

WIPO General Assembly

Fortieth (20th Ordinary) Session
Geneva, September 26 to October 5, 2011

MATTERS CONCERNING THE COMMITTEE ON WIPO STANDARDS (CWS)

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The WIPO General Assembly, at its thirty-eighth session, held in September 2009, approved the creation of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), which would replace the Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG) (paragraphs 236 to 249 of document WO/GA/38/20).
2. When the CWS met for the first time from October 25 to 29, 2010, the CWS considered a document on the Organizational Matters and Special Rules of Procedure, including the mandate of the CWS.
3. Opinions were divided on how to interpret the decision taken by the WIPO Assembly on the mandate of the CWS. As the CWS would, in effect, perform the same work as the Standards and Documentation Working Group of the previous body (the Standing Committee of Information Technologies), but under a different name, the original proposal of the mandate was “to continue to work on the revision the revision and development of WIPO standards relating to intellectual property information” (paragraph 13 of document WO/GA/38/10).
4. Referring to the report of the General Assembly (document WO/GA/38/20), some delegations considered that the decision by the General Assembly on the mandate of the CWS should include an additional proposal orally proposed by one delegation, that is, “the follow-up of the implementation of WIPO Standards, the provision of technical advice and assistance for capacity building, the support of IP Offices in undertaking projects regarding dissemination of IP information and the provision of IP services to SMEs”. Other delegations considered that it was not clear whether the decision should include the addition and requested clarification from the General Assembly.

5. With no agreement on the mandate, a proposal of suspending the first session was put to roll-call vote on the last day, and the first session was suspended.

6. *The General Assembly is invited to clarify the mandate of the CWS.*

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