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**WO/GA/56/11**  
**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**  
**DATE: MAY 5, 2023**

## **WIPO General Assembly**

**Fifty- Sixth (26<sup>th</sup> Ordinary) Session**  
**Geneva, July 6 to 14, 2023**

### **REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON WIPO STANDARDS (CWS)**

*Document 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 tenth session from November 21 to 25, 2022, chaired by Ms. Åsa Viken (Sweden).
2. The session continued the exchange of views on the development and implementation of WIPO Standards by the intellectual property (IP) community, and other matters relating to IP data and information as well as the adoption of WIPO Standards. The tenth session adopted the organizational matters and special rules of procedure of the CWS.
3. Discussions were based on a number of proposals, documents, and presentations submitted by various CWS Task Forces, delegations as well as the Secretariat. The exchange of views and experiences on these various submissions contributed to a better understanding of each topic. All the discussion materials and the adopted meeting report of the tenth session are available on the WIPO website<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=600591](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=600591)

## ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS AND SPECIAL RULES OF PROCEDURES

4. The CWS considered a proposal for organizational matters and special rules of procedure, submitted by the Secretariat, taking into account the discussions at the first and the second sessions of the Committee and the recommendations from the Report on Evaluation of WIPO Standing Committees<sup>2</sup> prepared by WIPO's Internal Oversight Division (IOD) (see document CWS/10/2). The CWS adopted its organizational matters and special rules of procedure with amendments agreed during the session, which includes the mandate of the CWS as follows:

“9. The mandate of the CWS will be to provide a forum to adopt new or revised WIPO standards, policies, recommendations and statements of principle relating to intellectual property data, global information system related matters, information services on the global system, data dissemination and documentation, which may be promulgated or referred to the WIPO General Assembly for consideration or approval.”

5. The newly-adopted CWS organizational matters and special rules of procedure are available on the WIPO website at: <https://www.wipo.int/cws/en/cws-rules-procedure.html>.

## WORK PROGRAM AND TASKS LIST

6. The CWS noted that the Report “Evaluation of WIPO Standing Committees” refers to the workload generated by the CWS Task Forces, putting pressure on both participating Member States and the supporting Secretariat team. The Report also indicates that the CWS should carry out an annual review of the workload of its Task Forces to determine the priorities for the following year in agreement with Member States and to actively encourage a broader participation of Member States in its Task Forces.

7. The CWS reviewed its work program, which specifies its Task list, and the suggestion to determine the priorities, which the Secretariat presented in document CWS/10/3. The CWS created one new task at its tenth session, Task No. 65, and revised two Tasks: Tasks No. 47 and No. 64. The CWS noted that its Work Program includes 24 Tasks and 16 Task Forces are currently established. The final Task list is included in Annex IV of the Meeting Report (see document CWS/10/22).

8. In order to determine the preferences of intellectual property offices (IPOs) in prioritizing Tasks, the CWS requested the Secretariat to prepare and present a survey questionnaire for its consideration at its eleventh session. The CWS also agreed that quarterly status meetings of its Task Forces be held to review the progress on the objectives of the assigned Tasks. The first session of the quarterly review meeting was held in March 2023, where 13 active CWS Task Forces reported their progress on the CWS Tasks.

## DEVELOPMENT OF WIPO STANDARDS

9. The CWS considered proposals for a new WIPO Standard and revisions of existing Standards to cope with new demands from IPOs, IP users, and other stakeholders. While working in a hybrid format for the third straight year, the Committee adopted one new WIPO Standard and approved revisions to three existing Standards.

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<sup>2</sup> The Report is published at: <https://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/about-wipo/en/oversight/docs/iaod/evaluation/220216-evaluation-WIPO-standing-committees-summary.pdf>

### Adopted New WIPO Standards

10. The CWS adopted a new WIPO Standard ST.97 that provides recommendations for designing, creating or updating JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) resources for use in filing, processing, exchanging or publishing all types of IP data. WIPO Standard ST.97 is publically and freely available on the WIPO website at:

[https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/part\\_03\\_standards.html](https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/part_03_standards.html).

### Revised WIPO Standards

11. Revisions to the following three WIPO Standards were approved:

- WIPO ST.3 (two-letter codes for the representation of States, other entities and organizations) by adding two new codes: the code “MH” for the Marshall Islands and the code “NU” for Niue;
- WIPO ST.26 (presentation of nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings using XML): the approved new version 1.6, which includes primarily editorial changes to improve clarity as well as additional examples, will enter into force from July 1, 2023; and
- WIPO ST.87 (exchange of industrial design legal status data).

12. The CWS noted that the version 6.0 of WIPO Standard ST.96 (use of XML schemas) was approved by the XML4IP Task Force and published in October 2022. According to a CWS special arrangement, the XML4IP Task Force is temporarily authorized to approve revisions of WIPO Standard ST.96 to expedite the process. Of particular note in this release are improved tools for validating and flattening ST.96 schemas and the inclusion of schemas to capture alloy composition data.

