

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) contribution to
the 2020 High Level Political Forum (HLPF),

on the theme:

“Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery
for sustainable development”

WIPO is the global forum for intellectual property (IP) services, policy, information and cooperation. It promotes innovation and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of all countries, through a balanced and effective international intellectual property system.

As a specialized agency of the United Nations, WIPO, with 193 member states, is committed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and contributes in various ways to the attainment of the SDGs, although no direct reference is made to IP in the Goals and Targets composing the 2030 Agenda¹,

Development considerations became an integral part of WIPO’s work since the adoption in 2007 of the WIPO Development Agenda. The effective implementation of the Development Agenda is a key priority and a major component of the assistance WIPO provides to its Member States to help achieve the SDGs within its mandate.

WIPO’s Strategic Goals and Programs are aligned with the priorities set in the 2030 Agenda. Since 2018, the WIPO Program and Budget establishes a link between the Organization’s Strategic Goals and the SDGs. Under each of the concerned Strategic Goals, a wide range of programs and activities involving all the Organization’s Departments, contribute to the SDGs. The total number of Programs linked to the SDGs amount to twenty out of a total of thirty-one Programs². WIPO’s development cooperation, technical assistance and capacity building activities are strategically placed to deliver support to its Member States as they integrate the SDGs in their national development plans.

Intellectual property is a critical component for innovation, as it helps set the incentives structure for the world’s innovators who create the new technologies and processes that

¹ With the exception of paragraph 3.b of Goal 3 that mentions IP rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement and Public Health.

² It should be noted that the eight Programs under Strategic Goal VIII and IX are related to support functions.

improve lives. In this way, innovation is key to the success of the SDGs. Only through human ingenuity and innovation will it be possible to develop new solutions that: 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.

Contributing to the SDG implementation

WIPO offers a wide-range of programs, platforms, projects and activities which help Member States create or strengthen a positive environment for innovation and creativity that could be crucial to achieve the SDGs.

WIPO assists its Member States, particularly developing and least developed countries, upon their request, to produce national IP strategies that encourage and facilitate the effective creation, development, management, and protection of IP at the national level. The legal framework of the IP System, which includes the twenty-six international treaties administered by WIPO and national IP laws, is of utmost importance to the innovation ecosystem in the global economy. It promotes a positive enabling environment to support the innovation in technological development, and diversity in creativity, that will be important for achieving the SDGs.

WIPO's legislative and policy assistance is based on the multilateral legal framework and aims to support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment. Member States' legislative activity has grown, particularly due to their increasing participation in regional economic integration processes and preferential trade agreements. Additionally, a number of Member States are revising their current patent laws to accommodate local public policies, or due to their accession to multilateral treaties on patents, namely the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), Budapest Treaty, and Patent Law Treaty (PLT), and implementing them for the first time through the adoption of regulations. Moreover, countries joining the World Trade Organization (WTO) systematically revise their legal frameworks. Therefore, requests for legislative advice follow the same trend.

Various WIPO world-leading databases also contribute to foster innovation: Patentscope aims to raise public awareness of the wealth of technological information in the context of facilitating transfer of knowledge and fostering development. It offers free online dissemination of patent data with over 80 million technology disclosures. The Global Brands Database provides access to over 40 million records relating to internationally protected trademarks, appellations of origin and armorial bearings, flags and other state emblems as well as the names, abbreviations and emblems of IGOs; the Global Design Database enables free and simultaneous searches of more than 11 million industrial designs registered under the WIPO-administered Hague System and/or in participating national collections; WIPO Lex, the leading reference on IP laws worldwide, is a global database that provides free of charge access to legal information on intellectual property (IP) such as treaties administered by WIPO, other IP-related treaties, and laws and regulations of the Member States of WIPO, the UN and WTO; the IP Statistics Data Center is a world leading reference

for IP activities and is intended to be a tool for IP professionals, researchers and policymakers worldwide.

