



**ARIPO**

*African Regional Intellectual  
Property Organization*



# An Overview of ARIPO

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*Fostering Creativity and Innovation for Economic Growth and Development in Africa*

International Regional Intellectual Property Organization



# About ARIPO

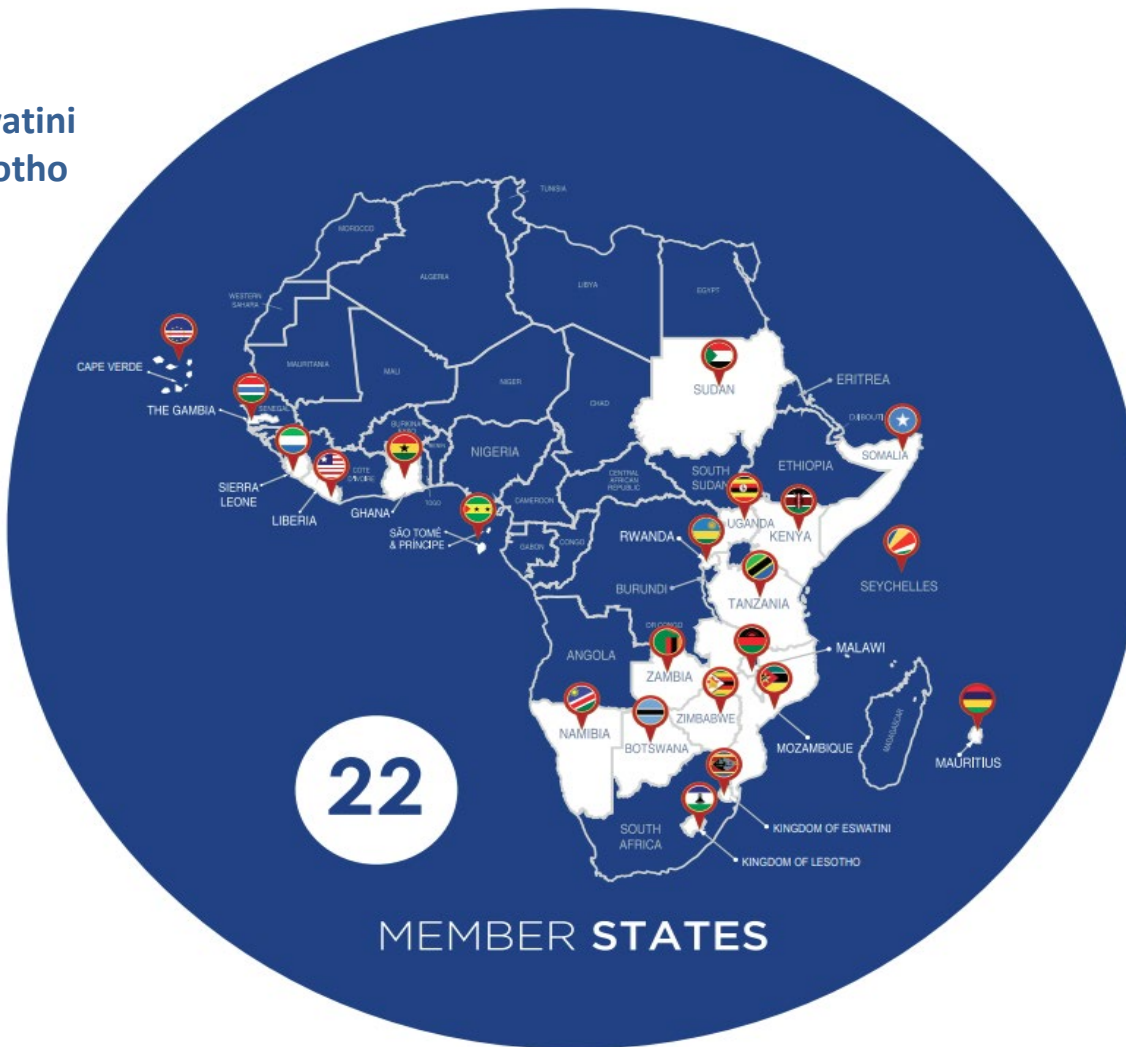
- African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) is an inter-governmental organization that facilitates cooperation among its Member States in Intellectual Property matters.
  - ❖ **1976** – Established (as ESARIPO) by the Lusaka Agreement that was adopted by the Diplomatic Conference held in Lusaka, Zambia on Dec. 9, 1976.
  - ❖ **1978** – Lusaka Agreement entered into force, with 7 Member States.
  - ❖ **1985** – “ESARIPO” to “African Regional **Industrial Property** Organization (ARIPO)”, membership opened up to all AU Members.
  - ❖ **2002** – Added mandate on Copyright and Related Rights, name change to African Regional **Intellectual Property** Organization (ARIPO).
- ARIPO – **self-financing**, revenue from the fees generated from processing IP applications.
  - Share **some of the fees** collected with the Member States, i.e. application, designation and renewal fees.
- Headquarters – **Harare, Zimbabwe**



