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REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON WIPO STANDARDS (CWS)

prepared by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. During the period under consideration, the Committee on WIPO Standards (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”, or “the CWS”) held its eighth session from November 30 to December 4, 2020, which was chaired by Mr. Jean-Charles Daoust (Canada).
2. The session continued the exchange of views on the development of WIPO Standards, implementation of Standards by the intellectual property (IP) community, as well as on other matters relating to IP data. The CWS considered emerging technologies, such as Blockchain, in its work and projects.
3. The adopted report of the eighth session is available on the WIPO website¹.

¹ https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=57089

DEVELOPMENT OF WIPO STANDARDS

4. The CWS considered proposals for new WIPO Standards and revision of existing Standards to cope with new demands from IP Offices, other stakeholders and IP users. At its eighth session, despite the restrictions of working in a hybrid format, the Committee adopted four new WIPO Standards reflecting the demands of the digital era and approved the revisions of three existing Standards.

Adopted New WIPO Standards

5. The four new WIPO Standards available on the WIPO website² can be summarized as follows:

- (a) WIPO Standard ST.90 on Web Application Programming Interface (API) provides recommendations to facilitate the processing and exchange of IP data *via* machine-to-machine communication over the web. This promotes consistency by establishing uniform web service design principles and interoperability among web service partners in the IP community.
- (b) WIPO Standard ST.69 on multimedia marks provides recommendations on applications for the electronic management of motion and multimedia marks. It helps applicants and IP Offices agree on common multimedia formats and practices for handling and publishing multimedia files.
- (c) WIPO Standard ST.61 on trademark legal status data provides recommendations to improve worldwide availability, reliability and comparability of legal status data for trademarks across jurisdictions, including the Madrid System. Once implemented, all IP information providers and users will benefit from easier access to data on legal status of trademark filings and registrations. Its approval completes the set of three legal status Standards for the major types of industrial property: patents (WIPO ST.27), industrial designs (WIPO ST.87) and trademarks (this new Standard, WIPO ST.61).
- (d) WIPO Standard ST.88 on electronic representations of industrial designs provides recommendations on how to create, store, display, manage, publish, and exchange electronic images and videos of industrial designs. The Standard helps applicants and IP Offices agree on common formats to simplify filing the same design at multiple Offices. It also provides common guidelines for IP Offices to exchange data, publish, and enhance automated search of images and video for designs.

Revised WIPO Standards

6. The revision of the following three Standards was approved:

- WIPO Standard ST.26 (nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings in XML format);
- WIPO Standard ST.27 (the exchange of patent legal status data); and
- WIPO Standard ST.37 (authority file of published patent documents).

² https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/part_03_standards.html

7. The CWS noted that the revision of WIPO Standard ST.96 was approved by its XML4IP Task Force in 2020 and the latest version is 4.0, according to the CWS special arrangement that the XML4IP Task Force is temporarily authorized to approve revisions of WIPO Standard ST.96 to expedite the revision process. One of the significant outcomes of this new version is that the scope of Standard ST.96 has been expanded to metadata related to geographical indications and copyright orphan works, and the title of ST.96 has been amended from 'Industrial Property' to 'Intellectual Property' so as to reflect such an expansion.

8. The CWS noted that as of March 31, 2021, the WIPO ST.96 format (version 4.0 onwards) would be the only authoritative and supported source of structured data for the Hague System bilateral data exchange between Offices and the International Bureau.

IMPLEMENTATION OF WIPO STANDARDS AND OFFICES PRACTICES

9. The CWS approved the publication of the following three survey results on the WIPO website, which now form part of Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook³:

- 3D digital models and images;
- public access to patent information, part 1; and
- numbering systems used by IPOs for published documents and registered rights.

10. In order to respond to the requests at this session for training to support the transition from Standard ST.25 to ST.26, the International Bureau provided four training webinars and one workshop in English during April and May 2021. The recorded videos of webinars, presentations and other training materials are made available on the WIPO website⁴. Furthermore, in order to support the implementation of ST.26, the frequently asked questions (FAQs) would be published on the WIPO website in all 10 PCT languages.

11. 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 would host the centralized repository collecting Office-specific implementations of ST.96.

