

CWs/10/2

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# Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

**Tenth Session**

**Geneva, November 21 to 25, 2022**

Organizational matters and special rules of procedures

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

## BACKGROUND

The WIPO General Assembly, at its thirty‑eighth session in September 2009, approved the creation of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS). The CWS replaced the Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG) of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT). The former SCIT working methods and procedures should be applied to the CWS with necessary changes while main points remain. In principle, the CWS is to be convened once a year. (See document WO/GA/38/10 and paragraphs 236 to 249 of document WO/GA/38/20.)

The WIPO General Assembly, at its fortieth session in September 2011, clarified the mandate of the CWS (see document WO/GA/40/17) as follows:

“The WIPO General Assembly reaffirmed and clarified its decision regarding the creation and mandate of the CWS at its 38th session in 2009, as contained in paragraph 249 of document WO/GA/38/20. The WIPO General Assembly also confirmed and clarified that the core mandate is that which is contained in paragraphs 11 to 16 of document WO/GA/38/10, and further agreed that, upon request from Member States, the Secretariat will endeavor to provide technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IP Offices by undertaking projects regarding dissemination of IP standards information. The Secretariat will provide regular written reports to the CWS on the details of such activities, as well as any other technical assistance and capacity-building activities that it undertakes in connection with the mandate, and provide the same to the General Assembly. The WIPO General Assembly decided that in order to encourage and facilitate the participation of technical experts from developing countries and LDCs in CWS meetings, the Secretariat will extend funding assistance for the participation of LDCs and developing countries, within existing budgetary resources.” (See paragraphs 182 to 190 of document WO/GA/40/19.)

When the CWS met at its first and second sessions in 2010 and 2011, the CWS considered proposals on Organizational Matters and Special Rules of Procedure, including the mandate of the CWS, as reproduced in the Annex to documents CWS/1/2 and CWS/2/2. As the organizational matters and special rules of procedure were not adopted, the CWS has worked on the basis of WIPO General Rules of Procedures (GRP) and the practices of the former SCIT and the former SDWG (see paragraph 15 of document CWS/2/14).

The [Report on Evaluation of WIPO Standing Committees](https://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/about-wipo/en/oversight/iaod/evaluation/pdf/220216-evaluation-WIPO-standing-committees.pdf) prepared by the Internal Oversight Division provides six recommendations and Recommendation two says “Compile Standing Committee procedures as a way to clarify roles and processes.” However no clear documentation on the organizational matters and procedures of the CWS is available for Member States and Observers.

## Proposal for Organizational Matters and Special Rules of Procedure

Even though the GRP provides general guidelines for the works of the CWS, it does not cover the specific procedures only for the CWS, such as membership and working methods of the CWS. Due to specific procedures which are not provided in the GRP, each WIPO Standing Committee, i.e., Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) and Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT), has its own special rules of procedures.

A proposal for the organizational matters and special rules of procedure, including the mandate and working methods, related to this Committee is reproduced in the Annex to the present document for consideration by the CWS. The proposal is based on previous proposals presented to the first and second sessions of the CWS, including the decisions of the WIPO General Assembly described above. This proposal also reflects the current practices of the CWS since the first session of the CWS.

In particular, the mandate of the CWS is directly incorporated in the proposal, other than quoting the decisions of the WIPO General Assembly. The proposed text for the mandate is the one adopted by the General Assembly with the necessary adaptations such as deletion of obsolete references to the former SCIT. Further information on the proposal is provided as notes and footnotes in the Annex. As those are for information, the notes and footnotes will be removed for publication once the proposal is adopted by the CWS.

*The CWS is invited to:*

1. *note the content of this document and the Annex to this document; and*
2. *consider and adopt the organizational matters and special rules of procedure as referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6 above and as reproduced in the Annex to the present document.*

[Annex follows]