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REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON WIPO STANDARDS (CWS)

Document prepared by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. During the reporting period, the Committee on WIPO Standards (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”, or “the CWS”) held its twelfth session from September 16 to 19, 2024, chaired by Mr. Michael Cristiano (Australia).
2. Participants at the session continued the exchange of views on the development and implementation of WIPO Standards by the intellectual property (IP) community, and on policies, recommendations and statements of principles relating to IP data, global information system related matters, information services on the global system, data dissemination and documentation.
3. Discussions were based on several proposals, documents and presentations submitted by various CWS Task Forces, delegations and the Secretariat. All discussion materials and the adopted meeting report of the [twelfth session](#) are available on the WIPO website.
4. The Committee unanimously elected Mr. Ali Alharbi (Saudi Arabia) and Mr. Alexandre Ciano (Brazil) as Vice-Chairs for its twelfth and thirteenth sessions, whose terms began immediately.

CWS WORK PROGRAM AND TASKS

5. At its twelfth session, the Committee reviewed its work program, including 19 active tasks, and considered proposals to add three new tasks. It also noted that subject matter experts from 63 CWS Members and three CWS Observers were participating in its Task Forces. The Committee also reviewed activities relevant to all active tasks, the creation of one new task and the revision of four tasks. In total, 22 tasks, including two held in abeyance, remain in the work program.

6. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat would analyze the complexity and activity level of each task, taking into account input from Task Force leaders, and include that analysis in the task list for review at its thirteenth session. The Secretariat will also conduct an annual review of all CWS tasks with the Task Forces, with a view to proposing the task(s) that should be prioritized or put on hold.

7. The Committee received progress reports on its tasks from the International Bureau and the following 12 Task Forces: 3D, Application Programming Interface (API), Blockchain, Design Representation, Digital Transformation, Information Communication Technologies (ICT) Strategy for Standards, Legal Status, Name Standardization, Part 7, Public Access to Patent Information (PAPI), Sequence Listings, and XML4IP.

DEVELOPMENT OF WIPO STANDARDS

8. The Committee considered proposals for two new WIPO Standards, and the revision of eight existing WIPO Standards ST.3, ST.9, ST.27, ST.61, ST.80, ST.87, ST.91 and ST.96, to cope with new demands from IP offices, IP users and other stakeholders.

9. Regarding the new WIPO Standards, the following proposals were presented:

- Recommendations on the data package format for the electronic exchange of priority documents (as Standard ST.92) with the proposed implementation plan; and
- Recommendations on the data cleaning of names (as Standard ST.93).

10. The Committee adopted the new WIPO Standard ST.92 and noted the proposed implementation plan for ST.92, with the “sunset period” ending on July 1, 2027. The Committee agreed to conduct a survey on the implementation plan for ST.92 and consider the survey results at its thirteenth session.

11. The Committee did not adopt the proposed WIPO Standard ST.93, but instead requested that the Name Standardization Task Force revisit and continue to improve the draft Standard as needed. To gather feedback from IP offices and other stakeholders, the Committee requested the International Bureau to organize a workshop on data cleaning of names in 2025, open to all interested parties.

12. Furthermore, to assist in the revision of Standard ST.91, the Committee supported that in 2025 the Task Force organize an information session on 3D models and 3D images, to which all interested parties will be invited.

IMPLEMENTATION OF WIPO STANDARDS BY OFFICES

13. CWS Members and Observers shared their practices or plans for the implementation of WIPO Standards, in particular, ST.26, ST.27, ST.37, ST.61, ST.87 and ST.90. The Committee took note of collaborative efforts made by IP offices to implement WIPO Standards and the support that the International Bureau had provided with training and software tools, including

WIPO Sequence Suite and the API Catalog for IP. The Committee encouraged IP offices to participate in its Task Forces to ensure that the Standards continued to meet their requirements.

POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES RELATING TO IP DATA, THE INFORMATION SYSTEM AND INFORMATION SERVICES

14. The Committee noted the summary of work-to-date conducted by the International Bureau to implement the recommendations on the use of blockchain applications in the United Nations system by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) of the United Nations system. The Committee encouraged IP offices to implement Recommendation 6 of the JIU's Recommendations:

“The governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations should encourage Member States to engage with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law in its exploratory and preparatory work on legal issues that relate to blockchain in the broader context of the digital economy and digital trade, including on dispute resolution, which is aimed at reducing legal insecurity in that field.”

15. The Committee adopted the set of 10 Recommendations relating to ICT and to IP administration (see the Annex) as presented in document [CWS/12/22](#), and agreed to present them to the WIPO General Assembly in 2025. The Committee encouraged its Members and Observers to implement the Recommendations and share their implementation plans, or experience in this regard at its thirteenth session. It also noted that the International Bureau, taking into consideration action (c) of Recommendation 2, would organize a meeting on ICT leadership, the WIPO ICT Leadership Dialogue (WILD), in 2025.

16. The Committee approved the establishment of the new “IP Data Exchange Task Force” which will analyze current practices in IP offices and the challenges facing them, with a view to exploring solutions to improve global IP data exchange.

