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CWS WORK PROGRAM

Document prepared by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

1. The document summarizes the updated Work Program and Task List of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) for consideration at this session, including the Secretariat's analysis on the complexity and activity level of CWS Tasks with a proposal for Task prioritization.

INTRODUCTION

2. At its twelfth session in 2024, the CWS considered the Work Program and Task List of the CWS, which were provided in the Annex to document CWS/12/2 Corr. There were 19 active Tasks and two in abeyance defined in the Task List, where 14 Tasks were assigned to a specific Task Force and five Tasks remained unassigned. The Committee also considered proposals to add three new Tasks and reviewed activities relevant to all active Tasks. The Committee approved the revised list of Tasks, as presented in Annex II of document CWS/12/29, including one new Task No. 67 and four revised Tasks. In total, 22 Tasks, including two held in abeyance, remain in the Work Program.

3. At the same session, the CWS noted the analysis by the Secretariat of the resources required for each of the Tasks, in terms of complexity and estimated activity level. The activity level for each Task was categorized as “very active”, “active”, “occasional” and “inactive” while the categories for the complexity were “complex”, “medium” and “simple”. The Secretariat published the results of its analysis as document CWS/12/4A-IB on the meeting page. The CWS agreed that the Secretariat prepare an analysis of complexity and estimated activity level for each of the Tasks in the consultation with Task Forces Leaders and include the information in the Task List for consideration at the thirteenth session of the CWS (see paragraph 22 of document CWS/12/29).

4. With regard to the prioritization of CWS Tasks, at its twelfth session, the CWS noted the results of the informal survey on the prioritization of CWS Tasks, and the analysis of the feedback provided by the 21 participating Offices, which were presented in document CWS/12/3. The CWS agreed to review the priority of each Task in light of the informal survey results when it considers its Work Program. The CWS also agreed that the Secretariat conduct an annual review of the activities of all CWS Tasks in consultation with the CWS Task Forces and then propose which Task(s) can be held in abeyance or should be considered a priority (See paragraphs 23 to 27 of document CWS/12/29.)

CWS Task Force Membership

5. At its twelfth session, the CWS noted that the Secretariat had conducted an audit of Task Force membership in 2024 and removed entries which were no longer valid. For more effective communication with the Members and Observers of Task Forces, the Secretariat conducted the annual membership cleaning process, in consultation with all Task Forces’ members and observers. The renewed CWS Task Force membership is available on WIPO website at: https://www.wipo.int/en/web/cws/taskforce/members. Thirteen CWS Task Forces are currently active. Subject matter experts from 69 CWS Members and three Observers participate in the Task Forces. It should be noted that eight new IP offices have joined the CWS Task Forces from the following countries since the last session of the CWS: Ghana (GH), Greece (GR), India (IN), Iran, (IR), Jordan (JO), Peru (PE), Tajikistan (TJ) and Uruguay (UY). In order to encourage more IP offices to participate in the CWS Task Forces, the Secretariat proposes to issue a CWS circular inviting IP offices to nominate their subject matter experts to the CWS Task Forces.

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF CWS WORK PROGRAM

6. Since the twelfth session of the Committee, the CWS Task Forces have worked under the respective Task(s) of the CWS Work Program approved at the twelfth session of the CWS. As the CWS requested at its tenth session, the Secretariat organized a series of Quarterly Review meetings in 2025 where the progress made on CWS Tasks was presented by Task Force Leaders. All CWS Task Force Members and Observers are invited to the Quarterly Review meetings. During these meetings, participants noted the reported progress on the current CWS Tasks presented by Task Force Leaders using the following common template:

- Objectives;
- Relevant actions for 2025 and the upcoming year;
- Potential challenges or dependencies; and
- Progress evaluation.

7. To assist members of the CWS Task Forces, the Secretariat circulated the schedule of the WIPO Standards related meetings for 2025 and the latest updated meeting calendar, i.e., circular C.CWS 190 Rev. is published on the CWS webpage at: https://www.wipo.int/en/web/cws/circulars/index#circ2025. Three workshops and 41 meetings were organized or scheduled in 2025. In addition, the Secretariat organized a number of informal meetings among interested Offices on specific topics to find solutions or prepare proposals for consideration by the Task Forces.

8. At the current session, all 13 active Task Forces will report on their activities and progress made on their assigned Task(s) since the twelfth session of the CWS. If no specific Task Force is assigned, then progress on these Tasks is provided in the Annex to the present document.

Current Tasks List

9. The Secretariat has prepared a new revised Task List for consideration by the CWS, as presented in Annex I to the present document. For each Task, the Annex includes the following information:

- Task description;
- Task Force / Task (Force) leader;
- Scheduled actions to be carried out;
- Remarks and historical details; and,
- Where appropriate, proposals for consideration and decision by the CWS at the current session.

10. The list of currently active Tasks is published on the webpage of CWS Work Program Overview at: https://www.wipo.int/en/web/cws/work-program. Detailed information on the Task Forces is available on the webpage of the CWS Task Forces at: https://www.wipo.int/en/web/cws/taskforce/index. The contents of the work program web page will be reviewed and updated after the thirteenth session to reflect any agreements made by the CWS.

