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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

2001

ON TRADEMARK INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

submitted by

NIGERIA

An annual series of reports on the trademark information activities
of members of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT ON TRADEMARK INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

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I. Evolution of registration activities:

The Trademarks Act Cap 436 Law of the Federation of Nigeria 1990 mandates the Registrar to before 1st June every year submit a report of the executed by or under the Registrar of this act to the Honourable Minister who shall lay a copy before each house of the National Assembly.

In the year ended 31st May 2001, a total of 10,306 foreign and local trademarks applications were received. These consist of 3,203 foreign applications and 7,103 domestic applications. This represented a 171% improvement upon the previous year wherein a total of 3,797 applications comprising 1307 foreign applications and 2490 domestic applications were received. It is believed that the improved business climate in Nigeria contributed much to the observed increase in the number of applications.

II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, and distribution of secondary sources of trademark information, i.e., trademark gazettes:

One of the main sources of secondary trademark information is the trademark journal/gazette. It consists of the name of the registered mark, its classification in Class, ownership, logo, name and address of applicant. In the year ended 31st May 2002, no journal was published. However, this was due to logistic problems and finance. The mass storage medium is the compactus that houses the files of trademark applications. Efforts are being intensified to automate the operations of the trademark registry. It is expected that at completion, word processors and other equipment will be made available for storing trademark information.

III. Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying and indexing of trademark information:

Nigeria employs the International Classification of Goods and Services for the purposes of Registration of Marks (Nice classification) for the purpose of her classification and reclassification activities. However, the Trademarks Act is being amended to include Service marks.

Presently, the electronic classification system is not in use in the Registry.

Applicants are under obligation to use pre-defined terms for the classification applied.

VIII. Matters concerning education and training including technical assistance to developing countries:

During the period under review, Nigeria enjoyed technical promotional activities in the form of seminars from AIPPI, USCLD and WIPO-EPO. The Commonwealth has also indicated its willingness to assist.

IX. Other relevant matters.

The Registry of Trademarks, Patents and Designs has recently taken delivery of the WIPONET Kits. This is expected to assist the office considerably in the area of information accessibility and availability.

Plans are underway to introduce the registration of service marks and this is expected to enlarge the scope of IPP in Nigeria. The Nigerian Government has also approved the centralization of the administration of intellectual property matters under one umbrella. To this end, there is to be established an Intellectual Property Commission of Nigeria (IPCON).

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