

Modalities

Informal Meeting of the WIPO Coordination Committee for the Presentations by Candidates for the Post of Director General of WIPO

January 27, 2026
WIPO Conference Hall

I. Multimedia presentations/promotional materials

No multimedia applications (e.g., video clips and similar) will be permitted in the context of the candidate presentations, given the potential for technical difficulties and/or resulting delays, as well as in light of the very purpose of the meeting to engage directly with the candidates in person.

Candidates are, however, free to provide written promotional materials (such as pamphlets, links to online versions etc.), to delegations present, but are asked to make arrangements with the Secretariat in advance. A designated table, outside the meeting room, will be provided for such materials so as not to disturb the proceedings or incur additional time.

The use of text-based powerpoint presentations by candidates will be permitted, provided that each candidate be responsible for their own presentation and that the powerpoint slides are shown in all six United Nations (UN) languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish).

II. Webcasting and recording

No external or internal webcasting of the informal meeting will take place. However, the informal meeting will be recorded by WIPO only for the purpose of being made accessible to delegations on a password-protected portion of the website following the conclusion of the interviews. Delegates are kindly requested to refrain from making any recordings or other digital transmissions of the meeting, or from publicizing information from the informal meeting *via* social media.

III. Order of appearance and length of presentations

On January 19, 2026, in a meeting with the Vice-Chairs of the WIPO Coordination Committee and WIPO Group Coordinators, the Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee drew lots to determine the order in which candidates will appear before the Member States. The order of appearance of candidates will be shared with all Member States, through Group Coordinators, prior to the informal meeting. As candidates will appear before Member States individually, no other candidate will be present or permitted in the room during the presentation of a fellow candidate.

A total of 60 minutes will be allotted to each candidate, which will include: 10 minutes for a presentation given by the candidate; 21 minutes to provide answers to pre-submitted questions by WIPO Groups; and 21 minutes to provide answers to spontaneous questions by Member States.

It will be necessary to conform strictly to the schedule, which allows time for the entering and exiting of candidates.

IV. Pre-submitted questions

Candidates will be asked the same seven questions during the informal meeting. Member States that have proposed a candidate are kindly requested to share the questions with their respective candidate. In addition to answering the questions orally, candidates may also provide written responses to the questions, which may be circulated among Members and observers of the WIPO Coordination Committee by the respective Member State that has proposed the candidate providing the written response.

V. Spontaneous questions

Following the conclusion of the Pre-Submitted Question segment, Member States will have an opportunity to pose spontaneous questions to the candidate. Those Member States wishing to do so must signal their interest before the end of the respective candidate's Pre-Submitted Question segment. The order in which Member States pose a spontaneous question will be determined by individual lot drawn randomly from the pool of Member States that have indicated their wish, with priority given to the Members of the WIPO Coordination Committee before observer States. The process of drawing successive Member States to pose a question will continue until the time period (21 minutes) for this segment is exhausted or until there are no Member States left in the pool. For the sake of efficiency, delegates are kindly requested to pose their respective question in less than 30 seconds.

While it is not prohibited for a delegation to pose a spontaneous question to its proposed candidate, the Chair of the WIPO Coordination Committee seeks the cooperation of Member States in refraining from doing so.

VI. Time limit for answering questions

Answers to each pre-submitted question should not exceed three minutes so that all seven questions can be answered. Answers to each spontaneous question should not exceed a maximum of three minutes so that at least seven questions can be posed.

VII. Content and conduct of questioning

Member States shall pose questions to candidates in accordance with the General Principles as stipulated in the 2019 Procedures for the Nomination and Appointment of Directors General of WIPO. Accordingly, questions in the context of the selection of a candidate for Director General shall be guided by respect for the dignity of the candidates, as well as the countries nominating them, and transparency of the nomination process.

VIII. Attendance

As reflected in Circular Note 4251, dated December 18, 2025, Member States are reminded that attendance at the informal meeting is limited to WIPO Coordination Committee Members and observer States. Further, the number of seats per delegation will be limited to five for each Member of the Coordination Committee, and two for each observer.

IX. Interpretation

Interpretation will be provided into all six UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish).

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