ANALYSIS OF TASK COMPLEXITY AND ACTIVITY LEVEL, AND PROPOSAL FOR TASK PRIORITIZATION

11. Following the decisions made at the twelfth session of the CWS, the Secretariat analyzed the complexity and activity level of each Task, taking into account feedback from the CWS Task Force leaders. The activity level and complexity of each Task was categorized as follows:

- Activity level: ‘very active’, ’active’, ’occasional’, ‘ad-hoc’ and ‘in abeyance’; and
- Complexity: ‘low’, ‘medium’, ’high’ and ‘not applicable’.

12. The Secretariat also conducted an annual review of all CWS Tasks in consultation with the CWS Task Force leaders, with a view to proposing the Tasks that should be prioritized or else held in abeyance. Prioritized Tasks are identified as ‘essential’ and ’important’. ‘Essential’ Tasks are related to WIPO Standard(s) or recommendations which are under the discussion by IP offices for harmonious implementation. ‘Important’ Tasks are those which are considered a priority in terms of developing or revising WIPO Standards or sharing Offices’ practices on WIPO Standards or recommendations in 2026.

13. The Secretariat presents the outcome of its analysis of Task complexity and activity level, as well as a proposal for the Task prioritization in Annex II to the present document.

14. The CWS is invited to:

(a) note the content of the present document;

(b) consider the Task List as presented in Annex I to the present document;

(c) approve the Secretariat to incorporate the agreements reached at this session in the CWS Work Program and the CWS Work Program Overview, and publish them on WIPO website as described in paragraph 10 above;

(d) consider the proposal to encourage more IP offices to participate in the CWS Task Forces and request the Secretariat to issue a CWS circular inviting IP offices to nominate their subject matter experts to the CWS Task Forces, as referred to in paragraph 5 above; and

(e) consider the analysis of Task complexity and activity level, and the proposal for Task prioritization as described in paragraphs 11 to 13 above and presented in Annex II to the present document.

[Annex I follows]

WORK PROGRAM AND TASK LIST OF THE COMMITTEE ON WIPO STANDARDS (CWS)

TASK NO. 18

1. *Description*:

   Identify areas for standardization relevant to the exchange of machine-readable data on the basis of projects envisaged by such bodies as the Five IP Offices (IP5), the Five Trademark Offices (TM5), the Industrial Design 5 Forum (ID5), ISO, IEC and other well-known industry standard-setting bodies.

2. *Task Leader*:

   International Bureau

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:

   a) The International Bureau to coordinate reporting on developments relating to standardization and/or the presentation of proposals to the CWS as necessary.

   b) The International Bureau noted the discussion on allowable features in drawings of patent documents among the Five IP Offices (IP5). Further information on the IP5 initiative is available at: https://www.fiveipoffices.org/activities/harmonisation/second_work_plan/drawings. This discussion is considered relevant to the CWS as it may form the basis for development of a new WIPO standard on drawings in patent documents, similar to WIPO Standard ST.67 (figurative elements of trademark) and WIPO Standard ST.88 (representation of industrial designs). The International Bureau has also observed discussions on 3D objects and combined marks within ID5 and TM5. The International Bureau to continue to monitor these discussions and to report its progress to the CWS in due course.

4. *Remarks*:

   a) Task No. 18 is of an informative nature and a continuing activity (see paragraph 122 of document CWS/4BIS/16).

   b) The CWS, at its reconvened fourth session, revised the description of Task No. 18 to include two new references, i.e., the Five Trademark Offices (TM5) and the Industrial Design 5 Forum (ID5) (see paragraph 112 of document CWS/4BIS/16).

   c) The CWS, at its fifth session, created Task No. 56 regarding machine-to-machine communications.

   d) The CWS, at its eighth session, adopted WIPO Standard ST.90 on Recommendations for processing and communicating intellectual property data using Web APIs (Application Programming Interfaces).

TASK NO. 24

1. *Description*:

   Collect and publish Annual Technical Reports (ATRs) on Patent, Trademark and Industrial Design Information Activities of the CWS Members (ATR/PI, ATR/TM, ATR/ID).

2. *Task Leader*:

   International Bureau

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:

a) The International Bureau to update the ATR templates by adding the following new topic: "Activities of the implementation of WIPO Standards related to Patent (Trademark or Industrial Design) Information".

b) The International Bureau to collect and publish ATRs for reporting year 2024 report the results to the thirteenth session of the CWS.

