

WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

WORKING GROUPS

First Session

Geneva, November 16 to 20, 1998

REPORT

adopted by correspondence

INTRODUCTION

1. The Working Groups of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (“SCIT Working Groups”) held their first session in Geneva from November 16 to 20, 1998.
2. The following Member States of WIPO and/or the Paris Union were represented at the meeting: Andorra, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Ghana, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam and Zambia (59).
3. Representatives of the Benelux Trademark Office (BBM), the European Communities (EC), the Eurasian Patent Office (EAPO), the European Patent Office (EPO), the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and the African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO) (6) took part in the meeting in a member capacity.

4. Representatives of the following organizations took part in the meeting in an observer capacity: International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), World Trade Organization (WTO), Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (AGECOP), Association for the International Collective Management of Audiovisual Works (AGICOA), International Council on Archives (ICA), Ibero-Latin American Federation of Performers (FILAIE), International Federation of Industrial Property Attorneys (FICPI), Patent Documentation Group (PDG), and International Publishers Association (IPA) (10). The list of participants appears in Annex I to this report.

5. The session was opened by Mr. Yo Takagi, Director, Inter-Office Information Services Department, WIPO.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

6. The SCIT Working Groups unanimously elected Mr. Hisham El Sherif (Egypt) as Chair and Mr. Edmond Rishell, Jr. (United States of America) and Mrs. Michèle Lyon (France) as Vice-Chairs.

7. Mr. K.-P. Wittig acted as Secretary of the session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

8. The SCIT Working Groups unanimously adopted the agenda, which appears as Annex II to this report.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS BY THE CHAIR

9. The first Vice-Chair presented a written draft Summary of Discussions (document SCIT/WG/1/11 Prov.) reflecting the major topics covered and conclusions reached by the SCIT Working Groups. A revised version of the text of that document, reflecting all comments on the draft Summary agreed upon during the joint closing session on November 20, 1998, has been produced by the Secretariat and is recorded in paragraphs 10 to 47 below.

INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP (IIWG)

Report by the International Bureau on the progress made concerning the tender for the Global Information Network project and preparatory work undertaken by the Task Force that was established for this project
(Document SCIT/WG/1/3)

10. The Secretariat reported on progress concerning the development of the first phase of the Global Information Network Request for Proposals (RFP). The Member States engaged in a discussion of the proposed services as recorded in document SCIT/WG/1/3 and proposed

RFP outline and timelines. The Revised Timelines of the Global Information Network RFP are given in Annex III to this report. During the course of these discussions, the Secretariat received many comments from the delegations concerning the implementation of the Global Information Network. The IIWG agreed that the proposed phased implementation was of great importance to ensure that basic services were provided in a timely manner, and that sufficient time and resources were allocated to evaluate various issues of importance before implementation. The IIWG also agreed that in many cases these issues must be evaluated with particular attention to the needs and circumstances of individual Member States. In this regard, the IIWG requested the Secretariat to consider existing communications infrastructure in both the RFP development and future Task Force discussions to ensure adequate connectivity to offices in the Member States.

11. In particular, the Working Group:

(a) agreed that support issues were of particular importance and should be carefully considered by the Secretariat during each phase of the WIPONET development process;

(b) agreed that categories of offices should be established, with appropriate levels of training, support and equipment for each;

(c) indicated that the provision of quality content was the most important aspect of WIPONET development, and approved the implementation of the Global Information Network in a phased manner, preserving scalability and extensibility through the use of industry-wide, international, and *de facto* standards.

12. The Working Group approved the connection of the International Bureau to the Trilateral Network, and requested that the International Bureau participate in Trilateral Network pilot projects and infrastructure development.

13. The Working Group requested the Secretariat to ensure the sustainability of WIPONET. Offices would assume certain responsibilities related to WIPONET sustainability, such as the provision of information concerning activities, laws, existing infrastructure (including personnel), and data. Offices understood the need for individual states to provide support for internal activities related to WIPONET. Language support was of vital importance to the WIPONET effort. The Secretariat was requested to specify multilanguage support for helpdesk services, support, and IPDL services wherever technically possible and to investigate the use of automatic translation technologies and use them wherever possible. Furthermore, the Secretariat was requested to evaluate Internet telephony service provision on WIPONET.

14. The IIWG requested the Secretariat to develop and publish critical success factors for WIPONET. The Secretariat should also develop and publish information concerning the WIPONET business and information dissemination models. These models would discuss the relationship and distinguishing factors between the WIPONET business, sustainability, and information models for individual offices, and for individual Member State intellectual property organizations comprised of multiple offices (such as separate patent, trademark, and copyright offices).

