



C. CWS 205
-03

March 16, 2026

Re: Survey Concerning Citation Practices in Intellectual Property Offices

Madam,
Sir,

At its thirteenth session in November 2025, the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) approved the survey questionnaire on “Citation Practices in Intellectual Property Offices” as presented in document [CWS/13/5](#). The CWS also approved the launch of a survey to support the revision of [Part 7.9 of the WIPO Handbook, Citation Practices Relating to Patent Information](#), and requested that the Secretariat issue a circular inviting intellectual property (IP) offices to participate in this survey.

The purpose of the survey is to collect updated and comprehensive information from IP offices concerning their current practices in citing patent information.

Updating Part 7.9 of the WIPO Handbook will improve the clarity and consistency of citation reference information in patent documents, facilitating their interpretation and use by IP offices, patent searchers, commercial providers, and other IP professionals.

The survey is available in English, French and Spanish at the following URL:
<https://surveys.wipo.int/s3/Survey-concerning-citation-practices-in-intellectual-property-offices>.

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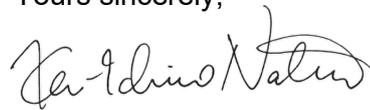
When loading the survey, the online platform will select a default language based on your web browser settings. You may change the language using the dropdown menu in the top right-hand corner of the web page. At any time, you may save your progress and return to the questionnaire later by selecting the "Save and Continue" link at the top of the page. Once your answers are finalized, please click the "Submit" button on the last page of the survey.

Additional instructions are provided within the online questionnaire.

Your Office is kindly invited to complete the survey by April 13, 2026.

For any questions, please contact the Secretariat at: cws.surveys@wipo.int.

Yours sincerely,



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