4. *Remarks*:

a) Task No. 24 is of an informative nature and a continuing activity (see paragraph 122 of document CWS/4BIS/16).

b) The CWS, at its first session, approved the revised recommended contents of ATRs on patent, trademark, and industrial design information activities as reproduced in Annexes I, II, and III to document CWS/1/8, respectively. The said revised contents have been used since the year 2014 (i.e., since the ATRs/2013) (see paragraphs 47 to 49 of document CWS/1/10).

c) Detailed information on ATRs and copies of the collection of ATRs provided by IPOs in electronic form since 1998 are available in the ATR wiki at: https://www3.wipo.int/confluence/display/ATR/Annual+Technical+Reports+Home.

d) At its seventh session, the CWS requested that the International Bureau present a proposal to improve ATRs at the eighth session (see paragraphs 205 to 208 of document CWS/7/29).

e) At its ninth session, the CWS agreed to use a simplified ATR process for three years and then consider again, whether or not, to discontinue ATR collection (see paragraphs 97 to 105 of document CWS/9/25).

f) At its twelfth session in 2024, the CWS approved the continued use of the simplified template for the collection of ATRs, as well as the inclusion of a newly proposed topic in the template. The title of this new section reads:

"Activities of the implementation of WIPO Standards related to Patent (Trademark or Industrial Design) Information."

(see paragraph 165 of document CWS/12/29).

5. *Proposal*:

Document CWS/13/30 presents a report on the ATR collected for the reporting year 2024, including an analysis of the results related to the implementation activities of WIPO Standards concerning Patent, Trademark, and Industrial Design information received by Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs).

The Secretariat is currently evaluating options to improve the ATR platform to a more advanced and user-friendly solution.

TASK NO. 33

1. *Description*:

Ongoing revision of WIPO Standards.

2. *Task Leader*:
International Bureau

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:
The revision of WIPO Standards is considered an ongoing activity.

4. *Remarks*:

a) Task No. 33 is of an informative nature and a continuing activity (see paragraph 122 of document CWS/4BIS/16).

b) The CWS, at its third session, noted that the second paragraph of the revised entry for Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs) in the glossary of terms published in Part 8.1 of the WIPO Handbook on Intellectual Property Information and Documentation (the WIPO Handbook), noting the extension of a SPC for medicinal products for pediatric use, could be broadened in scope in a future revision of WIPO ST.9 if it was considered necessary (see paragraph 28 of document CWS/3/14).

c) The CWS, also at its third session, on the basis of a proposal regarding SPCs presented by the German Patent and Trademark Office, adopted a revision of WIPO Standard ST.9 and approved the revision of the entry on SPC in the Part 8.1 of the WIPO Handbook (see document CWS/3/3 and paragraphs 23 to 27 of document CWS/3/14).

d) The CWS, at its reconvened fourth session, approved the revision of WIPO Standard ST.60 (see paragraphs 60 to 65 of document CWS/4BIS/16).

e) The CWS, at its sixth session, considered a proposal for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.60 (see document CWS/6/20); and a report on recommended date formats in various WIPO Standards prepared by the International Bureau (see document CWS/6/21). The proposed revisions to WIPO ST.60 were approved by the CWS, and agreed to keep date formats unchanged (see paragraphs 129 to 130 and 133 to 135 of document CWS/6/34).

f) At its seventh session, the CWS considered a proposal to split INID code 551 of WIPO ST.60 and referred the matter back to the Trademark Standardization Task Force for further consideration (see paragraphs 161 to 162 of document CWS/7/29).

g) At its ninth session, the CWS approved making future revisions to WIPO ST.37 under Task No. 33 when needed (see paragraph 71 of document CWS/9/25).

h) At its eleventh session, the CWS agreed to hold Task No. 60 in abeyance until such time that the Working Group of the Madrid Union arrives at a decision on the splitting of the INID Code 551 (see paragraph 22 of document CWS/11/28). The CWS also approved making future revisions to WIPO ST.88 under Task No. 33 as and when required (see paragraph 53 of document CWS/11/28).

i) At its twelfth session, the CWS approved revisions to WIPO Standards ST.9 and ST.80 to account for legal changes to the Hague framework and to correct some of the notes for INID codes used by the PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems.

5. *Proposal*:
Document CWS/13/18 proposes a small revision to WIPO Standard ST.60 to improve descriptions for INID codes (540), (541), (546), (861) and (862).

TASK NO. 33/3

1. *Description*:
   Ongoing revision of WIPO Standard ST.3.

2. *Task Leader*:
   International Bureau

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:
   The revision of WIPO Standard ST.3 is considered an ongoing activity.

4. *Remarks*:
   a) Task No. 33/3 is of an informative nature and a continuing activity (see paragraph 122 of document CWS/4BIS/16).

   b) On the basis of the change in the ISO Online Browsing Platform published by the Maintenance Agency for International Standard ISO 3166, the International Bureau updated the country name "Cape Verde" to "Cabo Verde" (English name) and "Cap-Vert" to "Cabo Verde" (French name) for the two-letter code "CV" while the Spanish name ("Cabo Verde") remained unchanged. The International Bureau informed IPOs and CWS Members about the changes on March 5, 2014.

   c) The CWS, at its reconvened fourth session, approved the revision of WIPO ST.3 in adding the new two-letter code “XX” and noted the revision of WIPO ST.3 in adding the new two-letter code “XV” for the Visegrad Patent Institute (VPI) and changing the name of the "Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM)" to the "European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)" (see paragraphs 94 to 98 of document CWS/4BIS/16).

