

## **Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

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

### **REVISION OF WIPO STANDARD ST.3**

*Document prepared by the International Bureau*

1. In the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), there is an internal initiative to improve the quality of data that relates specifically to the names of geographic designations, including county names, territories, and other entities, through the harmonized use of such names across the products and services that the International Bureau provides.
2. Concerning two-letter codes, WIPO Standard ST.3 aligned with ISO Standard 3166 works as a basis for this purpose. At the same time, as a member of the UN family, the UN Terminology Database (UNTERM) is used in this initiative as a basis for the short names of states and territories with a few exceptions in line with well-established practices of the International Bureau. As one of WIPO products and taking account of the purpose of the aforementioned initiative for the harmonized use of names, it is logical that short names used in WIPO Standard ST.3 should be in line with such an initiative. On the other hand, the short names currently used in WIPO Standard ST.3 are based on ISO Standard 3166. Therefore, the International Bureau will propose that short names in WIPO Standard ST.3 will be consistent with the UNTERM with a few exceptions in line with well-established practices of the International Bureau and, for this purpose, will submit a proposal to modify some short names currently used in WIPO Standard ST.3 at the seventh session of the Committee.

3. This change to short names in WIPO Standard ST.3 also requires the change of the streamlined procedure for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.3 adopted at the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the former Standing Committee on Information Technologies - Standards and Documentation Working Group (SCIT/SDWG) replaced by CWS (see paragraph 35 of document SCIT/SDWG/11/14). Such procedure is reproduced below.

“(a) The IB would revise country names and names of intergovernmental organizations in WIPO Standard ST.3 and notify CWS members of the revision as follows:

(i) The IB would revise WIPO Standard ST.3 by incorporating changes regarding country names as adopted by the Maintenance Agency for International Standard ISO 3166 (ISO 3166/MA). Other proposals for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.3 concerning changes regarding names of intergovernmental organizations identified or received by the IB, would also be directly incorporated in the Standard.

(ii) The IB would then publish the revised WIPO Standard ST.3 on WIPO's website, as usual, followed by issuing an e-mail informing CWS members of the publication of a revised version of WIPO Standard ST.3.

(b) The IB would revise two-letter codes in WIPO Standard ST.3 and notify CWS members of the revision as follows:

(i) The IB would prepare a proposal for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.3 by incorporating changes regarding two-letter country codes as adopted by ISO 3166/MA. Other proposals for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.3 concerning changes regarding two-letter codes of intergovernmental organizations identified or received by the IB, would also be directly incorporated in the proposed Standard.

(ii) The IB would inform CWS members of the amendments to the Standard by issuing an e-mail. Within two months from the e-mail notification, CWS members would be able to submit remarks concerning the proposed two-letter codes.

(iii) If consensus was reached within the two-month period, then the IB would publish the revised WIPO Standard ST.3 as indicated in paragraph (a) (ii), above.

(iv) If consensus was not reached, the IB proposal, together with the remarks submitted, would be forwarded to the following CWS session for consideration and final decision.”

4. The International Bureau will submit a proposal at the seventh session of the Committee to modify this streamlined procedure to revise the short names in WIPO Standard ST.3 in order to be in line with the initiative explained in paragraph 2 above.

5. In this regard, it is proposed that the revision of the short name(s) in WIPO Standard ST.3 should be suspended until the decision about new revision procedure of Standard ST.3 is made at the seventh session of the Committee.

6. *The CWS is invited to:*

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

*(b) consider and approve the proposal as indicated in paragraph 5 above.*

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