



# World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

## What is WIPO?

- WIPO is one of the oldest specialised agencies of United Nations.

### Intellectual Property

- Intellectual property (IP) is a category of creations of the human intellect that encompasses **copyrights, patents, trademarks, industrial designs, and geographical indications**.
- It also includes other types of rights such as **rights of publicity, moral rights, and rights of privacy**.

- WIPO was created in 1967 "to encourage creative activity, to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world".
- WIPO currently administers 26 international treaties.
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Every year World Intellectual Property Day is being celebrated on 26th April.**

## Membership

- WIPO currently has 191 member states.
- All member states of the UN are entitled, though not obliged, to become members of the specialized agencies like WIPO.
- 188 of UN member states as well as Cook Islands, Holy See and Niue are members of WIPO.
- Palestine has permanent observer status.
- Some 250 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) have official observer status at WIPO meetings.
- India joined WIPO in 1975.

## History of WIPO

<b>1883 — Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial property</b>	First step taken to protect intellectual work in other countries. It covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Inventions(patents),</li><li>▪ Trademarks,</li><li>▪ Industrial Designs.</li></ul>
<b>1886 — Berne Convention</b>	For the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works. It covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Novels, short stories, poems, plays;</li><li>▪ Songs, opera, musicals;</li><li>▪ Drawings, paintings, sculptures, architectural works.</li></ul>
<b>1891 — Madrid Agreement</b>	The first international IP filing service is launched.
<b>1893 — BIRPI established</b>	Two secretariats set up to administer the Paris and Berne Conventions.

	form the United International Bureaux for the Protection of Intellectual Property (BIRPI).
<b>1970 — BIRPI becomes WIPO</b>	WIPO becomes a member state-led intergovernmental organization.
<b>1974 — WIPO joins the United Nations</b>	WIPO become one of the agencies of UN.
<b>1978 — Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) system launched</b>	By filing one international patent application under the PCT, applicants can simultaneously seek protection for an invention in a vast number of countries.
<b>1994 — Arbitration and Mediation Centre (AMC) established</b>	The Centre offers alternative dispute resolution services for international commercial disputes between private parties.

## Functions

- Policy forum to shape balanced international IP rules for a changing world.
- Global services to protect IP across borders and to resolve disputes.
- Technical infrastructure to connect IP systems and share knowledge.
- Cooperation and capacity-building programs to enable all countries to use IP for economic, social and cultural development.
- A world reference source for IP information.

## Limitations and Exceptions

- In order to maintain an appropriate balance between the interests of rightholders and users of protected works, copyright laws allow certain limitations on economic rights.
- These are cases in which protected works may be used without the authorization of the rightholder and with or without payment of compensation.
- Limitations and exceptions is an issue considered in the agenda of the WIPO.
- The debate has been focused mainly on three groups of beneficiaries or activities in relation to exceptions and limitations – on educational activities, on libraries and archives and on disabled persons, particularly visually impaired persons.

Name	Purpose	
<b>WIPO Performance and Phonograms Treaty</b>	Deals with the rights of two kinds of beneficiaries, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ performers (actors, singers, musicians, etc.); and</li> <li>▪ producers of phonograms (persons or legal entities who bear the responsibility for the fixation of sounds).</li> </ul>	partic
<b>Budapest Treaty</b>	International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms and the International Depositary Procedure.	organis
<b>Madrid Protocol for the International Registration of Marks</b>	Provides for the international registration of trade marks. A single registration can cover more than one country.	mark
<b>Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities</b>	The treaty allows for copyright exceptions to facilitate the production and distribution of books and other copyrighted works for visually impaired persons.	impai
<b>WIPO Copyright Treaty</b>	A special agreement under the Berne Convention which updates copyright law and the rights of their authors in the digital environment.	environ

## Publications

- **Global Innovation Index** - an annual ranking of countries by their capacity for, and success in,

innovation.

- It is published in association with Cornell University and INSEAD.

PDF Referenece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/important-institutions-international-world-intellectual-property-organisation-wipo>