17. The Committee noted the progress made on the “Global Identifier Project for Natural Persons and Legal Entities”, and the scope of the Project Phase 2 reported by the International Bureau in collaboration with several IP offices and IP industry associations. It also noted that the International Bureau would publish the project documentation and relevant information on the WIPO website, as requested.

18. The Committee agreed to continue collecting annual technical reports (ATRs) using the simplified template, which includes a new topic: “Activities relating to the implementation of WIPO Standards concerning patent (trademark or industrial design) Information.”

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND COLLABORATION ON GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

19. Regarding the provision of technical advice and assistance to IP offices for capacity-building on WIPO Standards, the Committee took note of the report by the International Bureau on activities undertaken in 2023 (see document CWS/12/25 annexed to this document), as requested by the WIPO General Assembly at its fortieth session, held in October 2011. The Committee observed that the document would serve as the basis for the relevant report to be presented to the WIPO General Assembly in 2025.

20. The Committee noted the progress made on the following cooperative global information systems: WIPO Sequence Suite, API Catalog for Intellectual Property and Authority File Portal.

21. *The WIPO General Assembly is invited to take note of the “Report on the Committee on WIPO Standards”, which includes ICT Recommendations for Intellectual Property Offices and document CWS/12/25 (document WO/GA/58/9).*

[Annex follows]

RECOMMENDATIONS ON ICT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION

At its twelfth session, the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) adopted the set of Recommendations on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) outlined below. IP offices are encouraged to implement this set of Recommendations and share their plan or experience in implementing those Recommendations.

Recommendations	Recommended Actions
<p><u>Recommendation 1:</u> IP offices should optimize their current business models, legal frameworks and workflow processes to make them suitable for the digital age in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders at all stages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) IP offices should identify business problems, and possible and best digital solutions to address them, avoiding mere replication of outdated paper processes. (b) IP offices are encouraged to review the business processes of different IP rights and to consider adopting a uniform procedure across IP rights where possible. (c) IP offices should ensure a general common understanding of digital transformation at the organizational level, including the possible and appropriate use of emerging and rapidly evolving technologies. (d) IP offices should ensure that strategies to leverage API and the Cloud are in place, considering relevant domestic regulations and business policy, for modernization, automation and optimization of business processes. (e) IP offices should consider legal changes to support digital transformation, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. development of automated decision-making frameworks; ii. use of qualified electronic signature in IP administration; iii. optionally using a common global ID across IP offices; and iv. exploring use of biometric identification technologies.
<p><u>Recommendation 2:</u> IP offices should have an ICT strategy, either as a part of business strategic planning or independently, including measures for annual evaluation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) IP offices are encouraged to develop an ICT strategy in line with their business strategy. (b) IP offices are encouraged to share their ICT strategy with other IP offices, in one of the WIPO languages, preferably in English, where possible. (c) The International Bureau should provide a forum to discuss ICT strategies and other ICT issues considered to be of common interest, including their evaluation and updates, among IP offices.

Recommendations	Recommended Actions
<p><u>Recommendation 3:</u> IP offices should ensure that a data governance framework is in place taking into account organizational policies and related legal framework, and regularly evaluated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) IP offices should establish and maintain a data governance framework which includes data governance strategy, data management policy, and data protection policies and guidelines. (b) IP offices are encouraged to share their data governance framework or associated documents with other IP Offices, where possible.
<p><u>Recommendation 4:</u> IP offices should ensure an information security policy is in place based on best practices, and regularly evaluated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) IP offices should develop and maintain their information security policy. (b) IP offices are encouraged to share their information security policy and their experiences, including current challenges and solutions to address them, where possible.
<p><u>Recommendation 5:</u> IP offices should ensure that IP data and documentation are available for publication and exchange with other IP offices in machine-readable, full text formats following relevant WIPO Standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) IP offices should digitize paper-based or image-based IP documents into machine-readable full text formats, where possible structured data formats either in XML or JSON following relevant WIPO Standards. (b) IP offices are encouraged to support other IP offices' digitalization, including sharing their experience and digitalization solutions. (c) IP offices are encouraged to cooperate on data exchange, where possible in XML or JSON following relevant WIPO Standards. (d) IP offices are encouraged to share and disseminate data and documentation, without any barriers and free-of-charge or at a marginal cost.
<p><u>Recommendation 6:</u> IP offices are encouraged to contribute to multilateral or international cooperative projects concerning IP data, global IP information systems and services, IP data dissemination, and IP documentation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) IP offices are encouraged to actively participate in the cooperative projects¹ that the CWS approved or noted. (b) IP offices are encouraged to offer multilateral cooperative projects and to participate in the projects offered by other IP offices.
<p><u>Recommendation 7:</u> IP offices should participate in developing WIPO Standards and implement them where possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) IP offices are encouraged to nominate their subject matter experts to the CWS Task Forces. (b) IP offices are encouraged to inform the International Bureau of their implementation status of WIPO Standards and to participate in the surveys of the CWS.