   d) The CWS, at its sixth session, noted the information regarding the revision of WIPO ST.3 (see document CWS/6/5).

   e) In 2019, the International Bureau prepared and circulated a draft amendment of WIPO ST.3 in which the two-letter code “EU” was incorporated for consultation following the established procedure for revision. The revision was approved by the seventh session of the CWS.

   f) At its seventh session, the CWS agreed to bring WIPO Standard ST.3 in line with the UN Terminology Database (UNTERM), with a few exceptions based on the established practice by the International Bureau. The CWS also agreed to modify the streamlined procedure for revision of WIPO ST.3 (see paragraphs 13 to 18 of document CWS/7/29).

   g) In June 2022, the Secretariat issued circular C.CWS 161 informing IPOs of a change of name in WIPO ST.3 by the "Republic of Türkiye" (formerly "Republic of Turkey"), following an official letter to the United Nations and an update to UNTERM and the revised WIPO ST.3 was published.

   h) At its tenth session, the CWS noted the updates to WIPO ST.3 to change references to "industrial" to "intellectual", as well as the addition of two-letter codes for "Marshall Islands" and "Niue" (see paragraph 36-37 of document CWS/10/22).

   i) In September 2023, the International Bureau published a revision of WIPO Standard ST.3 with regard to the changes to the short name of two countries, i.e., the Kingdom of Netherlands and Iceland. The revision was performed by the International Burau in

accordance with the revision procedure provided in Annex III of WIPO Standard ST.3. The revision was informed the CWS members and observers through the circular C.CWS 174.

j) At its eleventh session, the CWS noted the update to WIPO ST.3 to correct the short names for the "Netherlands (Kingdom of the)" for code "NL" and in French only to "Islande (l')" for code "IS".

k) At its twelfth session, the CWS approved the update to WIPO ST.3 to the text in footnote 4 regarding the use of codes “WO” and “IB”, in relation to PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems.

TASK NO. 41

1. *Description*:

Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standards ST.36, ST.66, ST.86 and ST.96; and support the implementation of those Standards.

2. *Task Force / Task Force Leader*:

XML4IP / International Bureau

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:

a) The Task to be of a continuous nature (see paragraph 191 of document CWS/6/34).

b) The International Bureau to organize regular monthly meetings of the XML4IP Task Force on a day and time agreed by the members.

c) The XML4IP Task Force to proceed with a pilot project for an online platform for external developers working with IP offices to provide direct feedback on relevant WIPO Standards.

d) The International Bureau to pilot a centralized repository to host Office-specific implementations of WIPO Standards ST.96 and ST.36.

e) The Task Force to prepare a new version to be published in April 2025.

f) The International Bureau to host a joint meeting of the XML4IP Task Force and API Task Force in July 2025 to support collaboration on activities including the finalization of the revision to WIPO Standards ST.97 and ST.90 and the implementation of the centralized repository.

4. *Remarks*:

a) As a means of ensuring continuous maintenance of WIPO Standard ST.96:

i) Any proposal to revise WIPO Standard ST.96 presented to the Secretariat will be forwarded directly to the XML4IP Task Force for consideration and approval;

ii) The XML4IP Task Force is temporarily authorized to adopt revisions of WIPO Standard ST.96 via ‘fast track’ procedure;

iii) A proposal to revise WIPO Standard ST.96 will be forwarded to the CWS for its consideration whenever a proposed revision becomes controversial, i.e., whenever it is not possible to reach consensus among the XML4IP Task Force members; and

iv) The XML4IP Task Force Leader will inform the CWS of any revision of WIPO Standard ST.96 adopted by the Task Force at the first available session of the CWS (see paragraph 24 of document CWS/2/14).

b) The CWS, at its second session, approved the roadmap for the development of WIPO Standards dealing with XML (see document CWS/2/3, and paragraphs 17 to 19 of document CWS/2/14). The CWS, also at its second session, adopted the new WIPO Standard ST.96, entitled “Recommendation for the processing of industrial property information using XML (eXtensible Markup Language)”, along with its Annexes I to IV (see paragraphs 20 to 23 of document CWS/2/14).

c) The CWS, at its third session, noted the result of the work of the XML4IP Task Force and the report of the Task Force Leader. In particular, the CWS noted that the XML4IP Task Force planned to submit, for consideration and adoption at that session, proposals of Annexes V and VI which would refer to WIPO ST.96 XML Schema, version 1.0, which had been adopted at the second session of the CWS. However, considering the ongoing discussions on the revision of the XML Schema with potential major changes, the Task Force agreed to prepare the two Annexes based on the next version of the XML Schema, instead of version 1.0. Therefore, the finalization of the Annexes will depend on the progress on the revision of XML Schema, as well as available resources in the Task Force Member Offices and the International Bureau (see paragraph 22 of document CWS/2/14, 3 of document CWS/3/5, and 42 of document CWS/3/14).