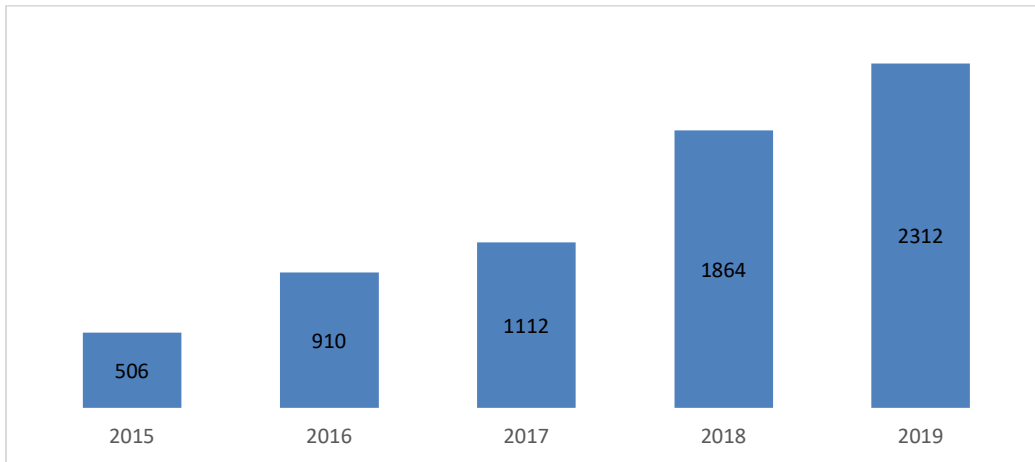
A number of WIPO's Platforms promote innovation by helping Member States and various users strengthen their ability to understand and leverage trends in policy, business, and innovative technologies:

- a) The Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS) is a modular automation administrative system used in over 80 developing countries throughout the world to automate their IP business and administrative processes. IPAS is one of the key components of the global IP infrastructure provided by WIPO, along with a set of modernization services, to offer a comprehensive sustainable automation solution to requesting IP offices from developing countries with diverse levels of development, resources, capacity, skills and infrastructure;
- b) The WIPO Centralized Access to Search and Examination (CASE) system enables participating patent offices to securely share search and examination documentation related to patent applications with the objective to improve the quality and efficiency of the patent search and examination process done at local and regional patent offices; and
- c) Finally, the WIPO Digital Access Service (DAS) allows secured electronic exchange of priority documents between participating intellectual property offices. The system enables applicants and offices to meet the requirements of the Paris Convention for certification in an electronic environment.

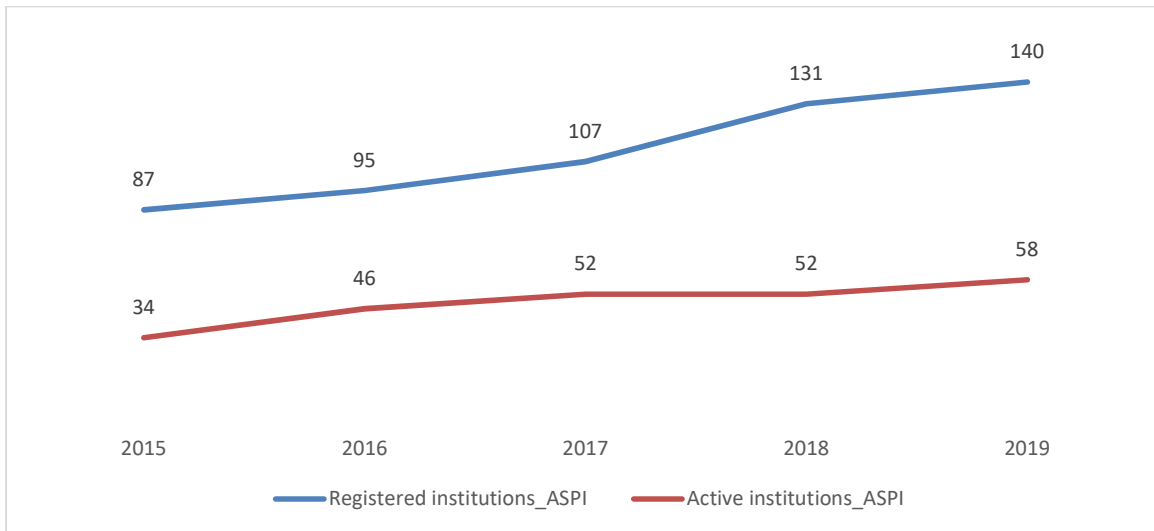
WIPO contributes also to the innovation ecosystem through a number of analytical reports: The World IP Reports³, the World IP Indicators and the Global Innovation Index; as well as through a number of partnerships, as recommended by SDG 17. The following programs could be mentioned among those partnerships:

- a) WIPO's Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI) program is part of a public-private partnership with some of the world's leading scientific and technical publishers providing free or low-cost access to over 8,000 subscription-based scientific and technical journals and over 34,000 e-books and reference works in 125 developing countries and LDCs. It is also a member of the Research4Life partnership together with programs administered by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) the United National Environment Programme (UNEP), and the International Labour Organization (ILO), all of which offer content in their respective specialized fields. The number of institutions subscribed to ARDI has increased to 2,312 last year (see figure below). In total, over 10,000 institutions are registered with Research4Life providing a total access to over 23,000 journals and over 86,000 books and reference works.

³ World IP reports successively addressed the following themes: The [impact of breakthrough innovations](#), the [role that brands play in a global marketplace](#), the [changing face of innovation](#), and the Intangible Capital in Global Value Chains.



b) Another public-private partnership program with nine of the world’s leading patent database providers, WIPO’s Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI), offers free or low-cost access to commercial patent search and analytical services to over 140 registered institutions in 51 developing countries and LDCs (see figure below). Commercial patent databases provide more sophisticated search and analysis tools compared to free of charge patent databases.



c) The Inventor Assistance Program (IAP) is an innovative program aimed at making the IP system more accessible to developing country inventors and small businesses, by matching financially under-resourced inventors of promising new technologies and ideas with qualified IP counsel, who provide free of charge legal assistance on how to file a patent to protect their inventions.

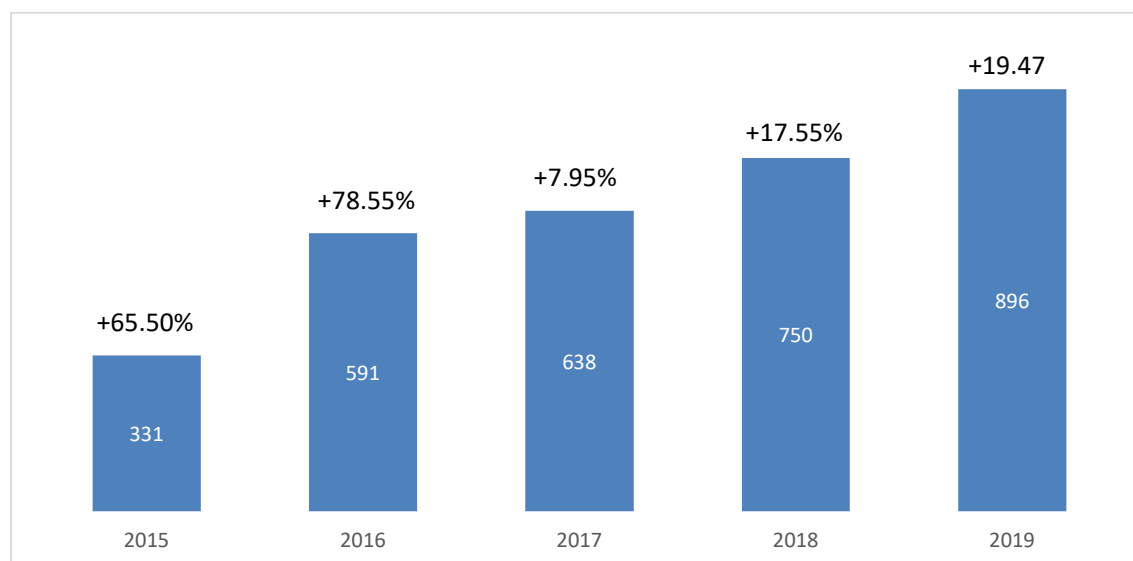
Capacity building programs also are a major component of the assistance WIPO provides to its Member States as they are set to promote IP as a tool for development and to spur innovation and creativity. The WIPO Academy is the core entity in WIPO for enhancing

