

IP AFRICA NEWS

- Ethiopia Accedes to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property
- Morocco and WIPO Sign Agreement to Strengthen Intellectual Property and Protect Cultural Heritage
- Key Reforms to ARIPO's Patent and Design System: Critical Updates for 2025
- Increase in Official Fees



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ETHIOPIA

ETHIOPIA ACCEDES TO THE PARIS CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

Ethiopia has taken a major step towards strengthening its intellectual property regime by formally acceding to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. The instrument of accession was deposited with the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on May 15, 2025. The Convention is set to enter into force for Ethiopia on August 15, 2025.

This development marks a significant milestone in Ethiopia's efforts to modernize its IP framework, providing improved protection for patents, trademarks, and industrial designs, and enhancing the legal certainty for both local and international businesses operating within the jurisdiction.

By joining the Paris Convention, Ethiopia aligns its IP system with globally recognized standards, making it easier for rights holders to seek and enforce protection across borders. The accession is expected to promote innovation, facilitate foreign investment, and encourage technology transfer all critical to Ethiopia's long-term economic and industrial development.



MOROCCO

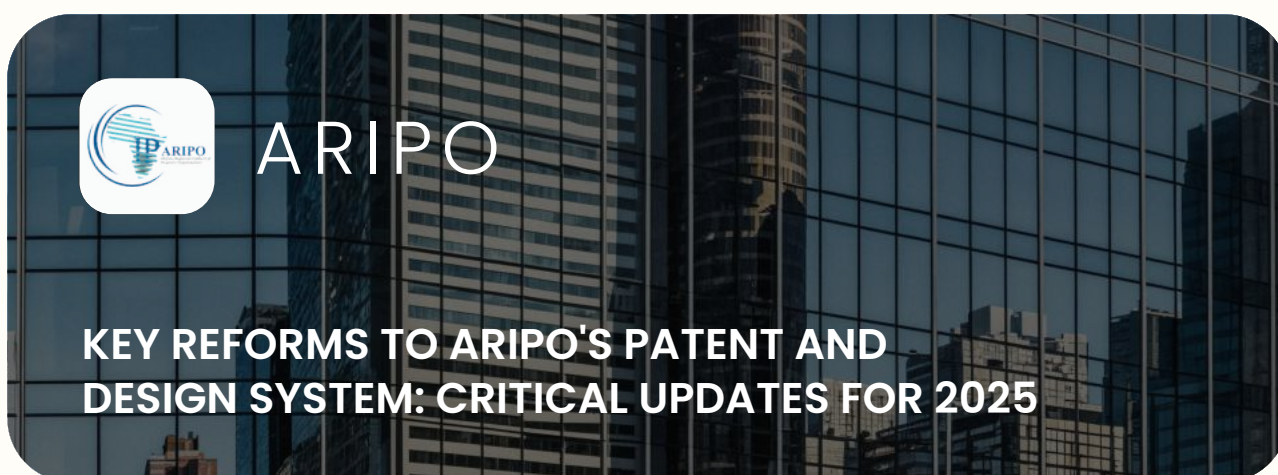
MOROCCO AND WIPO SIGN AGREEMENT TO STRENGTHEN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND PROTECT CULTURAL HERITAGE

In a noteworthy move to strengthen its IP framework and safeguard its cultural legacy, Morocco has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The agreement aims to enhance cooperation in areas such as copyright, neighboring rights, and the protection of Morocco's rich intangible heritage.

Under the MoU, key objectives include strengthening Morocco's national IP strategy, improving copyright administration and rights management, and promoting traditional cultural expressions like the caftan and zellige.

The collaboration will grant Morocco access to WIPO's technical support and international digital tools, boost capacity building for Morocco's Copyright Office, and enable knowledge exchange programs. It also seeks to ensure fair compensation and recognition for Moroccan creators.

This strategic partnership marks a step forward in integrating IP rights into Morocco's broader cultural and economic development plans, reinforcing both national identity and the sustainability of its creative industries.



Effective 1 March 2025, the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) implemented substantial amendments to the Harare Protocol, introducing transformative changes to patent and industrial design procedures across member states. These reforms impact substantive examination, administrative processes, and fee structures, requiring immediate attention from applicants and IP professionals.

Major Changes and Their Implications

- Applicants are now permitted to submit distinct sets of claims for different jurisdictions, enabling filings to be tailored to local legal requirements and examination practices without affecting protection in other territories.
- The introduction of more precise deadlines for responding to communications and receiving notifications provides improved clarity and predictability throughout the prosecution process.
- ARIPO has implemented new and increased charges, including fees for post-filing claim amendments and extension requests, with some rates rising by more than 50% compared to previous amounts.
- Internal changes within ARIPO now focus on process efficiency, expanded digital tools, and faster handling of correspondence, all aimed at enhancing the Secretariat's service delivery and turnaround times.



ZANZIBAR

INCREASE IN OFFICIAL FEES

The Zanzibar Intellectual Property (IP) Registry has implemented a revision of its official fees, which took effect on Monday, 11 August 2025. This update was formally published in the Zanzibar Government Gazette on 18 July 2025, providing stakeholders with advance notice of the changes.

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