

## Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

### Fifth Session

Geneva, May 29 to June 2, 2017

### CREATION OF A TASK TO PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WEB SERVICES ON IP INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

#### BACKGROUND

1. At its reconvened fourth session held in March 2016, the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) agreed on the new description of Task No. 18 “Identify *areas* for standardization relevant to the exchange of machine-readable data on the basis of projects envisaged by such bodies as the Five IP Offices (IP5), the Five Trademark Offices (TM5), the Industrial Design 5 Forum (ID5), ISO, IEC and other well-known industry standard-setting bodies”.
2. As the leader of Task No. 18, the International Bureau monitored emerging technologies that have been used or planned to be used by industrial property offices (IPOs); it is identified that web services have been widely used by IPOs for data dissemination, data retrieval and data processing with other IPOs or their customers in different ways based on various technologies.
3. Furthermore, the web services were one of the topics for the XML4IP Task Force since the services are strongly based on the extensible markup language (XML) technology nowadays. As the XML4IP Task Force is responsible to revise WIPO Standard ST.96 that covers all IP information and documentation in XML, the Task Force discussed the need of standardization for the web services and potential area of the standardization if needed, for examples common naming conventions for both XML and JavaScript Object Notation (JSON).

4. At its meeting held in Madrid, Spain, October 2016, the XML4IP Task Force further discussed the practices of the Task Force Offices in providing web services and their plan. The Task Force members were interested in developing a new WIPO standard on the web services and agreed to continue discussing this topic, in particular the scope of the new standard and the items that should be standardized.

#### SURVEY ON WEB SERVICES

5. As a follow-up of discussions at the said meeting, the XML4IP Task Force carried out a short survey within its membership. The following 11 IPOs and the International Bureau of Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT/IB) responded to the survey: AU, CA, DE, ES, EP, GB, MD, NO, RU, US and XU. Those 12 respondents reported their current practices and plans for using web services and potential area for standardization. The questionnaire and individual responses are available on WIPO web site at:  
<http://www.wipo.int/cws/en/taskforce/xml4ip/background.htm>.

#### PROPOSED OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED BENEFITS

6. In accordance with the survey, it is proposed to develop recommendations on web services for IP information and documentation to facilitate data dissemination, data retrieval, data exchange or other functional purposes by IPOs.

7. On the basis of discussions mentioned above and the survey carried out by the XML4IP Task Force, the following items seem candidates for standardization on web services for IP information and documentation:

- recommended technologies, e.g. RESTful and/or Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) based web services;
- message format, data structure and data dictionary in JSON and/or XML based on existing WIPO Standards, e.g. ST.96;
- security aspects, e.g. authentication, authorization, certificates;
- naming conventions for Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) of resources, e.g. <http://domain/patent/PublishedApplication/ApplicationNumber>;
- versioning of the web services; and
- conditions of use.

8. The following benefits are expected if recommendations for web services are provided:

- it would be helpful for IPOs to implement the web services on the basis of best practices in the area of IP business;
- recommendation on common message format, data structure and data dictionary would facilitate communication between machines or software applications provided by IPOs;
- Recommendation on security and authentication solutions would be helpful for IPOs to choose software and approaches to authentication and certificates for dealing with different required security level of IP data; and
- standardized approach in identifying data resources and versioning of the web services would facilitate IP data exchange at international level.

TASK AND TASK FORCE

9. On the basis of the outcome of the said survey, the International Bureau proposes the following for consideration and decision by the CWS:

- (a) creation of a new Task whose description would read as follows:  
“Prepare recommendations for web services on IP information and documentation”;
- and
- (b) assignment of the proposed new task to the XML4IP Task Force.

10. *The CWS is invited to:*

*(a) consider the content of the document; and*

*(b) consider and decide on the proposal concerning the creation of the new Task and the assignment of the new Task to the XML4IP Task Force, as referred to in paragraph 9 above.*

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