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**Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

**Seventh Session**

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

3D Task Force Report on Task No.61

*Document prepared by the 3D Task Force Leader*

## BACKGROUND

At the sixth session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), the Committee noted a proposal from the Delegation of Russian Federation that broader acceptance of 3D formats by Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs) could better serve user needs, and the use of 3D formats could allow more efficient methods of search and comparative analysis. As a result, Task No. 61 was established with the following description:

"Prepare a proposal for recommendations on three-dimensional (3D) models and images.”

The CWS created the 3D Task Force (3DTF) to perform this task, with the Russian Federation designated as the Task Force leader. (See paragraphs 138 to 144 of the document CWS/6/34).

In November 2018, the International Bureau issued circular C.CWS.108 requesting nominations to participate in the Digital Transformation Task Force. Representatives from 14 IPOs were nominated to participate in the Task Force.

## PROGRESS REPORT

A 3DTF wiki forum was established for discussions among the Task Force members. The Task Force leader prepared a review of the current situation on the use of 3D models for further discussion within the Task Force, including comments to which Task Force members shared their views and experience. The Task Force discussed and proposed the draft scope of the recommendations on 3D models for IPOs.

In order to collect information about the practices and expectations of IPOs and users (applicants) concerning the use of 3D, the Task Force drafted a questionnaire, which is reproduced as the Annex to the present document, and conducted a short survey within the Task Force.

The Task Force received the following outcomes of the internal survey within the Task Force:

1. EUIPO’s RCD online filing service accepts the 3 file formats for 3D designs and has received in total 980 files;
2. 3D modeling files have been acceptable to apply for IPRs in Republic of Korea since related regulations were amended in 2010. 3DS, DWG, DWF, IGES, and 3DM are available formats in its filing system as representation of designs (even without 2D images) and more than 3,000 designs are filed to KIPO every year;
3. Japan Patent Office currently doesn’t use any 3D models or images; and
4. The US Patent & Trademark Office currently accepts 3D models or images for Trademarks at the filing and examination stages.

The Task Force believes that for preparing proposals for WIPO recommendations on 3D models and images, it is important to collect the current practices and preferences on 3D models of the IPOs as well as industry and users. Therefore, the Task Force presents a draft questionnaire as reproduced in the Annex to this document for consideration by the CWS at this session, and request the Secretariat to issue a circular inviting IPOs to respond to the questionnaire. The Task Force is developing a second questionnaire to survey industry and users on their needs and preferences for 3D models, for consideration at the seventh session of the CWS.

## DRAFT WORK PLAN

The Task Force discussed and proposes the following work plan for 2019-2020:

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| **Action** | **Expected actions** | **Planned date** |
| Establishment of the Task Force at the sixth session of the CWS | * Task Force established * IPOs invited * Discussion within the TF initiated * Draft questionnaire prepared | CWS/6 October 2018 – January 2019  (completed) |
| Conducting a survey of current practices among TF members | The questionnaire disseminated among the TF members. | January 2019  (completed) |
| Collection and analysis of survey responses | Responses to the survey and comments on the questionnaire received and taken into account. | March 2019  (completed) |
| Drafting progress report | A draft progress report. | April 2019  (completed) |
| Presenting the progress report and draft questionnaire for consideration or approval at the seventh session of the CWS (CWS/8) | Progress report and the questionnaire approved or comments received.  Commence the survey among IPOs as well as users and industry. | July 2019 (CWS/7) |
| Conduct survey of IPOs, users, and industry | Issue circular to IPOs  Task force members conduct outreach to users and industry  Gather and analyze results | late 2019 |
| Prepare draft WIPO recommendations based on the survey results | Discuss survey results with 3D Task Force members  Identify areas of common ground  Draft recommendations | early 2020 |
| Presenting the draft WIPO recommendations for consideration or approval at the eighth session of the CWS (CWS/8) | WIPO recommendations on 3D approved or comments received. | CWS/8 TBC |

*The CWS is invited to:*

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

*(b) note the work plan of the 3D Task Force and encourage IPOs to participate in the Task Force discussions;*

*(c) consider and approve the questionnaire on use of 3D models reproduced in the Annex to this document for a survey of IPOs;*

*(d) request the Secretariat to issue a circular inviting IPOs to respond to the survey in the Annex, if approved by the CWS; and*

*(e) advise whether and how the Secretariat can administer the survey to industry and user groups with the second questionnaire referred to in paragraph 7 above.*

[Annex follows]