# ARIPO Member States

- Botswana
- Cabo Verde
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Kingdom of Eswatini
- Kingdom of Lesotho
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Rwanda
- São Tomé and Príncipe
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Tanzania
- The Gambia
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

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## Potential Member States

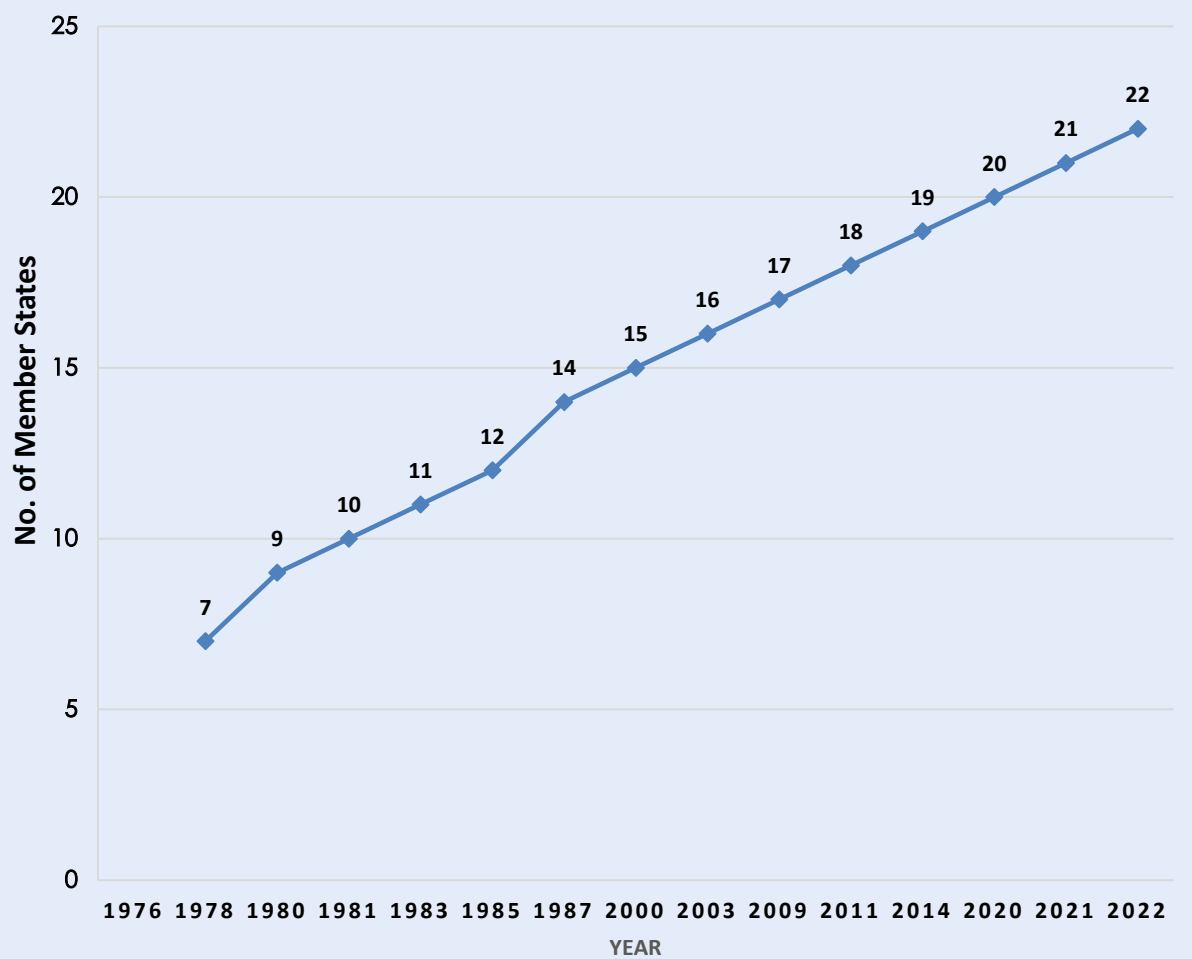
- Angola
- Burundi
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Eritrea
- Nigeria
- South Africa
- South Sudan