¹ Such as the Global Identifier Project, Unified API Catalogue Project and the provision of patent Authority Files in WIPO ST.37-compliant format considering PCT minimum documentation.

<p><u>Recommendation 8:</u> IP offices are encouraged to cooperate in developing and using common ICT reference architectures for IP, including solutions and platforms to improve the quality and efficiency in business processes, and to share experience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) IP offices are encouraged to share their current technology stacks and technology roadmaps, including decommissioning plans, with other IP offices, where possible; and(b) the International Bureau should provide a forum and a platform to share experiences and information as needed.
<p><u>Recommendation 9:</u> IP offices are encouraged to share experience and information on planning, managing, delivering, and evaluating ICT projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) IP offices are encouraged to share experience and lessons learned relating to different ICT project delivery models, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. internally run; andii. provided by external service providers if possible.
<p><u>Recommendation 10:</u> IP offices should ensure that the adoption of use cases of emerging and rapidly evolving technologies (such as Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence) will be based on assessments of project risks, including with respect to relevant organizational policies and regulations, as well as potential implications of such solutions in business operations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) IP offices are encouraged to explore and share the use cases of emerging and rapidly evolving technologies, such as blockchain and artificial intelligence technologies.(b) IP offices are encouraged to explore and share the use cases of AI- powered tools and services, including generative AI capabilities as they mature, for functions including image searching, semantic text searching, image and text classifications, translation, and customer support.(c) IP offices should consider ways in which the technologies can be shared and made available to smaller IP offices to improve the quality and efficiency in business processes.

[Document CWS/12/25 follows]

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Twelfth Session
Geneva, September 16 to 19, 2024

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 Secretariat

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 2023, 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).

2. As WIPO Standards are implemented in various systems and WIPO software such as the WIPO Sequence Suite 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 2023, the International Bureau provided technical advice to assist IPOs and users to utilize WIPO Standards through emails and online conferences, including the implementation of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87, which are related to legal status events on patents, trademarks and industrial designs respectively, and the production of authority files compliant with WIPO Standard ST.37.

4. The International Bureau launched a proof of concept (POC) for the technical public disclosure of plant variety sequence data in PATENTSCOPE. Sequencing data for a series of different tropical soybeans was provided by the Indonesian National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) as part of a training program with the WIPO and a decision was made to value-add to this sequence data before ingesting it into PATENTSCOPE. The POC concluded successfully with each of the 20 chromosomes for the tropical soybeans being translated into WIPO ST.26 format with associated technical abstracts and utility statements.

5. In response to feedback from both IP Offices and users, the International Bureau launched a new WIPO Sequence Suite development project focused on improving the performance of XML validation and generation. To achieve this goal, an updated technology stack was implemented for both WIPO Sequence and WIPO Sequence Validator. This complete overhaul of both components has required extensive testing to ensure that the implementation is functionally equivalent to version 2.3.0. The International Bureau hopes to launch the new version of the WIPO Sequence Validator, version 3.0.0, in the third quarter of 2024.

6. Regarding technical assistance in the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.26 and WIPO Sequence, the International Bureau was invited to present at two webinars on this topic. Based on Offices' feedback, it is clear that there is a need for the International Bureau to present a more advanced series of webinars now that users are more familiar with the basics of the Standard and the desktop tool.

7. 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

8. 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.

9. At the end of 2023, 91 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. Sixty 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/

10. Under WIPO's program of Global Databases, the International Bureau has continued to be supported by the Japan Fund-in-Trust program, to assist Member States in creating high quality full text for their patent publications. For the Japan Fiscal year of 2023, 1,293 patent

documents from the Philippines patent office, 22,221 patent documents from the Argentinian patent office and 10,280 patent documents from the Mexican patent office were OCRed, proofread, transformed into XML before being loaded into PATENTSCOPE.

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

11. Following requests, the International Bureau provided a training seminar organized on July 26 and 27, 2023, jointly with the Brunei Intellectual Property Office via an online platform on patent search for patent processing staff and innovation support staff in Brunei Darussalam. In this context, the relevance of related WIPO Standards was explained.

12. Following requests, the International Bureau provided a virtual training seminar on January 9 and 10, 2023 on the use of Vienna Classification for trademark examiners for the staff of the Brunei Darussalam Office. In this context, the relevance of related WIPO Standards was explained.

BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WIPO STANDARDS

13. 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 eleventh session of the CWS of eight developing or least developed countries (LDCs) was funded by the International Bureau.

IP DATA EXCHANGE

14. 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 their IP information. The exchange of IP data was organized, when possible, in accordance with relevant WIPO Standards. The trademark collections of the following countries have been included in Global Brand Database during the year 2023, in chronological order: United Kingdom and Monaco; the patent collections of the following countries have been included in PATENTSCOPE during the year 2023: Belgium, Norway and Monaco. The industrial design collections of Egypt also been added in WIPO's Global Design Database in 2023.

15. The CWS is invited to take note of the 2023 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 2025, as requested at its 40th session held in October 2011 (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19).

[End of document]