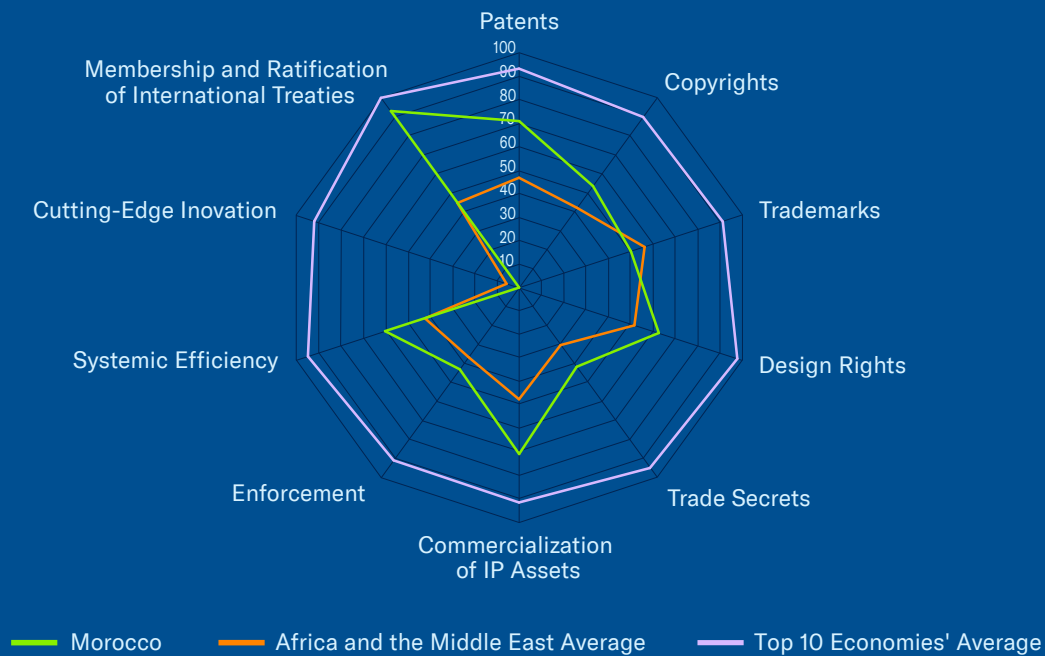




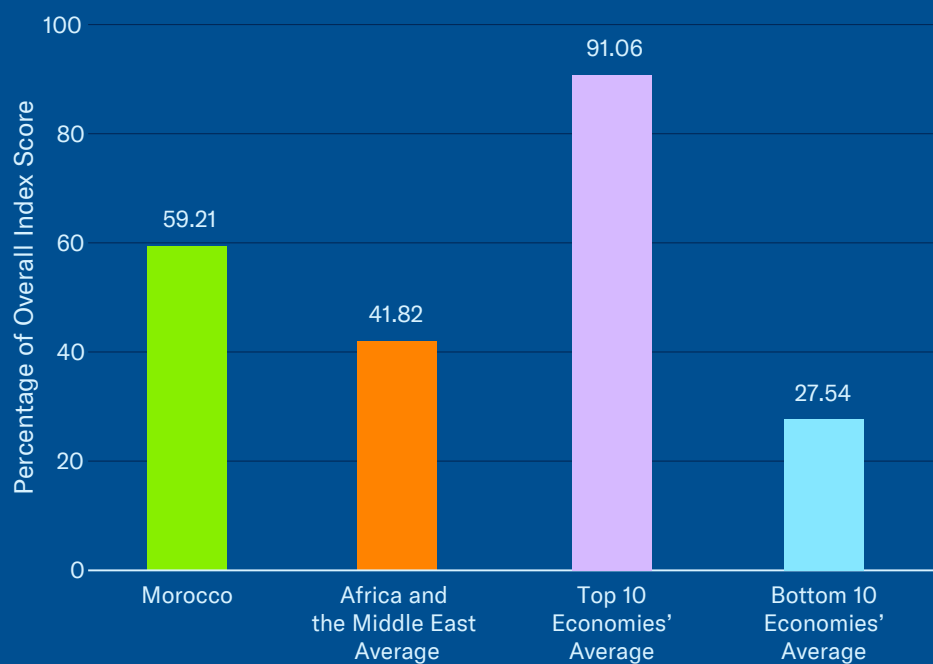
Morocco

Rank
22/55

Category Scores



Overall Score in Comparison





Morocco

Rank
22/55

Key Areas of Strength

- 2022 accession to Singapore Treaty and Geneva Act (part of Hague Agreement)
- Fairly well-developed national IP system—highest-performing middle-income economy in the Index
- Strong protection for patents and related rights
- U.S.-Morocco FTA and agreements with the EU have encouraged Morocco to strengthen its IP environment and related standards
- PPH is in place with Spain
- The Moroccan IP Office (OMPIC) offers validation of all EPO-registered patents

Key Areas of Weakness

- No special IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development
- Challenging enforcement environment: high rates of physical counterfeiting and online piracy
- BSA estimates a software piracy rate of 64%
- Some uncertainty over practical availability of patents for CIIIs

Indicator	Score	Indicator	Score
Category 1: Patents Rights and Limitations		Category 7: Enforcement	
1. Term of protection	1.00	29. Direct government intervention in setting licensing terms	1.00
2. Patentability requirements	0.75	30. IP as an economic asset	0.75
3. Patentability of CILs	0.50	31. Tax incentives for the creation of IP assets	0.00
4. Plant variety protection	1.00	Category 8: Systemic Efficiency	
5. Pharmaceutical-related enforcement	1.00	32. Physical counterfeiting rates	0.40
6. Legislative criteria and use of compulsory licensing	1.00	33. Software piracy rates	0.36
7. Pharmaceutical patent term restoration	0.63	34. Civil and precedural remedies	0.25
8. Membership of a Patent Prosecution Highway	0.50	35. Pre-established damages	0.50
9. Patent opposition	0.00	36. Criminal standards	0.25
Category 2: Copyrights and Limitations		37. Effective border measures	0.50
10. Term of protection	0.74	38. Transparency and public reporting by customs	0.75
11. Exclusive rights	0.50	Category 9: Cutting-Edge Innovation	
12. Expeditious legal remedies disabling access to infringing content online	0.50	39. Coordination of IP rights enforcement	0.50
13. Cooperative action against online piracy	0.50	40. Consultation with stakeholders during IP policy formation	0.50