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# ARIPO Membership Growth



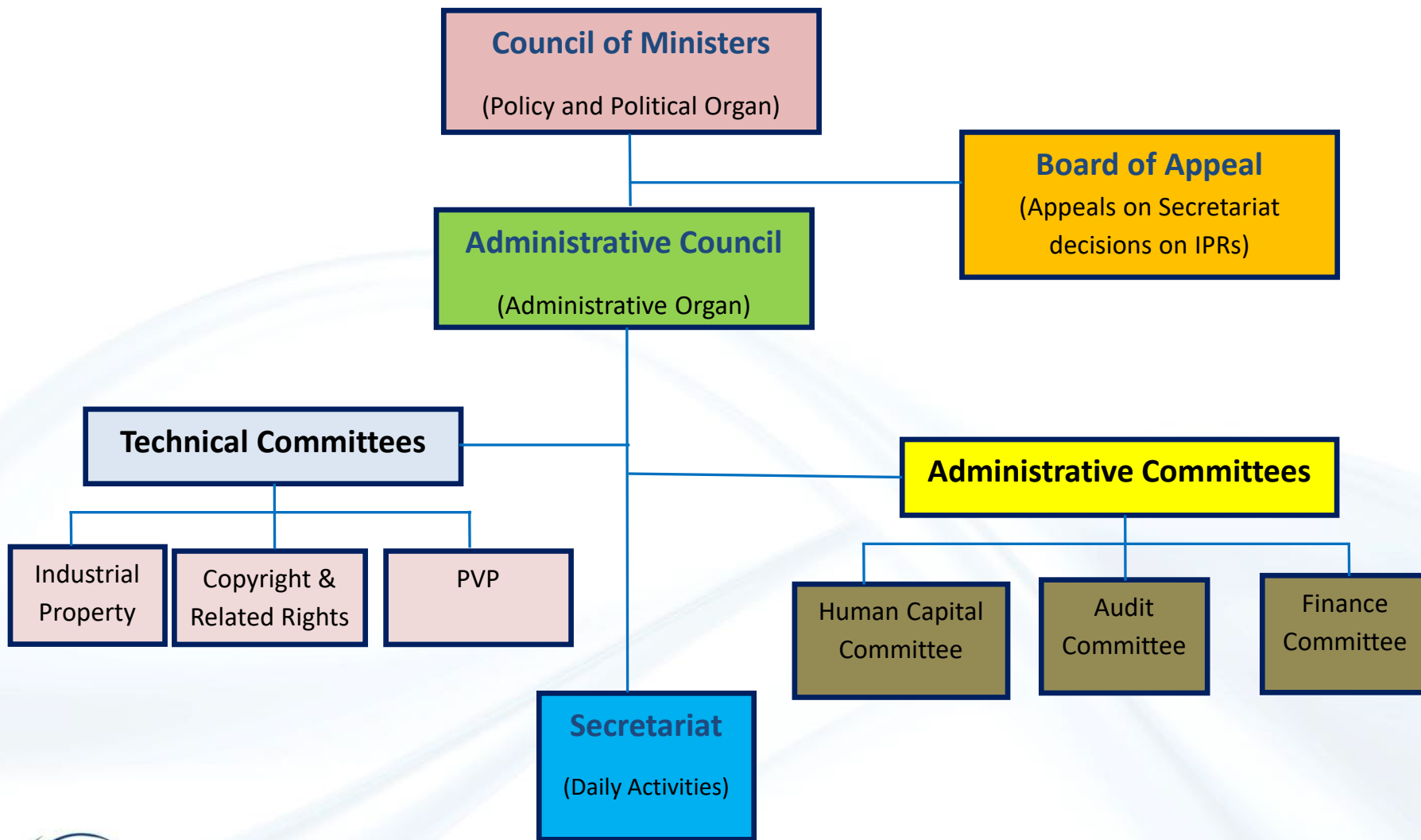
Year	No. of Member States
1978	7
1980	9
1981	10
1983	11
1985	12
1987	14
2000	15
2003	16
2009	17
2011	18
2014	19
2020	20
2021	21
2022	22

