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Geneva, September 30 to October 9, 2019

REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON WIPO STANDARDS (CWS)

prepared by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. During the period under consideration, the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) held its sixth session from October 15 to 19, 2018 and its seventh session from July 1 to 5, 2019. The sixth session was chaired by Ms. Katja Brabec (Germany) and the seventh session was chaired by Mr. Jean-Charles Daoust (Canada).
2. The two sessions continued the exchange of views on development of WIPO Standards, implementation of Standards by the IP community, as well as on other matters relating to Intellectual Property (IP) data and information. The CWS considered emerging technologies such as Blockchain in its work and projects.
3. The adopted report of the sixth session¹ and the Summary by the Chair for the seventh session² are available on the WIPO website.

¹ https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=422823

² https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=440982

DEVELOPMENT OF WIPO STANDARDS

Adopted and Revised WIPO Standards

4. The CWS considered proposals for new WIPO Standards and revision of existing standards to cope with new demands from IP Offices and IP users. At its sixth session, the CWS adopted WIPO Standard ST.87 for the exchange of industrial design legal status data by IP Offices. By using WIPO Standard ST.87, it is expected that offices can provide industrial design legal status information in a harmonized manner and, at the same time, a more understandable manner, even for users who are not so familiar with different industrial design prosecution systems in the respective countries. At its two sessions, the CWS approved or noted the revisions of the following six Standards:

- WIPO Standard ST.3 (two-letter codes for the representation of States, other entities and organizations);
- WIPO Standard ST.26 (nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings in XML format);
- WIPO Standard ST.27 (the exchange of patent legal status data);
- WIPO Standard ST.37 (authority file of published patent documents);
- WIPO Standard ST.60 (bibliographic data relating to marks); and
- WIPO Standard ST.96 (processing of IP data using XML).

5. The development of a new WIPO Standard on Web API by the XML4IP Task Force is ongoing. It is expected that the future new WIPO Standard will greatly facilitate the processing of the volume of data exchange between Offices through machine-to-machine communications. The Task Force is also developing new XML components for geographical indications and copyright orphan works. As outcome of the activities, the CWS noted the need to extend the scope of ST.96 to 'Intellectual Property' from 'Industrial Property'.

New Projects and Expert Groups

6. With regard to its Work Program, at its sixth session, the CWS established six new Tasks to develop new WIPO Standards and created corresponding expert groups, i.e., Task Forces:

- ICT Strategies and WIPO Standards for effective production, sharing, and utilization of IP data by IP community (Task No. 58);
- Blockchain for IP in providing IP rights protection, processing information about IP objects and their use (Task No. 59);
- Internationally agreed Numbers for the Identification of (bibliographic) Data (INID) codes for new trademark types (Task No. 60);
- 3D models and images for IP objects to be used in patents, trademarks and industrial designs (Task No. 61);
- Digital transformation in view of electronic publication of IP documentation (Task No. 62); and
- Visual representation of XML data based on WIPO XML Standards (Task No. 63).

7. At its seventh session, the CWS created a new Task Force named “API Task Force” and a new Task No. 64 to develop a new WIPO Standard for IP resources in JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) format to be used for filing, processing, publication and/or exchange. The CWS also agreed that the Legal Status Task Force give priority to preparing a new WIPO Standard for the exchange of legal status data on trademarks by IPOs.

SUPPORT OF WIPO STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION

8. The CWS encouraged IP Offices to participate in the survey on the use of WIPO Standards so that the International Bureau can monitor the status of implementation of WIPO Standards by IP Offices and identify needs for technical assistance and capacity building.

9. In order to support the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.26 (nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings in XML format) by IP Offices and applicants in a harmonized manner in January 2022 around the globe, the International Bureau is developing a common software tool named “WIPO Sequence” for preparing and validating patent applications containing sequence listings. This is the first project in which IP Offices collaborate with the International Bureau to develop a common software tool to benefit all stakeholders and users.

10. With regard to WIPO Standard ST. 27 (patent legal status data standard), the International Bureau reported that 12 Offices had provided a mapping table of their national or regional legal status events corresponding to ST.27 Standard events and those mapping tables are available on the WIPO website³. The preparing of a mapping table is the first step to implement ST.27 and it could assist Offices to better understand the Standard. This would also help users to use standardized patent legal status events and also know relevant source events. The CWS also noted that Offices had provided mapping tables regarding the industrial design legal status events (ST.87) and requested the Secretariat to publish them on the WIPO website.

11. For WIPO Standard ST.37 (authority file of published patent documents), the CWS noted that 20 Offices provided their authority files and they are made available on WIPO Authority File Portal⁴. This portal could provide a more comprehensive picture of the published patent documents to other Offices and users.

12. With regard to ST.96 (processing of IP data using XML), the CWS noted the importance of interoperable implementation of ST.96 by IP Offices and agreed that the International Bureau hosts the centralized repository collecting Office-specific implementations of ST.96.

13. The International Bureau informed the CWS that it continues to implement WIPO Standards in WIPO products and services, e.g., ST.27 and ST.96 in WIPO IPAS and ST.96 in Madrid and Hague Systems.