training and human capacity-building activities, particularly for developing countries, least-developed countries (LDCs) and countries in transition. The Academy acts as a catalyst for a virtual network of partners, experts and teachers in development-oriented IP training. It provides professional and open-access online learning and training designed to expand the range and impact of training opportunities at the national, regional and international levels. In addition to the activities of the Academy, various sectors of WIPO organize throughout the year regional, sub regional, and national seminars and workshops both on public policy matters and to develop local capacities.

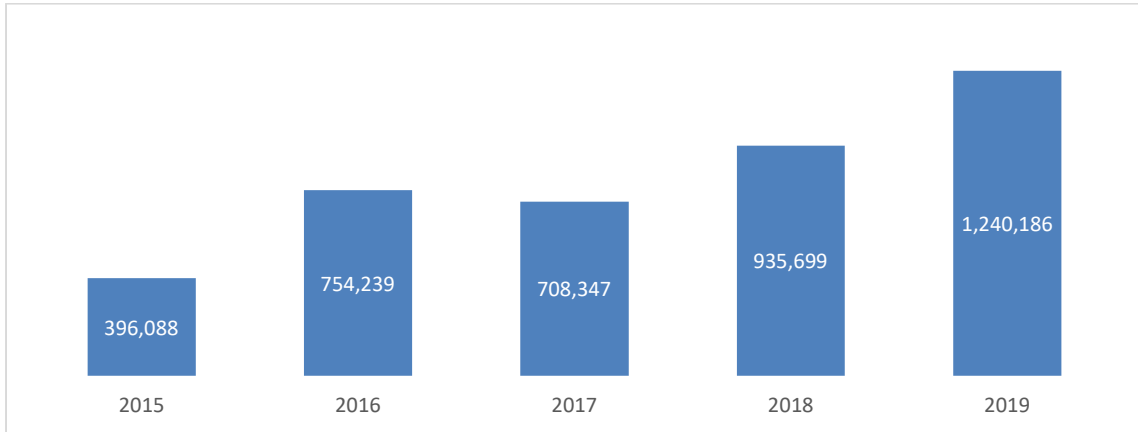
Contributing to the decade of accelerated action

Some of WIPO's programs can be considered as having an accelerating effect on the implementation of certain SDGs due, in particular, to the progress stimulation they can exert in each concerned areas:

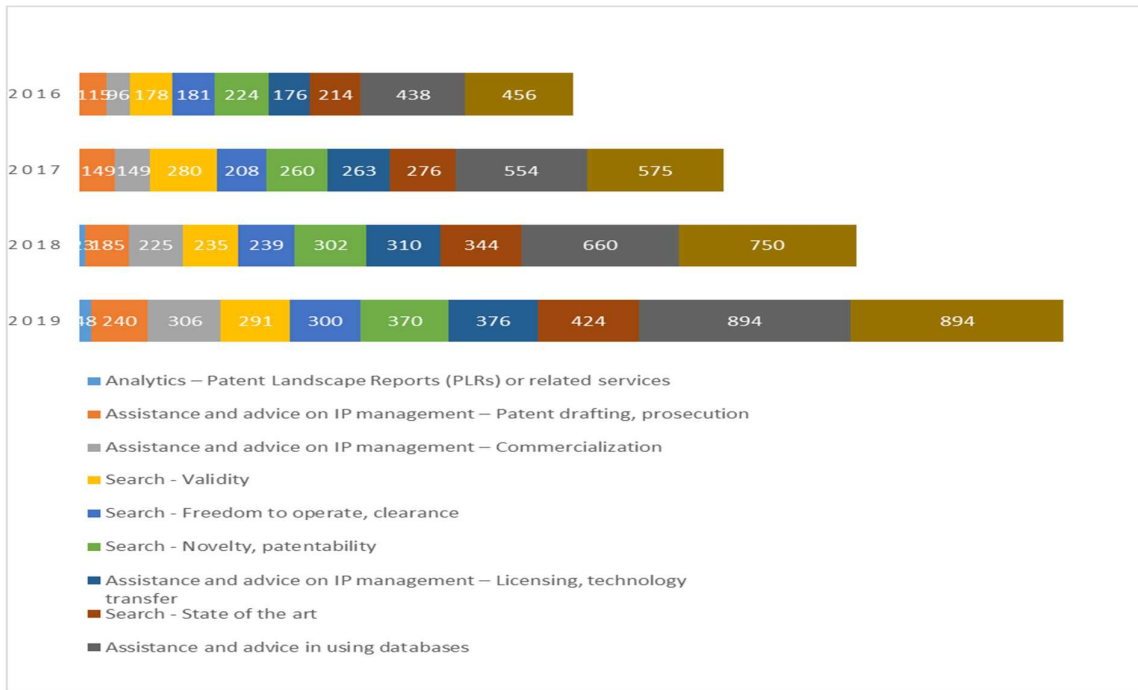
WIPO's Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) promote and support access to technology information and provide related innovation support services, which range from basic technology searches to value-added analytical services to help inventors, researchers and entrepreneurs unlock their innovative potential. Since the TISC program was launched in 2009, national networks have been established and are operating in 80 Member States with 896 TISCs hosted in institutions, such as universities and research centers, at the end of 2019. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, the implementation of the program has seen an acceleration, with a noticeable annual progression of the number of centers and of beneficiary countries (see figure below).



Moreover, according to an end of year survey which is carried out annually, it was estimated that these TISCs had received over 1.2 million inquiries last year. The figure below shows the growth in the number of inquiries submitted to TISCs over the last five years.



The number of different types of services has also expanded in recent years from simple access to databases, through assistance in searching and analysis of data found, to assistance and advice on IP management in licensing, technology transfer, commercialization, patent drafting and patent prosecution (see figure below; data only available for 2016 to 2019).



Training provided by WIPO supports the development of knowledge and skills among TISC staff building their capacity to provide a range of high-quality services. Training includes on-site workshops and seminars with a focus on training of trainers, distance learning carried out in cooperation with the WIPO Academy. Topics covered include: basic concepts and skills in

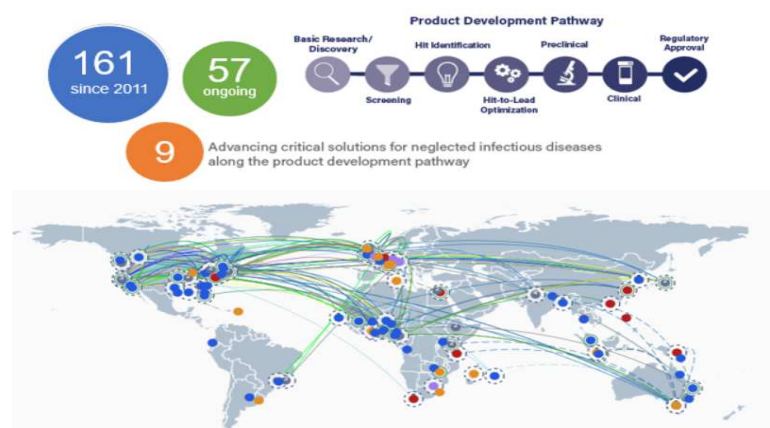
patent searching; different types of patent searches, including state-of-the-art, novelty and freedom to operate; as well as patent analytics.

A number of publications and learning resources have been developed for patent information users in general and TISC staff specifically to access technology found in databases and use it in developing products and services to take to market. These resources also include an interactive e-tutorial to help innovators to use the wealth of technology information found in patent documents, as well as guides on identifying and using inventions in the public domain by respectively carrying out freedom to operate searches and new product development processes.