15. The Secretariat was requested to undertake a series of regional WIPONET information and outreach sessions, and to publish information concerning the requirements for the establishment of these sessions. Finally, the IIWG noted that the International Bureau would amend, expand and update its current set of framework and services documents as needed to reflect the letter and spirit of the fruitful discussions during the various working group sessions.

16. Finally, the IIWG complimented the Secretariat for having presented a progress report on the tender activity related to the Global Information Network project, which report was contained in document SCIT/WG/1/3.

Establishment of a technical inventory
(Document SCIT/WG/1/4)

17. The Secretariat reported on its efforts to establish a comprehensive technical inventory of resources available within each Member State. The Secretariat commented upon the need for this information from each Member State, and encouraged delegations whose offices had as yet not responded, to follow up within their offices and to ensure that the current questionnaire was completed and returned to the Secretariat.

INFORMATION SECURITY WORKING GROUP (ISWG)

Study by the International Bureau of WIPO concerning the potential of electronic commerce, its infrastructure and the usage of tools therefor by intellectual property offices
(Document SCIT/WG/1/5)

18. The Working Group engaged in useful discussions concerning many aspects of information security, ranging from the impact of national law on data privacy assurance, to the provision of summary information to the Member States concerning networking and security practices. During the course of these discussions, the ISWG agreed:

(a) that applications-level security should be the primary user-level security mechanism for WIPONET, with hardware-level security as needed for dedicated connections;

(b) that the Secretariat should carefully consider physical security issues during subsequent phases of Global Information Network development.

19. The Secretariat was requested to develop and document a comprehensive WIPONET security policy, defining security principles and rules before specifying security requirements. The policy would guide the provision of secure data exchange, services for authentication and non-repudiation, and security requirements level categorization for various network services.

20. The ISWG requested the Secretariat to pursue pilot projects with various Member States to explore models and technologies for the provision of applications-level security, and the development of policies and guidelines related to security, authentication and certification practices, drawing as appropriate on the experience of related projects, including, e.g., the MIPEX and the Trilateral Network projects.

Technical issues in relation to the exchange of priority documents through the network
(Document SCIT/WG/1/6)

21. The Working Group was provided with a presentation by the USPTO on the Trilateral Secure Virtual Private Network (TSVPN) which served to underline the technical issues involved. The Working Group agreed that the technical issues identified for priority document exchange as detailed in document SCIT/WG/1/6—namely exchange mechanism, data types, data elements (document type definition), encryption, digital envelope and digital signature—were appropriate when considering the exchange of *any* unpublished data and that such requirements should be taken into consideration when drafting the WIPONET RFP.

22. The solutions used within the TSVPN implementation had, of necessity, required the adoption in some cases of proprietary versus open products and the use of software that may not be appropriate for use in a more global network. Specific points raised by Member States to be resolved when choosing WIPONET solutions included possible restrictions in the use of strong encryption and the level of security against hacking provided by the intrusion detection system.

23. The ISWG further agreed that progress reports on the TSVPN should be provided at future meetings. To aid discussions and exchange of information between the Member States, the International Bureau would prepare a resource package providing World Wide Web links and other references to sources of security information and would coordinate the establishment of a security task force of interested Member State experts and put in place appropriate discussion group facilities for task force use.

STANDARDS AND DOCUMENTATION WORKING GROUP (SDWG)

Revision of WIPO Standard ST.14
(Project file SCIT/P 1/98)

24. The SDWG noted the comments by industrial property offices and conclusions drawn up by the Secretariat in view of the June 17, 1998, draft revision of paragraph 11 of Standard ST.14 as given in Annex 14 to project file SCIT/P 1/98. The SDWG reviewed a new draft revision of paragraph 11 of ST.14 which was presented by the Trilateral Offices at the session on the basis of a proposal by the Secretariat as reflected in Annex 14, paragraph 6, of the above-mentioned project file. In concluding their discussions, the SDWG agreed to introduce some amendments to the provisions and examples given in subparagraphs 11(a), (b), (c), (d) and 11*bis* of the draft presented and to insert in the introductory part of the Standard a new chapter called “References.”

25. The SDWG agreed to recommend the adoption by the SCIT Plenary of the final wording of the revised Standard ST.14 as contained in Annex IV to this report.

26. In addition, the SDWG agreed to recommend to the SCIT Plenary that the provisions of the revised Standard ST.14 should be applied by industrial property offices as from April 1, 1999.