Decade	Growth Rate (%)
1976-1985	71.4%
1986-1995	16.7%
1996-2005	14.3%
2006-2015	18.8%
2016-2024	15.8%



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# Organs of ARIPO



# ARIPO PROTOCOLS

## Harare Protocol

- Patents
- Utility Models
- Industrial Designs

- Adopted in 1982
- Entered in Force in 1984
- Linked to PCT
- 20 Contracting States

## Banjul Protocol

### Marks

- Adopted in 1993
- Entered in Force in 1984
- 13 Contracting States

## Swakopmund Protocol

### Protection of Traditional Knowledge & Expressions of Folklore

- Adopted in 2010
- Entered in Force in 2015
- 9 Contracting States

## Arusha Protocol

### Plant Variety Protection

- Adopted in 2015
- Will enter into Force in November 2024

## Kampala Protocol

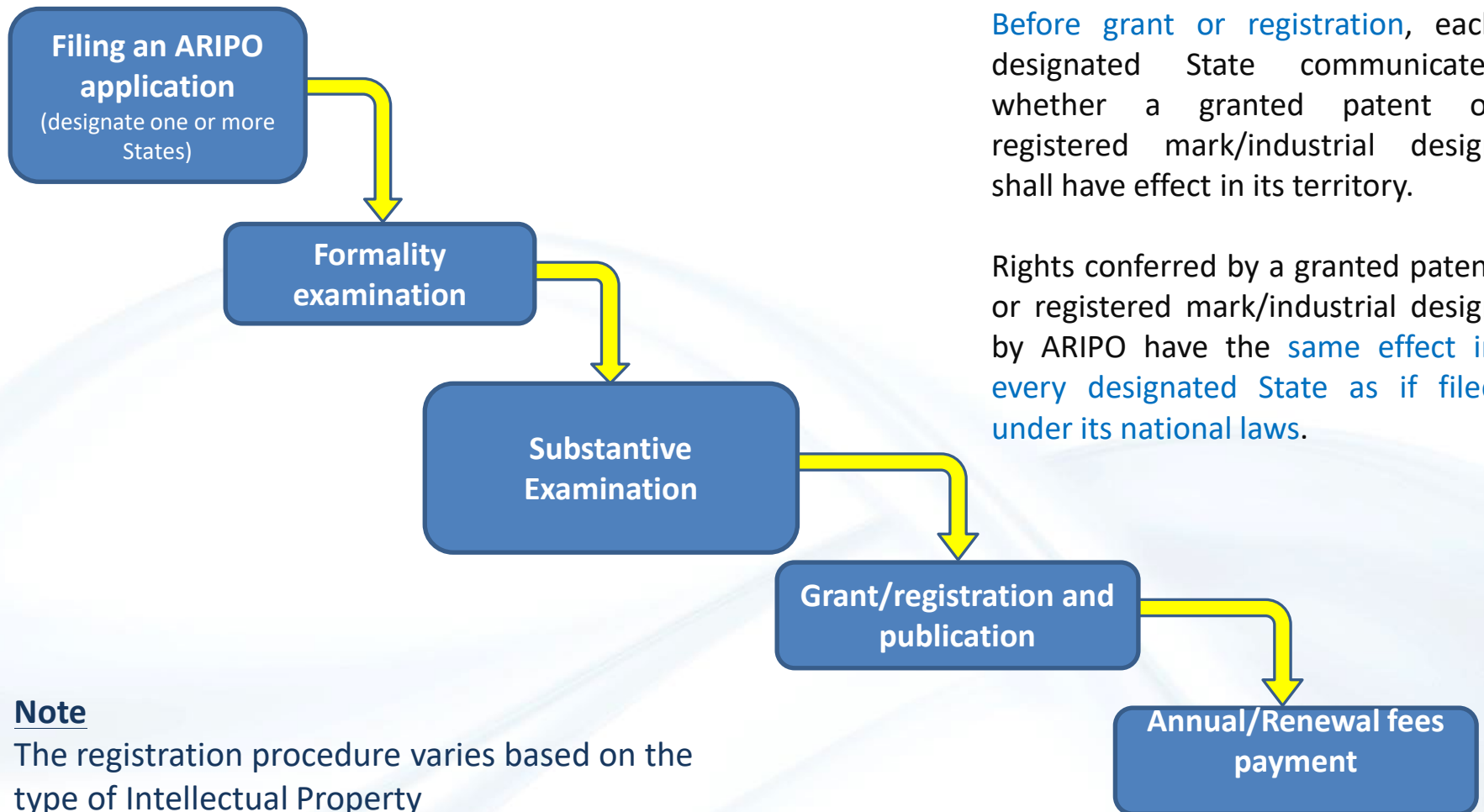
### Voluntary Registration of Copyright and Related rights

- Adopted in 2021
- Not yet in Force





# General registration procedure of an ARIPO application



# Advantages of ARIPO System to Users

- It is **cost-effective**:
  - A **single filing** at ARIPO provides protection in selected or all Contracting States (20 states for Patents, UMs and IDs; and 13 States for Trademarks)
  - **Avoid administrative costs** involved in filing individually with multiple IP Offices such as IP agent fees
  - Allows for **multi-class application for trademark applications**
- All procedures like filing and renewals are **centralized**, making it **convenient for individuals/businesses** seeking protection in **several countries within the ARIPO region**.
- ARIPO Regional Database – central database for all published



# Benefits of ARIPO System to Member States

ARIPO works closely with its Member States to promote innovation and creativity through the following:

- Integrating IP in the national & regional economic development programmes & policies;
- Organizing IP awareness programs in universities, technical and R&D institutions;
- Facilitating harmonized national & regional protection, exploitation & enforcement of IP;
- Promoting capacity building & development of human resources in IP (ARIPO Academy)
  - Masters Program in IP in 3 Universities (Zimbabwe, Ghana, Tanzania)
  - Patent drafting training for patent agents, universities and research institutions
  - ARIPO Regional Patent Examination Training (ARPET) for Member and Observer States
  - Training on the administration of CMOs
- Promoting the dissemination of ARIPO public data and information (ARIPO Eservice; and ARIPO Regional IP database).

Several of ARIPO's activities and programs are implemented with support from its Partners; these include WIPO, AfrIPI project under EUIPO, EPO, JPO, CNIPA, OAPI, among others.



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# Thank you for your attention



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## African Regional Intellectual Property Organization

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