d) The CWS, at its third session, agreed that the work for the mapping and development of tools for the bi-directional transformation between WIPO Standards ST.96 and ST.36, ST.66 or ST.86 should continue. The work should be primarily carried out by the XML4IP Task Force along with ST.36, ST.66 and ST.86 Task Forces. The tools should be owned and maintained by the International Bureau with the assistance of the XML4IP Task Force, and ST.36, ST.66 and ST.86 Task Forces. The CWS welcomed the offer of the Delegation of the United States of America to assist in the development of the tools for bi-directional transformation. The CWS also agreed that this arrangement for assistance should be revisited at its next session (see paragraph 43 of document CWS/3/14).

e) The CWS, also at its third session, regarding the statement provided in paragraphs 18 and 19 of document CWS/3/5, the CWS, agreed that, for the time being, the Task Forces dealing with XML should not be reorganized (see paragraph 45 of document CWS/3/14).

f) The CWS, at its reconvened fourth session noted the progress reports presented by the XML4IP Task Force Leader (see documents CWS/4/6 and CWS/4BIS/4) and adopted new Annexes V and VI. The CWS also approved the modification of Task No. 41 to read “Task No. 41: Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.96”. The CWS assigned the modified Task No. 41 to the XML4IP Task Force (see paragraph 99 to 103 of document CWS/4BIS/16).

g) The CWS, at its sixth session, agreed on the fixed release dates of April 1 and/or October 1. The CWS also noted that the Republic of Korea would host the XML4IP Task Force meeting in person in Seoul, Republic of Korea in 2019 (see paragraphs 52 to 54 of document CWS/6/34).

h) The CWS, at its seventh session, approved the use of a centralized repository for custom WIPO ST.96 schemas from IPOS and an external developers forum. The CWS also reassigned Task No. 63 to the Digital Transformation Task Force (see paragraphs 23 to 40 of document CWS/7/29).

i) The CWS, at its eighth session, noted the inclusion of geographical indication schemas and copyright orphan work schemas in WIPO ST.96 version 4.0, and requested that the XML4IP Task Force present a proposal for an appropriate platform to engage with external developers (see paragraphs 85 to 94 of document CWS/8/24).

j) The CWS, at its ninth session, noted publication of version 5.0 of WIPO ST.96, and invited members to comment on the draft paper for copyright orphan work metadata presented in the Annex to document CWS/9/4, including liaising with their copyright Office for comments (see paragraph 20 to 24 of document CWS/9/25).

k) The CWS, at the tenth session, noted the publication of version 6.0, which included new alloy composition schemas. Also noted was the publication of the first draft of the trademark and design legal status XML components which will be a priority to finalize next year (see paragraph 39 of document CWS/10/22).

l) The CWS, at its eleventh session, noted the release of version 7.0 and 7.1 of WIPO ST.96 since the last session of the CWS (see paragraph 100 of document CWS/11/28). At the same session, the CWS approved the merging of Tasks No.38, 39 and 42 into Task No. 41, so all updates to the XML schemas could be managed by the XML4IP Task Force (see paragraphs 16 to 17 of document CWS/11/28). The CWS also agreed to organize a workshop for copyright and technical experts to collaborate on improving the draft presented in the Annex to document CWS/10/7 (see paragraph 129 of document CWS/11/28). The workshop was held in May 2024.

m) The CWS, at its twelfth session, noted the release of version 8.0 of WIPO ST.96 (see paragraph 30 of document CWS/12/29). At the same session, the CWS also noted the proposal to improve copyright orphan work metadata components in WIPO ST.96. It was noted that the proposal was not considered mature enough and the Task Force will continue their discussion on this topic (see paragraphs 111 to 112 of document CWS/12/29).

5. *Proposal*:

Document CWS/13/2 reports on the work conducted by the XML4IP Task Force since the last session of the CWS.

TASK NO. 43

1. *Description*:

Prepare guidelines, for implementation by IPOs, regarding paragraph numbering, long paragraphs, and consistent rendering of patent documents.

2. *Task Leader*:

United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:

Task No. 43 is held in abeyance.

4. *Remarks*:

a) At its ninth session, the SDWG requested the ST.36 Task Force to review the points elaborated by the Citation Practices Task Force in paragraph 12 of document SCIT/SDWG/9/3. At its eleventh session, after considering the review carried out by the ST.36 Task Force regarding the recommendations of the Citation Practices Task Force described in the Annex to document SCIT/SDWG/11/6, the SDWG agreed that there was

a need for guidelines to uniquely identify the different parts of a patent document across different publication platforms and agreed to create the Task (see paragraph 35 of document SCIT/SDWG/9/12, and 45 to 47 of SCIT/SDWG/11/14).