Supplementary correction codes

(Document SCIT/WG/1/7)

27. The SDWG noted a white paper presented by the Secretariat at the beginning of the session which summarized the state of affairs concerning, and provided a proposal for concluding work on, Task 7(b). As a result of the discussions, the SDWG agreed to recommend the adoption by the SCIT Plenary of the amended wording of subparagraph 12(a)(v) (the former subparagraph 11(a)(v)) and a new Note 2 relating to that subparagraph. Annex IV to this report contains the agreed upon wording of paragraph 12 of Standard ST.14 (please also see paragraph 25, above).

28. The SDWG discussed two suggestions made by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with Task No. 7(b) and which were outlined in their letter of October 14, 1998, to the Secretariat. The Office proposed to review certain WIPO Standards in view of the need for a unique identification of a patent document when applying supplementary correction codes and to seek guidance, within ST.14, on how to cite industrial property documents other than patent documents. In conclusion, the SDWG agreed to recommend to the SCIT Plenary the creation of the following new Tasks:

(a) Investigate, in the light of the revised Standard ST.14, whether any other WIPO Standard, such as ST.6, ST.10/B, ST.11, ST.12, ST.16, ST.19, ST.30, ST.32, ST.35 and ST.40, requires revision in order to clarify how a patent document should be uniquely identified;

(b) Investigate whether provisions on how to cite industrial property documents other than patent documents, such as industrial design documents, should be given under Standard ST.14.

Revision of WIPO Standards ST.30, ST.31, ST.32, ST.33, ST.35 and ST.40

(Project file SCIT/P 2/98)

29. The Secretariat provided an oral report on the progress made in respect of the above-mentioned Standards, revision of which had been delegated to a task force established for this purpose (Standards Task Force). Work on ST.33 had recently culminated in the preparation of an agreed final draft which was included in project file SCIT/P 2/98. Other activity during the period included proposed changes to ST.35 submitted by the EPO and limited response to the proposed new version of ST.31 (all positive). An analysis of the replies to the latest International Bureau questionnaire on WIPO Standards use (Circular 2325) indicated that Standard ST.30 was still actively used in a number of offices. Revision of this Standard would be pursued with reference where necessary to the Offices involved.

30. The SDWG agreed that the revised draft ST.33 should be circulated to offices within two weeks with a proposal that, unless comments to the contrary were received within six weeks of the date of issue of the circular, the revised draft would be considered approved. This adoption procedure would allow necessary related testing/trialing activity to be initiated at that date. The Secretariat proposed that the effective date for use of the revised version of the Standard would be considered in consultation with interested offices and could be further agreed upon as need be at the SCIT Plenary.

Consideration of the need for common field name tags in databases contained in Intellectual Property Digital Libraries (IPDLs)

(Document SCIT/WG/1/8)

31. Discussions were based on the outline provided in SCIT/WG/1/8 supplemented by the demonstration of IPDL implementation given by the International Bureau which served to illustrate the variety of ways in which searching was supported.

32. The SDWG agreed to the proposal that further examination of the options available to provide user-friendly end-user search interfaces was undertaken in the course of the future planned IPDL pilot project activity with particular emphasis on the development of Z39.50 compliant systems.

33. The SDWG also requested the Secretariat to provide a further paper on the issues involved in the provision of IPDLs and the support for cross site searching among the databases provided. The paper should include more detailed information on the Z39.50 Standard for the benefit of the working group members.

Progress report on the WIPO Intellectual Property Digital Libraries (WIPO IPDL) project
(Document SCIT/WG/1/9)

34. Discussions were based on the progress report information provided in SCIT/WG/1/9 and details of further planned activity provided by the Secretariat. The latter included the supply to the International Bureau of sample data for trial IPDL use from the Indian and Chinese Patent Offices and a planned initial meeting with the EPO Esp@cenet team to discuss links between this service and the International Bureau's IPDL PCT service. Other offices were invited to provide the Secretariat with sample data for IPDL trial purposes or request technical advice as appropriate in respect of their own developments.

35. The SDWG noted with approval the IPDL activity undertaken to date by the International Bureau and approved the proposals in respect of future areas of project activity as included in Annex II of document SCIT/WG/1/9.

36. In conclusion, the Secretariat informed the SDWG of a proposal to offer free access to Member States to commercial database services. The major commercial providers had been invited to make proposals in respect of their services and the International Bureau would select the services to be offered on the basis of the responses received. A circular notifying Member States of this project activity and inviting participation would be issued in December 1998 with proposed free access for six months from February 1999.

