

WIPO



SCIT/SDWG/1/3

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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

STANDARDS AND DOCUMENTATION WORKING GROUP

First Session

Geneva, May 28 to 30, 2001

REQUEST FOR REVISION OF WIPO STANDARD ST.6

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. By letter of February 15, 2001, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) made a proposal to revise WIPO Standard ST.6 and requested its consideration by the SCIT Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG). The letter is reproduced in the Annex to this document.
2. The Secretariat offers to prepare, in June 2001, a first draft revision of Standard ST.6, which would serve as basis for consideration by standard specialists of the interested industrial property offices. Further, the Secretariat recommends to create a task force to discuss the draft revision of Standard ST.6 and any other ST.6 related suggestions made by Delegates at the meeting. If possible, a final version of the revised Standard should be presented to the SCIT Plenary for approval in December 2001.

3. *The SDWG is invited:*

- (a) to consider the proposal made by the USPTO;*
- (b) to request the Secretariat to prepare a draft revision of Standard ST.6; and*
- (c) to create a task force to handle the revision of Standard ST.6.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, DC 20231
www.uspto.gov

February 15, 2001

Mr. Klaus-Peter Wittig
Deputy Director
Inter-Office Information Services Department
World Intellectual Property Organization
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
SWITZERLAND

Re: Revisions to WIPO Standard ST.6

Dear Mr. Wittig:

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will begin publishing its Pre-Grant Publications (PGPubs) by mid-March 2001. Due to the expected volume of publications, the USPTO could not follow the guidance currently provided by WIPO Standard ST.6, Recommendation for the Numbering of Published Patent Documents.

WIPO Standard ST.6, paragraphs 13(b) and (f) recommend that the total number of digits for a publication number be a maximum of 10 and that the four-digit year form part of the number. This would limit the sequential number portion of the publication number to 6 digits. The USPTO may be in the position of publishing over 1 million PGPubs documents per year in the near future. To allow for this, an 11-digit publication number is needed (4 digits for the year and 7 digits for the sequential number portion).

The USPTO requests that the Standards and Documentation Working Group consider revising WIPO Standard ST.6 to accommodate offices which may publish more than a million documents in a single year. We look forward to discussing this matter in greater detail with the Working Group.

Sincerely,

/Robert W. Saifer/

Robert W. Saifer, Director
International Liaison Staff

[End of Annex and of document]