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**Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

**Eighth Session**

**Geneva, November 30 to December 4, 2020**

Report by the PAPI Task Force

*Document prepared by the PAPI Task Force Leader*

## BACKGROUND

 At its fifth session in 2017, the CWS created Task No. 52 whose description reads "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." The International Bureau is the Task Force Leader. (See paragraphs 94 to 100 of document CWS/5/22.)

 At its seventh session in 2019, the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) considered the questionnaire on Public Access to Patent Information (PAPI), presented by the PAPI Task Force. The questionnaire collects information from Industrial Property Offices (IPOs) on their content, practices, functionalities and future plans with respect to patent information available to the public. The Task Force planned the survey in two parts to increase response rates: the first part contains a short questionnaire to collect basic information, while the second part contains a more detailed questionnaire. The CWS approved the first part questionnaire, but could not reach agreement on the second part questionnaire, which was referred back to the PAPI Task Force for further consideration. (See paragraphs 197 and 201 of document CWS/7/29.)

## REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

 After considering the preliminary results of part 1 of the survey, the PAPI Task Force held an online meeting and several rounds of discussion to revise Part 2 of the questionnaire on public access to patent information. The revised questionnaire is provided in the Annex to this document.

 Among the changes to the proposed questionnaire:

* Adding definitions for various terms, including types of search (basic, advanced, semantic);
* Expanding the answer choices to include more types of patent information in several questions, such as 3, 4, 7, and 14;
* Updating question 9 in light of the WIPO authority file portal to avoid duplicating information;
* Adding questions 8 and 10 to collect information on why Offices may not be using ST.27 (patent legal status) and ST.37 (authority file data) in order to improve the International Bureau's services;
* Providing answer choices for questions 15 and 16 to improve the information collected; and
* Clarifying language in many places throughout the survey.

 If the revised questionnaire is approved by the CWS, the Secretariat plans to conduct Part 2 of the survey in 2021 and report the outcome at the ninth session of the CWS.

 *The CWS is invited to:*

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

 *(b) approve the questionnaire for Part 2 of the survey, as presented in the Annex; and*

 *(c) request the Secretariat to issue a circular inviting Offices to take part in the survey.*

[Annex follows]