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STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

STANDARDS AND DOCUMENTATION WORKING GROUP

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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE REVISION OF WIPO STANDARD ST.36

Document prepared by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. At its eighth session, held in March 2007, the Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG) of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) agreed to create a new Task to ensure continuous revision and updating of WIPO Standard ST.36 and to establish the ST.36 Task Force to handle this Task. The SDWG also temporarily authorized the ST.36 Task Force to adopt revisions of WIPO Standard ST.36. (See document SCIT/SDWG/8/14, paragraphs 58 and 59.)

2. The initial mandate given to the ST.36 Task Force by SDWG at its eighth session was as follows (see document SCIT/SDWG/8/14, paragraph 61):

(a) to prepare a revision of the International Common Elements (ICEs) of WIPO Standard ST.36 on the basis of the latest version of the DTDs provided by Annex F of the Part 7 of PCT Administrative Instructions; and

(b) to consider whether it is necessary to revise any other part of WIPO Standard ST.36 as a consequence of changes made to Annex F since the adoption of the Standard in November 2004, and if necessary, to revise the Standard.

3. In accordance with the above-mentioned decision by the SDWG, the International Bureau (IB) issued Circular C.SCIT 2636, dated April 30, 2007, inviting those offices wishing to participate actively in the discussions to nominate a representative to the ST.36 Task Force. The following 14 Offices appointed their representatives: AU, CA, DE, DK, EM, EP, JP, KR, LT, MD, RU, US, VN, and WO/IB.

4. From October 22 to 24, 2007, there was an informal meeting of the SDWG Task Forces dealing with XML issues, namely ST.36 Task Force, ST.66 Task Force, ST.86 Task Force and XML4IP Task Force. The agenda, list of participants, Minutes and copies of presentations given at the meeting can be found in the area "Documentation" of each of the said Task Forces on the SDWG Task Force's web page at:
<http://www.wipo.int/scit/en/taskfrce/>.

Revision of WIPO Standard ST.36

5. In order to carry out the initial work and other requests, the ST.36 Task Force has discussed or reviewed the following issues since the eighth session of the SDWG:

- Revision of the WIPO Standard ST.36 main body;
- Revision of the ST.36 ICES;
- Information on issues that have been considered by the Citation Practices Task Force having an impact on, or from, WIPO Standard ST.36, in particular those related to the ST.36 ICES; and
- Draft Proposal For Changes (PFCs) for the PCT Annex F implying revision of the ST.36 ICES.

6. As for the revision of the WIPO Standard ST.36 main body, the ST.36 Task Force discussed the following proposals:

- Correct URLs referred to in the Standard;
- Remove the list of DTDs from paragraph 9 of the Standard;
- Remove the second sentence of paragraph 36 of the Standard;
- Add the ICES to WIPO Standard ST.36 as Annex C;
- Revise paragraphs 19 and 20 of the Standard to align with the wording concerning the XML encoding in WIPO Standard ST.66;
- Introduce the version number of WIPO Standard ST.36 to align with the version numbering practice of WIPO Standard ST.66 and for maintenance. The version number 1.2 was given to the revised Standard. The version numbering would also apply to the Annexes to the Standard independently; and
- Handle new versions of industry standard DTDs such as mathml2.dtd.

7. The ST.36 Task Force adopted the above-mentioned proposals for the revision of the WIPO Standard ST.36 main body, except handling new versions of industry standard DTDs for which discussions are ongoing. The newly adopted version 1.2 of WIPO Standard ST.36 is available at *http://www.wipo.int/standards/en/part_03_standards.html*.

8. The Task Force decided that the ICES would be annexed to WIPO Standard ST.36 as Annex C. The version number 1.0 was given to the ICES. The revision of the ICES is under consideration by the Task Force at the moment of preparing this working document.

Ongoing and further discussions

9. Regarding the WIPO Standard ST.36 main body, the Task Force has discussed how to handle new versions of industry standard DTDs such as mathml2.dtd (see paragraph 9 of the Standard). As a result, the Task Force will investigate offices' practices regarding the use of industry standards DTDs and will then discuss their impact on introducing a new version of an industry standard DTD in WIPO Standard ST.36.

10. With regard to the ST.36 ICEs, the Task Force has been preparing its revision. The revision aims at aligning the ST.36 ICEs with the latest version of Annex F DTDs where a number of elements in the ICEs have been updated since the adoption of the current ICEs in 2004. During the preparation of the revision, it was pointed out that some elements in the ICEs cannot be aligned with the DTDs. For example, some elements in the ICEs which are no longer used in the latest Annex F DTDs cannot be removed from the ICEs because the elements may still be used by offices. Another example is that Annex F includes office-specific elements, i.e., wo-specific, which according to WIPO Standard ST.36, can not be present in the ICEs.

11. Furthermore, the Task Force was informed of a number of plans regarding changes in support of the Annex F PFCs, changes in support of citation practices and a revision request from the European Patent Office (EPO) to add elements in support of change tracking within patent documents. The ST.36 Task Force will discuss the corresponding proposals concerning the above when they are presented for consideration by the Task Force.

12. The SDWG is invited to note the results of the work of the ST.36 Task Force and the report of the Task Leader, as set out in this document

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