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## **Responding to COVID-19: Joint message from the Offices of the ID5/TM5**

The ID5 and TM5, made up of the world's five largest industrial design and trademark offices, express their support for all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and reaffirm their commitment to assisting trademark and design owners and users.

The pandemic has had significant impacts on the global economy, and given the substantial share of intellectual property rights-intensive industries involved in the world's economic output, the partner offices recognize their roles in helping businesses revitalize their activities.

A reliable, responsive, and well-functioning intellectual property system is key to ensuring business stability, continuity, and growth. In response to the pandemic, the partner offices have undertaken individual and collaborative efforts to support trademark and design owners. These efforts include extending deadlines, broadening e-communications, reinforcing teleworking environments to ensure business continuity, conducting training events virtually, and prioritizing the examination of applications for products and services relevant to addressing the pandemic.

The partner offices' collaborative efforts will continue to focus on working toward more user-friendly and interoperable trademark and design systems, providing reliable customer-centered services, and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises. Building on our work to date, we will continue to:

- Foster and strengthen virtual communications and interactions among the partner offices;
- Exchange best practices regarding telework solutions and other flexible practices to

ensure uninterrupted services;

- Share information and experience with respect to the use of emerging technologies to improve examination services; and
- Nurture cooperation and synergies with the World Intellectual Property Organization to facilitate services for users.

The partner offices stand united in their efforts to respond to the pandemic and to continue to strengthen the international intellectual property system.