Assistance to small intellectual property offices in acquiring patent information CD-ROMs
(Document SCIT/WG/1/10)

37. The SDWG noted information provided by the Secretariat on WIPO's assistance to small intellectual property offices and institutions in strengthening their patent document collections by acquiring a free backfile set of the GLOBALPat CD-ROM.
38. The Secretariat was requested to add several national and regional intellectual property bodies to the list of recipients of the CD-ROM referred to and to consider extending the list still further. The number of recipients of the CD-ROM under consideration is 39 national intellectual property offices and four institutions.
39. The SDWG noted also the interest expressed by the African Intellectual Property Organization as to whether a CD-ROM product similar to GLOBALPat, but providing information in the French language, could be made available by WIPO free of charge.
40. The Delegation of the United States of America informed the meeting that, beginning in 1999, the United States Patent and Trademark Office would, in order to improve the storage of, and access to, patent and trademark data currently provided in the form of CD-ROMs, change over to digital versatile discs (DVD-ROMs), change to Dataware II software running on Windows 95, 98 or NT platforms and provide document images in TIFF format. A notice detailing the changes was provided to the Working Groups.

INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY THE SCIT PLENARY

(Document SCIT/1/7 Prov.)

41. The Working Groups noted a report by the Secretariat on the decisions taken by the SCIT Plenary during its first Plenary session, from June 22 to 25, 1998, with particular emphasis as to the policies of the Standing Committee, the main mandates of the three Working Groups established within the SCIT, the proposed establishment of the WIPO Global Information Network and the planned expansion of the functionality and content coverage of the WIPO IPDL.

SCIT WORK PROGRAM

(Document SCIT/WG/1/2)

42. The Working Groups noted a list of Tasks contained in the SCIT Work Program for the current biennium and agreed to the grouping in accordance with their objectives. The list is provided as an Annex to document SCIT/WG/1/2. The Working Groups agreed to recommend to the SCIT Plenary a review of the SCIT Work Program to take note of the changes in electronic media to be used in the future for document exchange.

DEMONSTRATIONS AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

43. The Working Groups noted with gratitude several progress reports and demonstrations related to specific areas of information technologies presented by the following Delegations: Canada, United States of America, France, Uzbekistan, the Secretariat of WIPO and Bellcore.

44. With respect to the demonstration given by the Delegation of France, the Secretariat offered to discuss with the French Patent Office and the European Patent Office the possibility of enhancing and extending the natural language search and classification system demonstrated. The Secretariat would prepare a working paper, including cost and time estimates to extend such a system to cover the official UN languages. The Secretariat would also report on the utility of such technologies for automatic search enhancement and classification systems, and would develop suitable pilot projects to demonstrate promising technologies and systems.

45. The Working Groups noted the development of a comprehensive WIPO Internet Broadcasting Service as demonstrated during the session. The Secretariat would develop a service description covering (a) availability, (b) access controls, (c) meetings to be broadcast (regional, public, private, and member-state-only), (d) coordination with other organizations. The Secretariat informed the Working Groups that it would continue to improve and expand its broadcasting services to include, e.g., the possible issue of CD-ROMs of archived recorded broadcasts.

WORKING PROCEDURES

46. The Delegation of France expressed its dissatisfaction with the fact that certain documents referred to in the agenda were not available in the French language at the time of considering them. In this respect, the Delegation referred to document SCIT/WG/1/3, which was distributed in French after discussions had already started, and project file SCIT/P 2/98, the French version of which was not available during the session. The Delegation of France requested the Secretariat to take the appropriate measures to make available at the same time all official documents of the Working Groups in the respective working languages.

NEXT MEETINGS

47. The Working Groups noted the following tentative dates of their next sessions:

SCIT/WG/2	June 7 to 11, 1999
SCIT/WG/3	Second half of October 1999.

RETIREMENT OF MR. JONCKHEERE (EPO)

48. On the occasion of the last participation of Mr. Jonckheere in a session of a SCIT body, the Working Groups and the International Bureau took the opportunity to thank him for and pay tribute to his many years of attendance at the various meetings convened by the Secretariat of WIPO and to his outstanding contribution to international cooperation in the field of industrial property information and documentation, and expressed their best wishes for his happy retirement.

49. The draft of this report was sent to the participants to the first session of the SCIT Working Groups and adopted without amendment by correspondence.

[Annexes follow]