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**Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

**Seventh Session**

**Geneva, July 1 to 5, 2019**

PAPI TASK FORCE PROPOSAL FOR A QUESTIONNAIRE ON PROVIDING ACCESS TO PUBLICLY AVAILABLE PATENT INFORMATION

*Document prepared by the International Bureau*

## BACKGROUND

The Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), at its reconvened fourth session held in March 2016, noted the request and information provided by the Patent Documentation Group (PDG) concerning the requirements for national and regional patent registers. The CWS agreed, in particular, to collect industrial property offices (IPOs) practices on content, functionalities and future plans with respect to their patent registers (see Annex III to document CWS/4BIS/6).

The CWS, at its fifth session in 2017, created a new Task No. 52:

“Survey on content and functionalities of systems for providing access to publicly available patent information of industrial property offices, as well as future plans with respect to their publication practices; prepare recommendations for systems for providing access to publicly available patent information of industrial property offices” (see paragraphs 94 to 96 of document CWS/5/22).

The CWS also established the Public Access to Patent Information (PAPI) Task Force to carry out Task No. 52, and designated the International Bureau of WIPO as the Task Force leader. The CWS requested the established Task Force to take into account the knowledge gathered during the maintenance of the Patent Register Portal and the results of the work of the Legal Status Task Force. (See paragraphs 97 to 100 of document CWS/5/22.)

The PAPI Task Force commenced its business from September 2017 and currently 32 experts nominated by Industrial Property Offices (IPOs), along with industry groups and the International Bureau, participate in the Task Force. Task Force Members include Chile, China, Germany, United Kingdom, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Slovakia, and Ukraine, along with Confederacy of European Patent Information User Groups (CEPIUG) and Patent Documentation Group (PDG).

## DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SURVEY

In accordance with the decision by the CWS, the PAPI Task Force carried out five rounds of discussions before the sixth session of the CWS to prepare a proposal for the questionnaire on the content and functionalities of systems for providing access to publicly available patent information. The questionnaire was presented at the sixth session of the CWS. The International Bureau requested clarifications from delegations on a number of issues raised by the questionnaire. The CWS referred the questionnaire back to the PAPI Task Force for further consideration. The CWS requested the Task Force to present a proposal for a revised questionnaire at its seventh session.

The PAPI Task Force held three rounds of discussions to address the issues raised at the sixth session of the CWS. The Task Force also considered ways to increase responses to the questionnaire. The questionnaire has been divided into two parts for this purpose. After the survey is approved by the CWS, the International Bureau will circulate the first part on basic patent information to Offices. The first part is designed to be answered quickly and easily. Once Offices submit answers to the first part, they will be sent the second part of the survey asking for more detailed information. The final draft of the questionnaire is reproduced as the Annex to this document for consideration and approval by the CWS.

The proposed draft questionnaire consists of two parts covering six areas:

Part I. Basic availability and coverage of online data systems

Part II. Detailed information about the features of online data systems

1. Conditions for access to patent information systems
2. Content available from the systems
3. Functionality of the systems
4. What the IPO would like to access from other IPOs’ systems
5. The IPO’s future plans for their patent information systems and helpful areas for WIPO recommendations.

## WORK PLAN

The Task Force proposes the following work plan to carry on Task No. 52:

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| **Action** | **Expected Result** | **Planned Date** |
| Present progress report, including a final draft questionnaire regarding systems for publically available patent information at the seventh session of the CWS | It is expected that the CWS will review and approve the draft questionnaire at this session. | July 2019 |
| Conduct the survey with the approved questionnaire *[Note : the Secretariat will investigate the best survey tool]* | The Secretariat will issue a circular inviting IPOs to participate in the survey | Oct 2019 |
| Collect and analyze the survey responses | IPOs will respond the survey; and the Task Force will analyze survey outcome. | Feb 2020 |
| Prepare a report on the result of survey | The Task Force will prepare a summary of the survey result and propose further action required for consideration at CWS/8. | CWS/8 |

*The CWS is invited to:*

*(a) note the content of the present document;*

*(b) consider and approve the draft questionnaire, as reproduced in Annex to the present document; and*

*(c) request the Secretariat to issue a circular inviting IPOs to participate in the survey referred to in paragraph 7 above.*

[Annex follows]