14. Limitations and exceptions	0.50	41. Educational campaigns and awareness raising	0.50
15. TPM and DRM	0.50	42. Targeted incentives for the creation and use of IP assets for SMEs	0.75
16. Government use of licensed software	0.50	43. IP-intensive industries, national economic impact analysis	0.75
Category 3: Trademarks Rights and Limitations		Category 10: Membership and Ratification of International Treaties	
17. Term of protection	1.00	44. IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development	0.00
18. Protection of well-known marks	0.25	45. IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development, term of protection	0.00
19. Exclusive rights, trademarks	0.50	46. Restrictions on the effective use of existing IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development	0.00
20. Frameworks against online sale of counterfeit goods	0.25	Category 5: Trade Secrets and the Protection of Confidential Information	
Category 4: Design Rights and Limitations		23. Protection of trade secrets (civil remedies)	0.50
21. Industrial design term of protection	1.00	24. Protection of trade secrets (criminal sanctions)	0.25
22. Exclusive rights, industrial design rights	0.25	25. Regulatory data protection term	0.50
Category 6: Commercialization of IP Assets		Category 10: Membership and Ratification of International Treaties	
26. Barriers to market access	1.00	47. WIPO Internet Treaties	1.00
27. Barriers to technology transfer	0.75	48. Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks and Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks	1.00
28. Registration and disclosure requirements of licensing deals	0.75	49. Patent Law Treaty and Patent Cooperation Treaty	0.50
		50. Membership of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, act of 1991	1.00
		51. Membership of the Convention on Cybercrime, 2001	1.00
		52. The Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs	1.00
		53. Post-TRIPS FTA	1.00

Percentage of Overall Score: 59.21%

Total Score: 31.38

Spotlight on the National IP Environment

Past Editions versus Current Score

Morocco's overall score remains unchanged at 31.38 out of 53 indicators.