b) In November 2009, the European Patent Office (EPO), JPO and USPTO presented the proposal PFR ST.36/2009/007 (Corrections and Changes in Patent Documents) for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.36 that is under discussion by the ST.36 Task Force at present. Certain aspects of this new Task are quite similar to some of the issues raised by the ST.36 Task Force during the discussion of PFR ST.36/2009/007 (at the moment of preparing this document, lack of business consensus has halted the discussion, see paragraph 5 of document CWS/1/6). There are also ongoing discussions on paragraph numbering, which includes business issues of amendment processing and the preferred paragraph numbering method within the framework of the PCT (e.g., in the 17th Meeting of the International Authorities under the PCT in February 2010; see documents PCT/MIA/17/9 and 11, and paragraphs 83 to 88 of PCT/MIA/17/12), and of the Trilateral/IP5.

c) In view of paragraph 4(b), above, the Secretariat, after consulting the two Offices which had expressed the most interest in the Task, namely the EPO and the USPTO, considered that it would be premature to set up a Task Force to deal with this Task as the discussion on business issues has not progressed enough yet within individual offices. Therefore, it would be convenient to give more time to the IP5 to reach an agreement on harmonizing their business requirements for paragraph amendment and numbering. This task should also wait for further developments on these issues related to paragraphs in patent documents within the PCT framework before getting under way.

d) The CWS, at its first session, agreed that Task No. 43 should be held in abeyance, subject to review in the light of progress made by the IP5 in harmonizing business requirements relating to the issues referred to in the Task description and in the light of developments of PCT discussions in this domain (see paragraphs 52 and 53 of document CWS/1/10, and 73 and 74 of document CWS/3/14).

e) The CWS, at its reconvened fourth session, agreed to keep Task No. 43 in the CWS Task List for future discussion taking into account the proposal by the Secretariat as to whether to remove Task No. 43 from the CWS Task List or to revive the discussion on Task No. 43 (see paragraphs 116 and 117 of document CWS/4BIS/16).

TASK NO. 44

1. *Description*:

   Support the International Bureau by testing new releases based on available resources and providing user feedback on WIPO Sequence Suite; and prepare necessary revisions of WIPO Standard ST.26.

2. *Task Force / Task Force Leader*:

   Sequence Listings (SEQL) Task Force / European Patent Office (EPO)

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:

   a) The SEQL Task Force to continue to work on the necessary updates to WIPO Standard ST.26 and present a proposal for an improved version of WIPO ST.26 for consideration by the CWS.

   b) The SEQL Task Force to support the development and testing of the WIPO Sequence Suite, including passing on feedback from users of WIPO Sequence.

c) The Task Force to monitor the evolution of relevant industry standards and databases to determine any necessary updates to WIPO ST.26.

4. *Remarks*:

a) Task No. 44 was created by the CWS at its first session. The CWS also established a Task Force (the Sequence Listings Task Force) to handle the Task. The CWS requested the Task Force to liaise with the appropriate PCT body with regard to the possible impact of such a standard on Annex C to the Administrative Instructions under the PCT (see paragraphs 27 to 30 of document CWS/1/10).

b) The CWS, at its third session, noted the progress report by the Leader of the SEQL Task Force, including a roadmap to prepare the new standard (see paragraphs 47 to 49 of document CWS/3/14).

c) The CWS, at its reconvened fourth session, noted progress report on this Task and approved the new WIPO Standard ST.26 (see documents CWS/4/7 and CWS/4/7 ADD and paragraphs 49 to 53 of document CWS/4BIS/16). The CWS also noted further progress report on this Task and revised the Task's description and requested the SEQL Task Force to present a proposal for the transition provisions from WIPO Standard ST.25 to ST.26 (see paragraphs 82 to 84 of document CWS/4BIS/16).

d) The CWS, at its fifth session, approved the revised WIPO ST.26 and agreed on the transition provision from WIPO Standard ST.25 to ST.26 (see paragraphs 39 to 45 of document CWS/5/22).

e) The CWS, at its sixth session, approved the revised WIPO Standard ST.26 (see paragraph 111 of document CWS/6/34).

f) The CWS, at its seventh session, noted the classification of free-text qualifiers into language-dependent and language-independent categories and approved the revision to WIPO ST.26 (see paragraphs 130 to 133 of document CWS/7/29).

g) The CWS, at its eighth session, noted the necessary further revisions to WIPO ST.26 and were encouraged by the International Bureau to provide their WIPO ST.26 implementation plans (see paragraphs 49 to 50 of document CWS/8/24).

h) The CWS, at its ninth session, noted that the WIPO Standard ST.26 implementation date was changed to July 1, 2022, after agreement of the PCT at the Sixty-Second WIPO General Assemblies held in October 2021. The CWS approved final revisions to WIPO ST.26 in advance of the implementation date, and noted the International Bureau's plans to finalize development of the WIPO Sequence Suite (see paragraph 58 to 65 of document CWS/9/25).

i) The CWS, at its tenth session, requested IP office support in continuing to support the development of the WIPO Sequence Suite. The CWS also approved new version 1.6 of WIPO ST.26 with an entry into force date of July 1, 2023 (see paragraph 87 of document CWS/10/22).

j) The CWS, at its eleventh session, approved the revised description of Task No. 44 after the entry into force of WIPO ST.26 (see paragraph 40 of document CWS/11/27) and the updated version 1.7 of WIPO ST.26, which will enter into force on July 1, 2024 (see paragraph 50 of document CWS/11/3).

k) The CWS, at its twelfth session, noted the Task Force's intention to distribute a survey to applicants regarding the lifting of the minimum length requirement, allowing

short sequences. The results of this survey will determine whether a revision to WIPO ST.26 is required (see paragraph 32 of document CWS/12/29).