Patent landscape reports (PLRs) provide technical and business-relevant information for a specific technology within a given country or region to contribute to informed policy discussions, strategic research planning or technology transfer. A searchable database provides over 215 PLRs from WIPO and other organizations. The patent landscape reports developed in the period 2011 to 2018 attract the interest of patent information users with 40,096 PDF downloads in 2019. A new patent analytics-based flagship publication WIPO Technology Trends (WITT) on Artificial Intelligence was published on January 31, 2019. This new publication is based on a patent landscape report and is enriched by non-patent data and inputs from world leading experts in the featured subject matter. The first issue of the WITT had 96,907 downloads in 2019 and was one of the most referenced WIPO publications, while work started in 2019 for the second edition of the WITT on Assistive Technology which will be published in 2020.

WIPO Re:Search catalyzes the development of new medicines and technologies in the fight against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), malaria and tuberculosis. Through innovative research partnerships and Research and Development (R&D) collaborations, we make intellectual property (IP) available to researchers who need it. WIPO Re:Search's 146 members – spread across 42 countries on six continents -- include eight of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies, prestigious academic institutions and product development partnerships. Since its launch in 2011, WIPO Re:Search has fostered 161 collaboration agreements among its members, of which 57 are currently active and nine are advancing through key milestones on the product development pathway.

Collaborations & Global Scale



WIPO Re:Search demonstrates the power of public-private partnerships and the seminal role that intellectual property plays in spurring innovation to advance the global health agenda. An on-going WIPO Re:Search collaboration on malaria between MSD and Australia's Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, for example, recently won a U.S. 3.6 million dollar Seeding Drug Discovery Early Stage Award from the Wellcome Trust. Using funds generously provided by the Government of Australia, between 2016 and 2020 WIPO Re:Search arranged 20 fellowships for scientists from 11 low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) at advanced laboratories throughout Australia, Europe, and the USA. Ranging from three to six months, these exchanges resulted in over 100 months of training, thereby bolstering scientific capacity and knowledge of IP in LMICs.

Membership & Global Reach



Year	Membership	Collaborations
2011	27	In Development
2012	57	In Development
2013	72	In Development
2014	87	77
2015	97	97
2016	105	108
2017	132	122
2018	139	140
2019	145	156



WIPO GREEN

WIPO also contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through an online marketplace for sustainable technologies. WIPO GREEN is actively working to help unlock the innovation and creativity that are key to achieving the 17 UN SDGs, in particular, with a particular focus on the environmentally focused goals. WIPO GREEN supports global efforts to address climate change by connecting providers and seekers of environmentally friendly “green” technologies. Through its database, network and green technology acceleration projects, it brings together the public and private sector to catalyze green technology innovation and diffusion.

WIPO GREEN database

 **1,400+**
REGISTERED
USERS

 **3,230+**
TECHNOLOGIES
AND NEEDS

Technologies by spheres



Launched in 2013, WIPO GREEN now counts 106 partners (compared with 65 in 2015). The platform is accessible from anywhere in the world at no charge. Today, the platform serves more than 1,500 international users from 63 countries (compared to 490 users at the end of 2015), including small and medium enterprises, universities and research institutions, as well as multinational companies and governments. It features 3180 technologies from 60 countries to address climate change, environmental and food-security challenges (there were 2086 technologies listed on the database in 2015, although these numbers are not comparable due to changing data-sharing arrangements with partner databases) and 256 needs for green tech solutions (95 in 2015).



The Accessible Books Consortium (ABC)

An inclusive and equitable quality education is a fundamental goal of society in that it allows an individual to fulfill his or her own potential and it is a prerequisite for spurring economic growth.

Unfortunately, a quality education is not always available to all persons. People who are blind, visually impaired or other print disabled (“the print disabled”) face barriers to education and information, since they often cannot obtain educational materials in accessible formats.

According to a 2018 estimate by the World Health Organization, 253 million people worldwide are blind or have severe to moderate vision impairment. More than 90% of these are resident in developing countries, where the World Blind Union estimates that people who are blind have only a one in ten chance of going to school or getting a job. The lack of accessible books is a very real barrier to getting an education and leading an independent, productive life.

The Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) was established in June 2014 to implement the goals of WIPO’s *Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled*. Under the terms of the Marrakesh Treaty, books in accessible formats - such as Braille, e-text, audio or large print - may be produced and exchanged across borders without the need to request permission from the copyright owner. ABC is a WIPO-led public–private partnership that brings together all of the key players – organizations representing people who are print-disabled, authors, publishers, collective management organizations, libraries and other authorized entities, as well as standards bodies.

Through an effective international alliance of relevant state and non-state actors, ABC seeks to increase the number of books worldwide in accessible formats and distribute them to people who are print disabled. In this manner, it makes valuable contributions to SDG No. 4 Quality Education.

Since its inception in 2014, WIPO’s Accessible Books Consortium has been able to accelerate the implementation of SDG 4 through the following three activities:

ABC Global Book Service – is an online catalogue for the international exchange of accessible books by participating libraries for the blind, which share items in their collections and distribute accessible books obtained through ABC to their patrons who are print disabled. The ABC Global Book Service has expanded considerably, going from 11 libraries for the blind in 2014 to 71 libraries for the blind in 2020, of which 26 are from developing or least developed countries (LDCs). The Service has grown from a catalogue of 225,000 accessible titles in 2014 to a catalogue of 620,000 accessible titles in 2020 in 80 languages, with 500,000 of those titles available for cross-border exchange free from clearance formalities under the conditions of the Marrakesh Treaty.

Capacity Building - training and technical assistance in the latest accessible book production techniques is given to authorized entities, departments of education and publishers in developing countries and LDCs. Funding for the production of educational materials in national languages to be used by primary, secondary and university students who are print disabled is provided by ABC, so that the techniques taught during the training can be utilized immediately by the trainees. The first ABC capacity building project was established in Bangladesh in 2015 and was funded by the Government of Australia. Since that time, over 12,700 accessible educational titles in national languages have been produced through ABC projects in 17 developing or least developed countries.

Accessible Publishing – ABC promotes the production of “born accessible” works by publishers, that is, books that are usable from the start by both sighted persons and the print disabled. Publishers and publishers’ associations around the world are invited to sign the *ABC Charter for Accessible Publishing*, which contains eight high-level aspirational principles relating to digital publications in accessible formats. Since its launch in 2014, over 100 signatories have signed the *ABC Charter*, including 57 publishers who joined *en masse* through the Brazilian Publishers Association.

ABC has organized the annual ABC International Excellence Award for Accessible Publishing since 2015. This award recognizes outstanding leadership or achievements in improving the accessibility of e-books or other digital publications for persons who are print disabled. The nominations received from around the world, including many from developing and LDCs, are incredibly diverse and reflect a genuine interest in making knowledge, information and culture available to all members of society. This prestigious award is a noted event in the field of accessibility. An expert jury composed of accessibility experts and representatives of organizations serving people who are visually impaired, authors, publishers and standards bodies select each year’s winners.

ABC Indicators	2014	2020
No. of libraries for the blind that have signed an agreement with WIPO to participate in the ABC Global Book Service	11	71
No. of accessible titles in the ABC Global Book Service catalogue	225,000	620,000
No. of accessible titles available for cross border exchange under the Marrakesh Treaty provisions, i.e., without the need to request authorization from the copyright owner	N/A	500,000
No. of educational titles that were produced in national languages in accessible formats through funding, training and technical assistance provided by ABC	N/A	12,700
No. of publishers that signed the ABC Charter for Accessible Publishing	N/A	102

Looking forward

WIPO will continue to work, upon request of its Member States, to ensure that national IP and innovation strategies are integrated appropriately in the national development plans, taking into account the development needs, capacities and resources of the concerned countries. Throughout the term of the 2030 Agenda, WIPO will also continue to work closely with its Member States to adapt to their changing development priorities, capacities and resources, so as to optimize WIPO’s support in governments’ use of the IP and innovation system as a tool for the achievement of the SDGs.