Technical Advice and Assistance for Capacity Building

12. Concerning the provision of technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IPOs in relation to WIPO Standards, the CWS took note of the report (see annexed document CWS/8/22) on activities of the International Bureau undertaken during the year 2019, as requested by the WIPO General Assembly at its fortieth session held in October 2011.

³ https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/part_07.html

⁴ https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/topic.jsp?group_id=330

WORK PROGRAM AND OTHER OUTSTANDING ACTIVITIES

CWS Tasks

13. Twenty-seven Tasks and 17 Task Forces are currently established under the Committee. The summary of the agreed amendments to the Work Program is as follows:

- (a) Two Tasks No. 49 (preparation of a new standard on multimedia marks) and No. 53 (development of XML for geographical indications) were discontinued as they have been completed; and
- (b) The mandate of five Tasks was revised to address new demands and the agreed new descriptions are as follows:
 - Task No. 47: Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.87, and ST.61; prepare supporting materials to assist the use of those Standards in IP community; analyze the potential of merging the three Standards ST.27, ST.87, and ST.61; and support the XML4IP Task Force to develop XML components for legal status event data.
 - Task No. 56: Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.90; support the International Bureau in developing a unified catalog of APIs that are made available by Offices; and support the International Bureau in promoting and implementing WIPO Standard ST.90.
 - Task No. 57: Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.88.
 - Task No. 61: Prepare a proposal for recommendations on digital three-dimensional (3D) models and images, including methods of search for 3D models and 3D images.
 - Task No. 62: Review WIPO Standards: ST.6, ST.8, ST.10, ST.11, ST.15, ST.17, ST.18, ST.63 and ST.81, and WIPO Handbook Part 6, in view of electronic publication of IP documentation; and propose revisions of those Standards and materials if needed.

14. The CWS also agreed to continue work on the following eight Tasks:

- Support the development of WIPO Sequence software and the revision of the PCT Administrative Instructions; and prepare necessary revisions of WIPO Standard ST.26 (Task No. 44);
- Survey on publicly available patent information and prepare recommendations for systems for providing access to that information (Task No. 52);
- Standardization of applicant names in IP documents (Task No. 55);
- ICT Strategies and WIPO Standards for effective production, sharing, and utilization of IP data by IP community (Task No. 58);
- Blockchain for IP ecosystem 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);
- Visual representation of XML data based on WIPO XML Standards (Task No. 63); and

- Recommendations for JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) resources compatible with WIPO Standard ST.96 to be used for filing, processing, publication and/or exchange IP information (Task No. 64).

Task Forces and other activities

15. The CWS received progress reports from its nine Task Forces: ICT Strategy for Standards, XML4IP, Blockchain, Name Standardization, 3D, Digital Transformation, Legal Status, Trademark Standardization, and Public Access Patent Information (PAPI).

16. The Committee requested:

- (a) the XML4IP Task Force to present a proposal at the ninth session for an appropriate platform to engage with external developers;
- (b) the Name Standardization Task Force to prepare proposed recommendations for quality of applicant data to support name standardization at the next session of the CWS, as indicated in paragraph 4 of document CWS/8/16;
- (c) the Legal Status Task Force to present a proposal for use of reserved characters in WIPO ST.27 at the next session of the CWS;
- (d) the Secretariat to issue a circular inviting IPOs to assess their business practices and IT systems with regard to WIPO Standard ST.61 (trademark legal status data), and submit an implementation plan and mapping table for their Office;
- (e) the Trademark Standardization Task Force to present a recommendation on whether to maintain or split INID code 551 for collective, certification, and guarantee marks in WIPO Standard ST.60 at the next session of the CWS;
- (f) the Secretariat to invite all Offices to respond to the survey on priority of 40 Recommendations and the ICT Strategy for Standards Task Force to report the results of survey at its ninth session;
- (g) the Secretariat to issue a circular inviting IPOs to take part in the survey on the PAPI Part 2; and
- (h) the Secretariat to issue a circular inviting IPOs to update their authority file information. As a result of the responses to the circular, the Patent Authority File portal⁵ was updated on March 30, 2021, with four new entries and up-to-date information from 16 Offices, with 25 Offices now represented in the portal.

