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Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Tenth Session
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REPORT ON 2021 ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORTS (ATRS)

Document prepared by the International Bureau

BACKGROUND

1.   At its ninth session in 2021, the CWS approved modifying the way that Annual Technical Reports (ATRs) are collected in light of declining participation rates by Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs). The CWS adopted a simplified format where IPOs may provide links to their annual report or website instead of text if they choose. The simplified format will be used for three years, then the CWS will reconsider whether to continue ATR collection. (See paragraphs 97 to 105 of document CWS/9/25).

ACTIVITY REPORT

2.   In April 2022, the Secretariat circulated a template for simplified ATRs to registered ATR providers for comment. Four IPOs responded to the request, with all supporting the simplified template as long as other ATR practices remained the same (namely, announcing ATR collection via circulars and allowing IPOs to provide full text answers). The Secretariat confirmed those practices will continue for the duration of the three year trial of the simplified format.

3.   In June 2022, the Secretariat issued circulars C. CWS 158, 159, and 160 requesting IPOs to submit ATRs on their activities in 2021. Submissions were received from 17 IPOs. This represents a slight decline from last year, when submissions were received from 19 IPOs on their activities in 2020.

4.   Seven of the 17 IPOs providing submissions for 2021 utilized the simplified ATR format to primarily provide links to information on their websites. Even among those participants, a substantial amount of text was still provided for instructional purposes or for information not available on their website.

5.   At the time of preparing this document, the International Bureau is working on the publication of the submitted 2021 ATRs. Those ATRs will be made available, in due course, in the ATRs wiki at: https://www3.wipo.int/confluence/x/dgfBAw.

6.   *The CWS is invited to note the content of this document.*

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