5. *Proposal*:

Document CWS/13/3 provides a summary of the work conducted by the Sequence Listings Task Force since the last session and document CWS/13/16 details a revision to WIPO Standard ST.26 for consideration and approval.

TASK NO. 47

1. *Description*:

Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.87 and ST.61; prepare supporting materials to assist the use of those Standards in the IP community; and support the XML4IP Task Force to develop XML components for legal status event data.

2. *Task Force / Task Force Leader*:

Legal Status Task Force / International Bureau

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:

a) IP offices to provide the Secretariat with their mapping tables to WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61 and/or ST.87 for publication in the WIPO Handbook as well as consideration for any other necessary updates to those Standards.

b) The Legal Status Task Force to work on a proposal for possibly adapting "event indicators" to WIPO Standards ST.61 and ST.87.

4. *Remarks*:

a) Task No. 47 was created by the CWS at its third session. The CWS also established a Task Force (the Legal Status Task Force) to handle the Task (see paragraphs 52 and 54 of document CWS/3/14).

b) The CWS, at its third session, also agreed that the development of the recommendations should initially be prepared by a platform-independent task force, as the recommendations should be independent of the format to be used. Then, on the basis of the outcome of that initial discussion, the existing Task Forces dealing with XML should be invited to implement these XML Schemas (see paragraphs 50 to 54 of document CWS/3/14).

c) The CWS, at its fifth session, noted status report on this Task and adopted the new WIPO Standard ST.27 (see paragraphs 49 to 57 of document CWS/5/22).

d) The CWS, at its sixth session, noted a progress report on this Task (see document CWS/6/11). The CWS also approved the revised WIPO Standard ST.27 and a new WIPO Standard ST.87 on industrial design legal status data (see paragraphs 73 to 86 and 93 to 103 of document CWS/6/34).

e) The CWS, at its seventh session, adopted a new guidance document for WIPO ST.27; requested that the Task Force begin work with priority on a standard for trademark legal status data; approved clarifying revisions to WIPO ST.27; and approved publication of WIPO ST.87 mapping tables (see paragraphs 105 to 122 of document CWS/7/29).

f) The CWS, at its eighth session, adopted WIPO Standard ST.61 for trademark legal status data, and requested the Secretariat to invite IPOs to assess their business

practices and IT systems with regard to WIPO ST.61, approved a revision to WIPO ST.27 for changes to supplementary data for alignment with WIPO ST.96. The CWS also requested the Task Force to analyze the potential of merging the three legal status Standards, and requested the Task Force to present a proposal for use of reserved characters in WIPO ST.27 at the next session of the CWS. (See paragraphs 26 to 30 and 51 to 56 and 114 to 118 of document CWS/8/24.)

g) The CWS, at its ninth session, approved the proposed revisions to WIPO ST.27 for "event indicators". The CWS requested the Task Force to study whether to adapt event indicators for WIPO Standards ST.61 and ST.87, and whether to update the description of Task No. 47. (See paragraphs 46 to 56 of document CWS/9/25.)

h) The CWS, at its tenth session, approved revisions to WIPO ST.87 and the update to the new description for Task No.47 by discontinuing the work on a potential merger of the three legal status Standards (see paragraphs 73 to 76 of document CWS/10/22). The CWS also noted that IP offices need more time to analyze the benefit and impact of adding "event indicators" adopted for WIPO ST.27 to WIPO Standards ST.61 and ST.87 (see paragraph 3 of document CWS/10/11).

i) The CWS, at its eleventh session, approved a revision of WIPO Standard ST.61 after feedback resulting from an expert review of Annex II (see paragraph 52 of document CWS/11/27).

j) The CWS at its twelfth session, approved the proposed revision to WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87, which were related to legal status events. The revision to WIPO ST.87 expanded the supplementary data that is captured in Annex II to the Standard. The other revisions were to ensure that the three Standards remain aligned. (See paragraph 102 of document CWS/12/29.)

5. *Proposal*:

Document CWS/13/4 provides a summary of the work conducted by the Legal Status Task Force since the last session of the CWS.

TASK NO. 50

1. *Description*:

Ensure the necessary maintenance and update of surveys published in Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook on Intellectual Property Information and Documentation.

2. *Task Force / Task Force Leader*:

Part 7 Task Force / International Bureau

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:

a) The Part 7 Task Force to conduct a survey to inform updates to WIPO Handbook Part 7.2.6 and Part 7.2.7 in 2025 and to report the survey results at the thirteenth session of the CWS.

b) The Part 7 Task Force to present a proposal for the way of revising Part 7.3 for consideration at the next session of the CWS.