17. The Committee noted that:

- (a) the API Task Force would support the International Bureau in developing a unified catalog of APIs that are made available by Offices;
- (b) the progress of developing WIPO Sequence software tools by the International Bureau in close collaboration with Offices for patent applicants and Offices around the world to author and validate WIPO ST.26-compliant sequence listings;
- (c) the 3D Task Force plans to present a revised draft in 2021 for consideration of adoption by the CWS; and

(d) the International Bureau has been preparing a Blockchain whitepaper for use in IP ecosystem which would encompass all types of IP rights, and the International Bureau plans to organize the second webinar on the Blockchain once the whitepaper is ready.

CONCLUSIONS

18. In conclusion, the eighth session made significant progress by adopting and revising seven WIPO Standards which will contribute to supporting dissemination of IP information, and by intensifying the Secretariat's efforts to raise awareness of WIPO Standards and other recommendations and to provide technical assistance for IPOs upon request and subject to available resources. The session also established a rich future work program, which will allow the Committee to respond to potential disruptions caused by new digital technologies.

19. The WIPO General Assembly is invited to take note of the "Report on the Committee on WIPO Standards" (document WO/GA/54/11).

[Document CWS/8/22 follows]

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Eighth Session
Geneva, November 30 to December 4, 2020

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 International Bureau

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 2019 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. As WIPO Standards are implemented in various systems and tools of WIPO such as WIPO Sequence and 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

3. In 2019, the International Bureau provided technical advice to assist several IPOs and users to utilize WIPO Standards through emails, online conferences and during face-to-face meetings.

4. 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.

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. At the end of 2019, 87 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. Twelve workshops were organized across all regions with a total of 166 participants. 44 IPOs were participating in one of the online exchange platforms offered by WIPO (the Centralized Access to Search and Examination and the Digital Access Service). A key focus of the Program 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 at:
http://www.wipo.int/global_ip/en/activities/technicalassistance/

7. In addition, Program 13 ran a project jointly with the European Patent Office (EPO) to assist IPOs in producing searchable full text for their front file patent publication in WIPO ST.36 XML format with embedded TIFF images. The International Bureau configured its OCR solution to each office's specific requirements such as language, layout and bookmarks. 34 IPOs have received the software and been trained to use it in the last three years, with 12 of them having managed to launch it in production. As a result, the produced full text documents are included and made searchable both in WIPO's PATENTSCOPE and EPO's Espacenet.

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

8. In collaboration with the Offices of the CWS Sequence Listing Task Force, the International Bureau has been developing a free common software tool, WIPO Sequence, which will enable patent applicants around the world to prepare a nucleotide and amino acid sequence listing following WIPO Standard ST.26 and to support IPOs to process and examine the sequence listings. The WIPO Sequence tool (Beta) was deployed in November 2019 in WIPO website at: <https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/sequence/index.html>.

9. Following a request, the International Bureau provided a training workshop on the International Patent Classification (IPC) for officials from BRELA (Business Registrations and Licensing Agency), Tanzania, in Geneva in March 2019. The training program included how to use the relevant WIPO Standards.

10. Following requests, the following training courses and seminars on the use of International Classifications for trademarks for officials and examiners of IPOs were conducted in 2019. In this context the relevance of related WIPO Standards was explained.

- Training on Vienna Classification for trademark examiners from Tanzania IP Office, Geneva, March 26 to 28, 2019; and
- Training on Nice Classifications for trademark examiners, Abu Dhabi, UAE, September 9 to 12, 2019.

BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WIPO STANDARDS

11. 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 seventh session of the CWS of seven developing countries or least developed countries (LDCs) was funded by the International Bureau.

IP DATA EXCHANGE

12. 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 2019 in chronological order: Costa Rica, Botswana, Eswatini, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Uruguay, Madagascar; the patent collections of the following countries have been included in PATENTSCOPE during the year 2019: Greece, Latvia and Lithuania. The industrial design collections of China, Tunisia, Malaysia, Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, Italy, Brunei Darussalam, Laos, Cambodia and Costa Rica have also been added in WIPO's Global Design Database in 2019.

13. The CWS is invited to take note of the 2019 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 2020, as requested at its 40th session held in October 2011 (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19).

[End of document]