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**Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

**Tenth Session**

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

Report by the NAME STANDARDIZATION Task Force (Task No. 55)

*Document prepared by the Name Standardization Task Force Leaders*

## BACKGROUND

At its ninth session in 2021, the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) noted the progress made by the Name Standardization Task Force. In particular, the Task Force reported its work gathering information on data cleaning activities in support of name standardization. The Task Force reported plans to present recommendations at the tenth session of the CWS. (See paragraphs 117 to 118 of document CWS/9/25.)

## REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

The Task Force continued gathering information from Task Force members on their experiences with cleaning data for purposes of name standardization. More detailed questions were asked than previous data collections to elicit additional helpful information for the Task Force. Submissions were provided by six Task Force members in the first quarter of 2022.

Using the collected information, the Task Force started work on draft recommendations for best practices. The recommendations cover general considerations for intake, processing, cleanup, and publication of clean name data. They do not address the many complex issues with particular approaches to data cleaning, transliteration, or name standardization, such as choice of algorithms, where and when transformations are applied, frequency, or merging strategies. These types of decisions will vary greatly depending on the party applying them, the purpose of transformations, and the quickly evolving nature of matching algorithms.

An initial draft of the recommendations is presented in the Annex to the current document. The draft recommendations are at a very early stage and do not reflect agreement or consensus by the Task Force yet. They are presented to the CWS for information purposes and comments. Final recommendations may change considerably.

The Task Force plans to continue work on draft recommendations in 2023 with several rounds of discussion. The Task Force expects to present a final proposal for recommendations to the next session of the CWS.

*The CWS is invited to:*

1. *note the content of this document;*
2. *note the progress made on draft recommendations for clean data in support of name standardization, as presented in the Annex to the current document; and*
3. *comment on the draft recommendations.*

[Annex follows]