14. The CWS recognized that WIPO Standards have been gradually applied by IT system developers. Therefore, the CWS agreed to create a new developers forum so that developers can provide direct feedback on relevant WIPO Standards.

³ https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/part_07.html (Part 7.13: Mapping tables of national/regional patent legal status events to the events of WIPO Standard ST.27)

⁴ https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/authority_file.html

OTHER ACTIVITIES

WIPO Standards Workshops

15. Under the framework of CWS Blockchain Task Force, the workshop on Blockchain was held on April 29 and 30, 2019 (Video on Demand is available)⁵. This probed blockchain technology and its application to the IP ecosystem and possible collaboration between the IP and Blockchain communities with participation including Blockchain experts, IP experts from the private sector, IP Offices, academia, UN organizations and intergovernmental organizations. This workshop provided a comprehensive picture of the emerging technology and opportunities to deepen the understanding of member States across the globe. The CWS Blockchain Task Force will investigate the most effective use of this technology within the IP space and to what degree standardization is required.

16. Under the framework of the CWS Name Standardization Task Force, the Workshop on Name Standardization was held on May 2 and 3, 2019⁶. The participants such as experts from IP Offices, industry standardization bodies, academia, data providers and user groups explored possible solutions and collaboration, including use of identifiers for IP applicants and owners. The Workshop noted that further collaboration was required among IP Offices and with the private sector for the name standardization.

Surveys on Practices of IP Offices

17. The CWS approved and discussed the outcomes of three survey questionnaires in relation to practices of IP Offices in implementation of WIPO Standards and other related activities, including survey on supplementary protection certificates (SPCs) and patent term extensions (PTEs).

18. At its seventh session, the CWS discussed the outcome of the surveys and approved their publication on the WIPO website. The CWS also approved three new survey questionnaires, including a questionnaire on the use of 3D models and 3D images in IP data and documentation.

Technical Advice and Assistance for Capacity Building

19. Concerning the provision of technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IPOs in relation to WIPO Standards, the CWS took note of the two reports (see annexed documents CWS/6/31 and CWS/7/26) on activities of the International Bureau undertaken during the year 2017 and 2018, as requested by the WIPO General Assembly at its fortieth session held in October 2011.

20. Fourteen delegations from the least developed countries (LDCs) or developing countries were financed to attend the two sessions in accordance with the decision taken by the WIPO General Assembly in 2011.

⁵ https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=51407

⁶ https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=51426

CONCLUSIONS

21. In conclusion, the sixth and seventh sessions made significant progress by adopting and revising WIPO Standards which will contribute to the dissemination of IP information and by sharing the understanding to continue and intensify the efforts for awareness raising and technical assistance for IPOs upon request and subject to available resources. The sessions also established rich future work program, which could further respond to the demands in the era of disruptive technologies.

22. The WIPO General Assembly is invited to take note of the "Report on the Committee on WIPO Standards" (document WO/GA/51/13).

[Documents CWS/6/31 and CWS/7/26 follow]

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Sixth Session
Geneva, October 15 to 19, 2018

REPORT ON THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING TO INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE MANDATE OF THE CWS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. This report aims to implement the decision taken by the General Assembly in 2011 relating to the mandate of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), and to provide regular written reports on the details of activities undertaken during the year 2017 in which the Secretariat or the International Bureau of WIPO “endeavored to provide technical advice and assistance for capacity building to Industrial Property Offices (IPOs) by undertaking projects regarding dissemination of IP standards information” (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19). A complete list of such activities is available under the Technical Assistance Database (www.wipo.int/tad).
2. At its fifth session, the CWS noted that the Secretariat would provide technical assistance and training regarding WIPO Standards on demand and depending on the availability of resources; the Secretariat would present a proposal regarding the online training courses on WIPO Standards for consideration by the CWS at its sixth session (see paragraph 112 of document CWS/5/22).
3. As WIPO Standards are implemented in various systems and tools of WIPO such as WIPO Business Solutions, the following activities also implicitly cover dissemination of relevant IP standards information.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ADVICE ON THE USE OF WIPO STANDARDS

4. In 2017, the International Bureau provided technical advice to assist several IPOs and users to utilize WIPO Standards through emails or online conferences or during face-to-face meetings.

5. The Secretariat has not received a request for technical assistance and training regarding WIPO Standards since the last session of the CWS. The Secretariat will provide technical assistance and training regarding WIPO Standards on demand and depending on the availability of resources.

