

Global Intellectual Property Cooperation



IP52.org

Making sense of intellectual property

An Overview

Several international systems exist that define, protect and enforce intellectual property (IP) rights. These global bodies bring together key stakeholders to ensure innovation is supported and IP is protected in all major markets.

The first modern international IP treaties were signed over 100 years ago, and still form the foundation on which today's protections are built. As a result of the work of organizations like these, inventors are incentivized to create more products and processes that are valuable to society.

Here are some of the most important organizations and agreements protecting IP around the world today.



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

www.oecd.org

Founded: 1961

Headquartered in Paris, the OECD represents 34 member countries with a mission to “promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world.” The OECD’s work includes measuring international trends, setting standards for industries like agriculture and safety, and working directly with governments.

As part of this work, the OECD studies how innovation and IP affect economic development, assesses policies and practices for the management of IP, and studies the economic impact of IP in high-tech industries. The outcome of this work influences how governments and global agencies address new questions and challenges around intellectual property.



World Trade Organization (WTO)

www.wto.org

Founded: 1995

The WTO manages the rules of trade and commerce between nations, including intellectual property (inventions, creations and designs). The WTO also administers the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), the most influential international IP rights agreement, which sets international standards for protection and enforcement of various forms of IP. TRIPS has been essential for global innovation sharing – especially in plant science – since its harmonized system allows inventors to confidently bring new technologies to nations around the world.

TRIPS standards cover how basic principles of the trading system and other international intellectual property agreements should be applied, how to give adequate protection to intellectual property rights, how countries should enforce those rights, and how to settle disputes on intellectual property between WTO members. For example, under TRIPS, patents should be granted in WTO member states for a minimum of 20 years.



International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)

www.upov.int

Founded: 1961

Headquartered in Geneva, UPOV provides and promotes a system of plant variety protection and encourages the development of new plant varieties. UPOV grants agricultural researchers the right to protect new plant innovations through “plant variety protection rights,” also known as “plant breeder’s rights.” These rights allow researchers greater control over how their inventions are used, and are the primary method for protecting plant science innovations.



World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

www.wipo.int

Founded: 1967

WIPO is the global forum for intellectual property services, policy, information and cooperation. It is one of the 17 specialized United Nations agencies and currently has 188 member states. WIPO leads an international system that protects innovation and creativity, through policy forums and committees, international IP filing systems, knowledge-sharing infrastructure, and by connecting IP offices all over the world. WIPO works directly with governments and their IP offices to build their capacity, and contributes expertise and analysis to global policy discussions.

WIPO administers the following intellectual property application and registration systems: the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Madrid System for trademarks and the Hague System for industrial designs.

