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**Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

**Sixth Session**

**Geneva, October 15 to 19, 2018**

CREATION OF A TASK TO PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BLOCKCHAIN

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

## BACKGROUND

 The Meeting of Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs) on ICT Strategies and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for IP Administration took place at WIPO headquarters in Geneva from May 23 to 25, 2018. Discussions were based on document WIPO/IP/ITAI/GE/18/3, which is available at: <http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=46586>, containing 40 recommendations.

 One of the recommendations, i.e., R12, which is reproduced below, was related to a distributed IP registry:

“R12. In cooperation with interested Member States, the IB should develop a prototype for a distributed IP registry. The prototype could be used for IP applications to create an authentic registry of IP application numbers, for example to be used for validation of priority claims. Study the possibility of using a distributed IP registry linking to WIPO CASE or the International Register. The potential of blockchain technologies for linking such distributed registries should also be explored.”

 At the meeting, the participants discussed the Recommendation R12 and noted that a number of IPOs were conducting experiments with blockchain-type technology for use in situations such as creating shared registries. It was also noted that a proposal might be submitted to the CWS to create a task force to study the utilization of blockchain technologies. Some delegations remarked that a federated model of registry and deep linking of those registries for search and retrieval might be a more practical short-term solution. (See paragraphs 6 and 7 of document [WIPO/IP/ITAI/GE/18/5](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=407578).)

## PROPOSALS

 The Secretariat received two proposals regarding Blockchain from Australia and the Russian Federation for consideration at this Session of the Committee. Those proposals are reproduced as Annex I and Annex II, respectively, to the present document.

 Taking into account the proposals referred to in paragraph 13 of Annex I and paragraph 10 of Annex II to the present document, the Secretariat suggests creating a new Task of which the description would read, "

1. Explore the possibility of using blockchain technology in the processes of providing IP rights protection, processing information about IP objects and their use;
2. Collect information about IPO developments in use of and experience with blockchain, assess current Industry Standards on blockchain and consider merit and applicability to IPOs; and
3. Develop a model to standardize approaches of using blockchain technology in the IP field, including guiding principles, common practice and use of terminology as a framework supporting collaboration, joint projects and proofs of concept.
4. Prepare a proposal for a new WIPO standard applying blockchain technology in the processes of providing IP rights protection, processing information about IP objects and their use”

 It is also proposed to establish a new Task Force, which will be called “Blockchain Task Force” to handle the new Task if established.

 *The CWS is invited to:*

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

 *(b) consider the proposal submitted by IP Australia regarding the development of recommendations for Blockchain, reproduced as Annex I;*

 *(c) consider the proposal submitted by the Delegation of Russian Federation regarding the development of recommendations for Blockchain, reproduced as Annex II;*

 *(d) consider and approve the proposal concerning the creation of the new task referred to in paragraph 5, above; and*

 *(e) consider and approve the establishment of the new Task Force, with its corresponding Task Force Leader, referred to in paragraph 6, above; and*

 *(f) request the established Task Force to report its progress on the task at its next session.*

[Annexes follow]