### Global Identifier Project and International Database to Standardize Applicant Names

13. Several delegations shared their activities on the use of blockchain technologies. The CWS noted that the International Bureau has recently launched a blockchain pilot for Global Identifiers.

14. The Committee considered a proposal for establishing an international database to standardize applicant names, which was submitted by the Delegation of Saudi Arabia (see document CWS/10/10). Several delegations expressed their interest in the proposal and pointed out possible overlaps with existing CWS Tasks, including name standardization and work currently being undertaken in other forums such as by the Five IP Offices (IP5). The CWS noted that the proposal involved more than just technical issues, with legal and policy issues also indicated, as well as stakeholder interests and concerns. Taking into account various challenges, several delegations suggested a feasibility study to provide more information before deciding whether to proceed with the international database proposal.

15. The International Bureau suggested taking the Global Identifier pilot as a proof of concept to assess the feasibility and to document potential issues in relation to name standardization across WIPO Member States. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia agreed on the suggestion and expressed its interest in the pilot. The CWS requested the International Bureau to collaborate with some interested offices on the Global Identifier pilot and report the results at the next session of the CWS. The International Bureau has already been carrying out the pilot project with five national, regional and international offices or organizations.

### Working paper

16. The CWS considered a revised proposal for improvement of copyright orphan work metadata in WIPO Standard ST.96 (see document CWS/10/7), submitted by the International Bureau. The CWS also considered proposals for the next step in relation to copyright orphan works metadata (see document CWS/10/8). The CWS decided to perform another round of consultation on the revised working draft included in document CWS/10/7 to solicit input from copyright offices and creative industry through a circular inviting its Members and Observers to provide feedback before proceeding further with this proposal.

### IMPLEMENTATION OF WIPO STANDARDS AND IPO PRACTICES

17. Two surveys were conducted in 2022 to gather information on the implementation of WIPO Standards by IPOs and their related practices. The CWS approved publication of the survey results on Offices' practices for Digital Transformation and calendar dates and they have been added to Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook<sup>3</sup>.

18. The CWS noted the IPOs' implementation of WIPO Standard ST.26 since the new "big-bang" implementation date of WIPO Standard ST.26: July 1, 2022, which was approved by the WIPO General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session held in 2021 (see paragraph 183 of WO/GA/54/15).

19. For the transition from WIPO Standard ST.25 to ST.26, the International Bureau developed and maintains WIPO Sequence suite<sup>4</sup>, for patent applicants and IPOs around the world to generate and validate WIPO ST.26-compliant sequence listings. To effectively support applicants and IPOs, the International Bureau has also established a three-tier support model, and the WIPO Sequence and ST.26 Knowledge-base<sup>5</sup>, which contains common questions and answers relating to WIPO ST.26 and WIPO Sequence (see document CWS/10/14).

20. The CWS noted that patent authority files in WIPO ST.37 format from 29 IPOs were available in the WIPO Authority File portal<sup>6</sup>. The CWS noted that patent documents from 76 offices are available in PATENTSCOPE. It would be desirable to make patent authority files of those 76 offices available *via* the Authority File portal. Several IPOs presented their implementation of ST.37. The CWS noted that the patent authority file is an important tool to ensure completeness, quality of data and consistency for patent document collections. The International Bureau encouraged offices who have not yet done so to consider authoring their own authority file.

### Technical Advice and Assistance for Capacity Building

21. 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/10/20) on activities of the International Bureau undertaken during 2021, as requested by the WIPO General Assembly at its fortieth session held in October 2011.

### REPORTS BY CWS TASK FORCES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

22. The CWS received progress reports from nine Task Forces: ICT Strategy for Standards, XML4IP, Blockchain, Name Standardization, 3D, Sequence Listings, Part 7, Digital Transformation and Legal Status.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/part\\_07.html](https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/part_07.html)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/sequence/index.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www3.wipo.int/confluence/display/WSSKB/Known+Issues+and+trouble-shooting>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/authority\\_file.html](https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/authority_file.html)

23. The Committee noted that 17 IPOs provided their 2021 Annual Technical Reports (ATRs) using the simplified ATR template approved at the ninth session of the CWS to provide links to information on their websites (see document CWS/10/19).

24. The CWS noted that the International Bureau updated the WIPO Handbook in 2022 and its plans for further revisions in 2023, in particular Part 6 on recommendations on minimum contents for IPO websites and Part 8 on Terms and Abbreviations. The CWS also noted that the International Bureau plans to present proposals for updating Parts 6 and 8 for consideration at its eleventh session.

25. Several delegations shared their digitalization activities using emerging technologies. All presentations are available on the meeting web page<sup>7</sup>.