6. Following the discussion on the online training courses on WIPO Standards held at the fifth session of the CWS, the Secretariat plans to organize two webinars, one in the second half of 2018 and the other one in the first half of 2019. The Secretariat is also exploring the feasibility of developing a distance learning course regarding WIPO Standards, in collaboration with the WIPO Academy, targeting IPO staff, IP information users and university students.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE IN IP INSTITUTIONS USING WIPO STANDARDS

7. Program 15 aims to enhance national and regional IPOs' business systems and technical infrastructure in order to help them provide more cost-effective and higher-quality services to their own stakeholders. The assistance provided is aligned with the Development Agenda recommendations aiming at strengthening institutional and technical infrastructure of IPOs and institutions. The Program's services include technical consultancy; business needs assessment; project scoping and planning; business process analysis; ongoing development and deployment of customized business systems solutions for the administration of IP rights and for the exchange of priority documents and of search and examination results; establishment of IP databases; assistance with digitization of IP records and preparation of data for online publications and electronic data exchange; training and knowledge transfer to staff of IP institutions; and support for the systems provided by WIPO. The assistance takes into account WIPO Standards on IP data and information where appropriate. On-site training, mentoring and regional training workshops account for a significant portion of the Program's work and are critical in achieving the desired results.

8. Within the framework of this program, activities were undertaken with 58 IPOs in 2017, including 14 regional or sub-regional training workshops. At the end of 2017, 84 IPOs from developing countries in all regions were actively using WIPO Business Solutions for the administration of their IP rights, in which WIPO Standards are integrated. A key focus of the Program for the current biennium is to upgrade the service level of IPOs by assisting them to move to online services for filing and for IP information dissemination. More information is available on the web site of WIPO's technical assistance program for IPOs http://www.wipo.int/global_ip/en/activities/technicalassistance/.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF IP OFFICERS AND EXAMINERS FOR THE UTILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL TOOLS

9. Upon request, the International Bureau is developing a common software tool which will enable patent applicants to prepare a nucleotide and amino acid sequence listing following WIPO Standard ST.26 and to support IP offices to process and examine the sequence listings. The software tool is planned to be deployed in the second half of 2019.

BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WIPO STANDARDS

10. In order to increase awareness of WIPO Standards in developing countries and to facilitate the physical participation by more developing countries in the preparation of new or revised WIPO Standard(s), following the decision of the General Assembly in October 2011, the participation at the fifth session of the CWS of seven developing countries or least developed countries (LDCs) was funded by the International Bureau.

IP DATA EXCHANGE

11. The International Bureau has been working together with many IPOs, particularly in certain groups of developing countries to promote the exchange of IP data with a view to providing users in those countries with greater access to IP information originating from those IPOs. The exchange of IP data was organized in accordance with relevant WIPO Standards. The trademark collections of the following countries have been included in Global Brand Database during the year 2017: Chile, France, Iceland, Thailand and Vietnam; the patent collections of the following countries have been included in PATENTSCOPE during the year 2017: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Denmark, France, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Saudi Arabia and Thailand.

12. The CWS is invited to take note of the 2017 activities of the International Bureau, related to providing technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IPOs, regarding dissemination of IP standards information. This document will serve as a basis of the relevant report to be presented to the WIPO General Assembly to be held in 2019, as requested at its 40th session held in October 2011 (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19).

[Document CWS/7/26 follows]

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Seventh Session
Geneva, July 1 to 5, 2019

REPORT ON THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING TO INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE MANDATE OF THE CWS

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INTRODUCTION

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2. As WIPO Standards are implemented in various systems and tools of WIPO such as WIPO Business Solutions, the following activities also implicitly cover dissemination of relevant IP standards information.

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3. In 2018, the International Bureau provided technical advice to assist several IPOs and users to utilize WIPO Standards through emails or online conferences or during face-to-face meetings.

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE IN IP INSTITUTIONS USING WIPO STANDARDS

5. Program 15 aims to enhance national and regional IPOs' business systems and technical infrastructure in order to help them provide more cost-effective and higher-quality services to their own stakeholders. The assistance provided is aligned with the Development Agenda recommendations aiming at strengthening institutional and technical infrastructure of IPOs and institutions. The Program's services include technical consultancy; business needs assessment; project scoping and planning; business process analysis; ongoing development and deployment of customized business systems solutions for the administration of IP rights and for the exchange of priority documents and of search and examination results; establishment of IP databases; assistance with digitization of IP records and preparation of data for online publications and electronic data exchange; training and knowledge transfer to staff of IP institutions; and support for the systems provided by WIPO. The assistance takes into account WIPO Standards on IP data and information where appropriate. On-site training, mentoring and regional training workshops account for a significant portion of the Program's work and are critical in achieving the desired results.

6. Within the framework of this program, activities were undertaken with 42 IPOs in 2018, including 12 regional or sub-regional training workshops. At the end of 2018, 84 IPOs from developing countries in all regions were actively using WIPO Business Solutions for the administration of their IP rights, in which WIPO Standards are integrated. A key focus of the Program for the current biennium is to upgrade the service level of IPOs by assisting them to move to online services for filing and for IP information dissemination. More information is available on the website of WIPO's technical assistance program for IPOs http://www.wipo.int/global_ip/en/activities/technicalassistance/.

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10. The CWS is invited to take note of the 2018 activities of the International Bureau, related to providing technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IPOs, regarding dissemination of IP standards information. This document will serve as a basis of the relevant report to be presented to the WIPO General Assembly to be held in 2019, as requested at its 40th session held in October 2011 (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19).

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