The Locarno Agreement, concluded in 1968, was amended in 1979. It is open to States party to the Paris Convention. Instruments of ratification or accession must be deposited with the Director General of WIPO.

The Agreement establishes a classification for industrial designs. The competent offices of the contracting States must indicate in the official documents reflecting the deposit or registration of industrial designs the appropriate symbols of the Classification. They must do the same in any publication which the offices issue in respect of the deposit or registration.

A Committee of Experts, on which all contracting States are represented, set up under the Agreement, is entrusted with the task of periodic revision of the Classification. The edition in force in 1997 is the sixth; it was adopted in 1993.

The Classification consists of 32 classes and 223 subclasses. It also comprises an alphabetical list of goods with an indication of the classes and subclasses into which these goods fall. The list contains some 6,250 indications of different kinds of goods.

Although only 28 States are party to the Locarno Agreement, the industrial property offices of some 35 States apply the Classification. The Classification is also applied by the International Bureau of WIPO in the administration of the Hague Agreement and by the Benelux Designs Office.

The Locarno Agreement created a Union. The Union has an Assembly. Every State member of the Union is a member of the Assembly.

Among the most important tasks of the Assembly is the adoption of the biennial programme and budget of the Union.

The following 28 States were party to this Agreement on 1 January 1997:

Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Malawi, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Yugoslavia.

*Source: WIPO General Information, Geneva, 1997