*26. The WIPO General Assembly is invited to take note of the "Report on the Committee on WIPO Standards" (document WO/GA/56/11).*

[Document CWS/10/20 follows]

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<sup>7</sup> [https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=69689](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=69689)

## **Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

**Tenth Session**  
**Geneva, November 21 to 25, 2022**

REPORT BY THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU 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 2021, in which the Secretariat or the International Bureau of WIPO “endeavor[ed] to provide technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IP 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](http://www.wipo.int/tad)).

2. As WIPO Standards are implemented in various systems and tools of WIPO such as WIPO Sequence and IP Office 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 2021, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Bureau provided technical advice to assist IPOs and users to utilize WIPO Standards through emails and online conferences.

4. The Secretariat received a series of requests for technical assistance and training in 2021, regarding support for implementing both WIPO Standards ST.26 and ST.96. To support IPOs and applicants to implement WIPO Standard ST.26, the International Bureau developed WIPO Sequence Suite software, in close collaboration with IPOs and end user groups. Further information on the software is available on the WIPO website at:

<https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/sequence/index.html>. In response to the request for training for WIPO Standard ST.26 and the WIPO Sequence Suite, the International Bureau provided 17 training webinars which were held in eight PCT languages in 2021. Further information on trainings or webinars on the use of WIPO Standards is available on the WIPO website at:

<https://www.wipo.int/cws/en/trainings.html>. With regard to the request for training for WIPO Standard ST.96, the International Bureau, in collaboration with the XML4IP Task Force, proposed creating a 'Getting started with ST.96' guide. The Secretariat continues to be committed to providing technical assistance and training regarding WIPO Standards on demand, depending on the availability of resources.

#### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE IN IP INSTITUTIONS USING WIPO STANDARDS

5. WIPO's program of IP Office Business Solutions 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 other institutions. The 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 or virtual training, mentoring and regional training workshops account for a significant portion of the activities and are critical in achieving the desired results.

6. At the end of 2021, 90 IPOs from developing countries in all regions were actively using WIPO's IP Office Business Solutions for the administration of their IP rights, in which WIPO Standards are integrated. Fifty-one 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 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:

[https://www.wipo.int/global\\_ip/en/activities/ip\\_office\\_business\\_solutions/](https://www.wipo.int/global_ip/en/activities/ip_office_business_solutions/)

7. In addition, under WIPO's program of Global Databases, the International Bureau 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. Thirty-five IPOs have received the software and been trained to use it (except one IPO for which a training will be arranged in due course) in the last four years, with twelve 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. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, no in-person trainings could be organized. A pilot online training took place with three Offices having been already trained in the past but that had not been able to start the project in production due to shortage of resources. Training to use an advanced user interface remotely with many special cases due to

the source data has been a challenge and it remains to be seen if some of these three Offices will manage to launch production thereafter.

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

8. In collaboration with the Offices of the CWS Sequence Listings Task Force, the International Bureau has been improving the WIPO Sequence Suite, which enables patent applicants around the world to prepare a nucleotide and amino acid sequence listing following WIPO Standard ST.26 and to support IPOs to validate the sequence listings to ensure that they are compliant with WIPO ST.26. The WIPO Sequence tool is available on the WIPO website at: <https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/sequence/index.html>

9. Following requests, the International Bureau provided training seminars via an online platform on the International Patent Classification (IPC) for officials and examiners at the Industrial Property Department, Central Organization for Standardization a Quality Control (COSQC), Ministry of Planning, Iraq on July 5 and 6, 2021, and for officials and examiners at the Industrial Property Division, Ministry of National Economy, Palestine on October 11 and 12, 2021. The training program included how to use the relevant WIPO Standards.

10. Following requests, the following training courses and seminars were virtually conducted in 2021 on the use of International Classifications for trademarks and industrial designs for officials and examiners of IPOs. In this context, the relevance of related WIPO Standards was explained.

- Training on the Vienna Classification for trademark examiners, Iranian IP Office, July 6 and 12, 2021;
- Training on the Vienna Classification for trademark examiners, Namibian IP Office, August 18, 2021;
- Training on the Nice and Vienna Classifications for trademark examiners, Kenyan IP Office, September 20-22, 2021;
- Training on the Nice and Vienna Classifications, Palestine, October 13, 2021;
- Training on the Locarno Classification for design examiners, Indonesian IP Office, October 21, 2021;
- Training on the Locarno and Vienna Classifications for trademark and design examiners, Egyptian IP Office, November 3, 2021, and
- Training on the Nice Classification for trademark examiners, Cambodian IP Office, November 10-12, 2021.

#### 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 Standards, 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 2021 in chronological order: Cuba, Kyrgyzstan, Vanuatu and Zambia; the patent collections of the following countries have been included in PATENTSCOPE during the year 2021: Finland, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, and Poland. The industrial design collections of Cuba, Indonesia, Peru, Singapore and Viet Nam have also been added in WIPO's Global Design Database in 2021.

*13. The CWS is invited to take note of the 2021 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 2023, as requested at its 40<sup>th</sup> session held in October 2011 (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19).*

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