

---

22 December 2025

## **2027 AIPPI World Congress**

In 2018, AIPPI decided to host an AIPPI World Congress in Dubai. Although originally planned for 2022, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the date was deferred to 2027.

The Bureau of AIPPI recently received a complaint from a transgender member expressing concern that the United Arab Emirates is not an appropriate venue for an association that values diversity and inclusion. Comments by letter were also received from a small number of national groups. We took seriously the concerns raised, established a sub-committee of the Bureau to evaluate the complaint and consulted with the UAE national group and AIPPI's Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

After careful consideration, the Bureau has decided to maintain Dubai as the congress venue in 2027. In reaching this decision, we have weighed our long-standing commitment to geographic rotation and engagement across regions with differing legal, cultural and religious contexts, alongside our core values of inclusion, respect and equal participation. As a global association, our mission is to bring together the world's intellectual property community. Engagement in diverse settings is an essential part of that mission. Our commitment is to dialogue and professional exchange across borders.

We recognise, however, that engagement must be paired with integrity. As a global association operating across very different legal and cultural contexts, our duty is to maximise dignified and meaningful participation for every AIPPI member—irrespective of gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality, religion or any other characteristic— by reducing barriers as far as we responsibly can.

We will therefore take practical, proportionate steps to enable participation, provide informed-choice guidance, and offer credible alternatives where travel or on-site participation is not feasible or comfortable. Accordingly, we will implement the following measures for the 2027 Congress and any future AIPPI events.

First, AIPPI will apply a clear non-discrimination conduct policy for all participants, staff, suppliers and venues. This policy will require respectful treatment and prohibit harassment, discrimination or intimidation. It will be incorporated into our agreements with venues and vendors, and will be visible in registration materials and on site.

Second, we will be developing practical guidance to attendees who may have specific travel or accommodation concerns. Our aim is to provide clarity so that participants can make informed decisions and plan their travel with confidence.

Third, we will expand remote participation options for members who are unable to travel. We recognise that, for some, in-person attendance may not be feasible or comfortable. Remote access to selected sessions will be available so that those members can engage substantively with the programme.

We understand that some members may still decide not to attend. We regret that outcome and will respect those decisions. Our objective is to make participation as inclusive and accessible as possible, while maintaining our commitment to geographic diversity and cross-cultural engagement that reflects the reality of a global IP community.

We also recognise that, for a truly international association, it is almost impossible to identify venues that meet every inclusion goal for every member in every jurisdiction at all times. Our role is to mitigate constraints where we can and rotate fairly over time so that no region is privileged.

Finally, we will incorporate the lessons from this exercise into the future venue selection processes. We will continue to balance geographic rotation with robust duty-of-care expectations and a consistent framework for assessing and mitigating inclusion risks. We believe that this approach best aligns our global mission with our values.

The Bureau of AIPPI