation by helping Member States and various users strengthen their ability to understand and leverage trends in policy, business, and innovative technologies. More than 740 WIPO Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) provide innovators in nearly 80 countries with access to locally based, high quality technology information and related services, helping them to exploit their innovative potential and to create, protect, and manage their intellectual property (IP) rights.

WIPO also works to advance certain internationally agreed public policy goals –in relation to education, health and the environment – through various public-private partnerships. These include:

WIPO GREEN, which supports global efforts to address climate change by making expertise and green technologies available. Specifically, it identifies particular green technology needs and matches them with corresponding technologies registered in the WIPO GREEN online database and network. It brings together a wide range of players in the green technology innovation value chain, and connects owners of new technologies with individuals or companies who might be looking to commercialize, license or otherwise distribute a green technology. Through WIPO GREEN, WIPO helps to promote innovation and diffusion of environmentally-sustainable technologies and contributes to initiatives that seek to solve global/regional environmental challenges and address climate change.

WIPO Re:Search is another important partnership which aims to accelerate the discovery and development of medicines, vaccines, and diagnostics, for patients affected by neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), malaria, and tuberculosis, as stipulated in SDG 3. WIPO Re:Search supports the mobilization of innovation and IP to improve global health by fostering collaborations between the private and public sectors and by catalyzing the development of medical products for those diseases, through innovative research partnerships and knowledge sharing among leading pharmaceutical companies and other participating private and public sector research institutions.

The Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) is a private/public partnership led by WIPO. It is proving to be a very successful example of effective international cooperation, bringing together all the relevant state and non-state actors with a unity of purpose. The ABC includes organizations that represent people with print disabilities, libraries for the blind, standards bodies, and organizations representing authors, publishers and collective management organizations.

The ABC's goal is to increase the number of books worldwide in accessible formats - such as braille, audio, e-text, large print – and to make them available to people who live with print disabilities. Its activities are strategically aligned with a disability-inclusive 2030 Agenda: they support SDG Goal 4 (Quality Education) and are consistent with articles 9 and 24 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) regarding accessibility and education.

Since June 2014, the ABC has established projects in 14 developing and least-developed countries to provide training and technical assistance in accessible book production, and funding for the production of accessible educational materials in national languages. The ABC has funded the production of over 6,600 educational materials for primary, secondary and university students. The ABC Global Book Service is an on-line catalogue that enables organizations serving people who are print disabled (known as authorized entities) to search and make requests for accessible digital books. This Service allows participating authorized entities to supplement their collections from their counterparts in other countries free of charge. Forty-seven authorized entities from around the world have joined the Service so far.

The Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI) partnership aims to increase the availability of scientific and technical information in developing countries. By improving access to scholarly literature from diverse fields of science and technology, ARDI seeks to reinforce the capacity of developing countries to participate in the global knowledge economy and supports researchers in those countries in creating and developing new solutions to technical challenges faced on a local and global level. Currently, through ARDI, over 100 publishers provide access to around 30,000 journals, books, and reference works for 121 developing countries and territories.