Patent Rights and Limitations

8. Membership of the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH):

Although Morocco is not a member of either the Global Patent Prosecution Highway or the IP5 PPH, the Moroccan Office of Industrial and Commercial Property (OMPIC) has, since 2016, had a PPH agreement in place with the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office—the PPH-Moittainai pilot program. In 2021, another PPH was added with the announcement of an agreement between OMPIC and the JPO. In addition, since 2015, OMPIC has also offered a validation service for EPO-issued patents. Under this agreement, all qualifying patents filed directly with the EPO or through the PCT route in Europe are eligible for registration in Morocco. Patent applicants can designate Morocco together with EU countries, and EPO patents have the same legal effect as a national patent and are subject to Moroccan law. The number of European patent applications designating Morocco has doubled since 2015 to reach an average of about 2,000 applications a year. As noted in last year's Index, in 2023, OMPIC announced that an additional PPH had been agreed on with USPTO. These positive efforts continued in 2024 with the announcement of a new PPH with the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property. PPH initiatives and increased cooperation among IP offices is one of the most tangible ways in which the administration and functioning of the international IP system can be improved and harmonized to help inventors and rightsholders.

Copyrights and Limitations

11. Legal measures, which provide necessary exclusive rights that prevent infringement of copyrights and related rights (including web hosting, streaming, and linking); 12. Expeditious disabling of infringing content online; 13. Availability of frameworks that promote cooperative action against online piracy; and 15. Technological protection measures (TPM) and digital rights management (DRM) legislation:

As discussed in previous editions of the Index, a key challenge for rightsholders in Morocco has long been the lack of effective enforcement against copyright piracy, particularly with respect to satellite decoding and broadcasting signal piracy. Decoders have been readily available and used across North Africa and Morocco to illegally access copyrighted content. In 2011, the French satellite and content provider *Canal +* withdrew from the Moroccan and Algerian markets citing widespread piracy as the main reason. The latest trend has seen a migration from physical decoders and satellite piracy to the use of set-top boxes and the accessing of infringing content on the internet through streaming. This remains unchanged in 2024, with rightsholders reporting that levels of copyright infringement remain high. For example, the USTR, in its *2024 Special 301 Report*, continued to include reference to Morocco as an economy with “notable levels of piracy through ISDs and illicit IPTV apps” as reported by stakeholders. The Index will continue to monitor these developments in 2025.

Incentives for Cutting-Edge Innovation

44. Special market exclusivity incentives for orphan medicinal product development; 45. Special market exclusivity incentives for orphan medicinal product development, term of protection; and 46. Restrictions on the effective use of existing market exclusivity incentives for orphan medicinal product development:

: Interest in rare diseases has grown in the Middle East and North Africa region. In 2003, the Centre for Arab Genomic Studies was established to map and improve the state of care for patients with genetic diseases in the Arab world. Today, the Center has become the leading research point for rare diseases in the region.

Moreover, several Index economies in the region, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE, have introduced a defined regulatory sanitary registration pathway and special incentives for orphan products. In Morocco, a National Rare Disease Program was launched in 2019 in a public-private partnership with Sanofi SA. The purpose of the program is to develop a national disease registry and new specialized treatment centers of excellence and to expand existing medical training of general health practitioners in the diagnosis and treatment of rare diseases. Morocco does not have in place any special IP-based market exclusivity incentives for orphan medicinal product development.