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**Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

**Fifth Session**

**Geneva, May 29 to June 2, 2017**

NEW WIPO STANDARD FOR AN AUTHORITY FILE OF PATENT DOCUMENTS PUBLISHED BY A PATENT OFFICE

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. The Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) at its reconvened fourth session held in March 2016, agreed to create Task No. 51 to “Prepare a recommendation for an authority file of patent documents issued by a national or regional patent office to enable other patent offices and other interested parties to assess the completeness of their collections of published patent documents”. The CWS established a new task force (Authority File Task Force) to handle the task and designated the European Patent Office (EPO) as the Task Force Leader. (See paragraph 108 of document CWS/4BIS/16.)
2. The CWS requested the new Task Force to present a proposal for a new WIPO Standard or the revision of existing WIPO Standard(s) for consideration and adoption by the CWS at its next session to be held in 2017 (see paragraph 109 of document CWS/4BIS/16).
3. The EPO, as the Leader of the Authority File Task Force, has prepared a progress report on the work carried out by the Task Force, which is reproduced in Annex I to this document.
4. Within the framework of Task No. 51, the Authority File Task Force prepared draft recommendations for an authority file of published patent documents for consideration and adoption by the CWS as a new WIPO Standard. The proposed name of the new standard is “WIPO Standard ST.37 – Recommendation for an authority file of published patent documents”. The proposed draft recommendation consists of the main body and two Annexes and is reproduced in Annex II to the present document.
5. The proposed draft standard recommends two formats for the authority file: text and XML (preferred). The Task Force has yet to develop two annexes (Annex III and Annex IV) to define and provide examples of XML schema (XSD) and Data Type Definition (DTD) aligned with the new recommendation for authority files, as well as other relevant WIPO Standards (for example, WIPO Standard ST.96).
6. Considering that the proposed draft recommendation contains references to the Annexes III and IV (see paragraph 5 above), to avoid possible confusion, it is proposed to include the following editorial note in the standard until the said annexes are prepared and approved by the CWS:

Editorial Note by the International Bureau

Annexes III and IV to the present Standard, which define XML schema (XSD) and Data Type Definition (DTD), are under preparation by the Authority File Task Force. They are planned to be presented for consideration and adoption by the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) at its sixth session in 2018.

Until the said Annexes are adopted by the CWS, the only recommended format for the purpose of this Standard is text.

1. If the draft standard and the editorial note are approved by the CWS, the description of Task No.51 should be revised as follows:

“Prepare and present for consideration at the sixth session of the CWS to be held in 2018, Annex III “XML schema (XSD)” and Annex IV “Data Type Definition (DTD)” to WIPO Standard ST.37 “Recommendation for an authority file of published patent documents”.”

1. *The CWS is invited to:*

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

*(b) note the progress report on the work of the Authority File Task Force (refer to paragraph 3 above and Annex I to this document);*

*(c) consider and decide on the adoption of the new standard “WIPO Standard ST.37 – Recommendation for an authority file of published patent documents”, as referred to in paragraph 4 above and reproduced in Annex II to this document;*

*(d) consider and decide on the editorial note as proposed in paragraph 6 above; and*

*(e) consider and decide on the revision of the description of Task No. 51, as referred to in paragraph 7 above.*

[Annexes follow]