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**Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

**Sixth Session**

**Geneva, October 15 to 19, 2018**

REPORT ON TASK NO.52 BY THE Public Access to Patent Information TASK FORCE

*Document prepared by the Public Access to Patent Information Task Force*

## BACKGROUND

The Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), at its reconvened fourth session held in March 2016, noted the request and information provided by the Patent Documentation Group (PDG) concerning the requirements for national and regional patent registers. The CWS agreed, in particular, to collect industrial property offices (IPOs) practices on content, functionalities and future plans with respect to their patent registers (see Annex III to document CWS/4BIS/6).

The CWS, at its fifth session held in Geneva from May 29 to June 2, 2017, created a new Task No. 52: “Survey on content and functionalities of systems for providing access to publicly available patent information of industrial property offices, as well as future plans with respect to their publication practices; prepare recommendations for systems for providing access to publicly available patent information of industrial property offices” (see paragraphs 94 to 96 of document CWS/5/22).

The CWS also established the Public Access to Patent Information (PAPI) Task Force to carry out Task No.52, and designated the International Bureau of WIPO as the Task Force leader. The CWS requested the established Task Force to take into account the knowledge gathered during the maintenance of the Patent Register Portal and the results of the work of the Legal Status Task Force. (See paragraphs 97 to 100 of document CWS/5/22.)

The PAPI Task Force commenced its business from September 2017 and currently 32 experts nominated by the following Industrial Property Offices (IPOs): CL, CN, DE, GB, IB, IN, JP, KR, RU, SK and UA, and industry groups, i.e., Confederacy of European Patent Information User Groups (CEPIUG) and Patent Documentation Group (PDG), participate in the Task Force.

## DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SURVEY

In accordance with the decision by the CWS, the PAPI Task Force carried out five rounds of discussions to prepare a proposal for the questionnaire on the content and functionalities of systems for providing access to publicly available patent information. The final draft of the questionnaire is reproduced as Annex to this document for consideration and approval by the CWS.

The proposed draft questionnaire consists of six components:

1. contact details of the respondent;
2. how users can access the IPOs’ patent information (systems);
3. what contents are available through patent information (systems);
4. functionality of the systems that the IPO provides and wish to use from other IPOs’ systems;
5. users’ support, and
6. the IPO’s future plan regarding patent information (systems) and expected area of WIPO recommendations.

## WORK PLAN

The Task Force proposes the following work plan to carry on Task No. 52:

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| Action | Expected Result | Planned Date |
| Present progress report, including a final draft questionnaire regarding systems for publically available patent information at the sixth session of the CWS | It is expected that the CWS will review and approve the draft questionnaire and approve it at this session. | October 2018 |
| Conduct the survey with the approved questionnaire *[Note : the Secretariat will investigate a possibility of using online survey tool}* | The Secretariat will issue a circular inviting IPOs to participate in the survey | December 2018 |
| Collect and analyze the survey responses | IPOs will respond the survey; and the Task Force will analyze survey outcome. | March 2019 |
| Prepare a report on the result of survey | The Task Force will prepare a summary of the survey result and propose further action required for consideration at the CWS/7. | CWS/7 |

*The CWS is invited to:*

*(a) note the content of the present document;*

*(b) consider and approve the draft questionnaire, as reproduced in Annex to the present document; and*

*(c) request the Secretariat to issue a circular inviting IPOs to participate in the survey, referred to in paragraph 7 above.*

[Annex follows]