4. *Remarks*:

a) Task No. 50 was created by the CWS at its reconvened fourth session. The CWS also established a Task Force (the Part 7 Task Force) to handle the Task (see paragraph 73 of document CWS/4BIS/16).

b) The CWS, at its fifth session, noted the progress report and the tentative plan for maintenance and update of the surveys published in Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook, in particular, the actions to be carried out following the fifth session of the CWS, as indicated in Annex II to document CWS/5/11.

c) The CWS, at its sixth session, approved a questionnaire on SPCs and Extensions of Patent Term (PTEs) and requested the Secretariat to issue a circular inviting IP offices to participate in the survey. The CWS also requested the Part 7 Task Force to prepare a proposal for a questionnaire on numbering of published documents and registered rights for the seventh session. (See paragraphs 154 to 160 of document CWS/6/34.)

d) The CWS, at its seventh session, approved publication of the survey results on Supplementary Protection Certificates and Patent Term Extensions; requested the Secretariat to invite IPOs to participate in the survey on IPO numbering systems; requested the Secretariat to invite IPOs to update their information in Part 7.3 of the WIPO Handbook; requested the Part 7 Task Force to prepare a questionnaire to update Part 7.1 of the WIPO Handbook; and agreed to hold in abeyance the proposal to prepare a questionnaire for updating Part 7.6 of the WIPO Handbook pending the progress report of the Digital Transformation Task Force at the next session of the CWS (see paragraphs 179 to 195 of document CWS/7/29).

e) The CWS, at its eighth session, approved publication of the survey results on numbering systems used by IPOs for published documents and registered rights (see paragraphs 65 to 69 of document CWS/8/24).

f) The CWS, at its ninth session, approved the revised work plan for updating Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook, and requested the Task Force to schedule an update to Part 7.9 on citation practices (see paragraphs 110 to 114 of document CWS/9/25).

g) The CWS, at its tenth session, approved a revised workplan including the distribution of two surveys regarding updates to Part 7.6 and 7.9 of the WIPO Handbook (see paragraph 112 of document CWS/10/22).

h) The CWS, at its eleventh session, decided to postpone circulation of both surveys approved at its tenth session, referenced above, as there were no revisions predicted for WIPO Standards ST.11 or ST.19 (see paragraph 34 of document CWS/11/27).

i) The CWS, at its twelfth session, noted that the Part 7 Task Force would prepare a proposal to revise Part 7.3 of the WIPO Handbook, to be presented for consideration at the thirteenth session (see paragraph 43 of document CWS/12/29).

j) At the same session, the CWS approved conducting a survey to inform updates to Part 7.2.6 and Part 7.2.7 of the WIPO Handbook in 2025. The CWS also noted that the survey results will be reported by the Part 7 Task Force at the thirteenth session. (See paragraph 44 of document CWS/12/29.)

5. *Proposal*:

Document CWS/13/5 provides a summary of the work conducted by the Part 7 Task Force since the last session of the CWS; the results of a survey used to support updates to the Part 7.2.6 and Part 7.2.7 of the WIPO Handbook; a proposal for a revision to Part 7.3 of the WIPO Handbook; a draft survey questionnaire on citation practices in industrial property offices; and the updated work plan for 2026 of the Part 7 Task Force.

TASK NO. 52

1. *Description*:

Prepare a proposal for the update of the WIPO Handbook Part 6.1: Recommended minimum contents for intellectual property offices' websites.

2. *Task Force / Task Force Leader*:

Public Access to Patent Information (PAPI) Task Force/ International Bureau

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:

The PAPI Task Force to prepare a proposal for the update of WIPO Handbook Part 6.1 and present it for consideration at the thirteenth session of the CWS.

4. *Remarks*:

a) The CWS, at its fifth session, agreed to create new Task No. 52 and to establish the Public Access to Patent Information Task Force (see paragraphs 96 and 100 of document CWS/5/22).

b) The CWS, at its sixth session, considered a draft questionnaire presented by the PAPI Task Force and returned the questionnaire to the Task Force for necessary updates and improvements (see paragraphs 162 to 163 of document CWS/6/34).

c) The CWS, at its seventh session, approved Part 1 of the questionnaire and requested the Secretariat to invite IPOs to participate in the survey. The questionnaire for Part 2 of the survey was referred back to the Task Force for further consideration (see paragraphs 196 to 201 of document CWS/7/29).

d) The CWS, at its eighth session, approved publishing the results of Part 1 of the survey, approved the questionnaire for Part 2 of the survey, and requested the Secretariat to invite IPOs to participate in the survey Part 2. (See paragraphs 70 to 72 and 122 to 125 of document CWS/8/24.)

e) The CWS, at its ninth session, noted the results of Part 2 of the survey on access to publicly available patent information (see paragraph 85 to 88 of document CWS/9/25).

f) The CWS, at its eleventh session, agreed to transfer the responsibility of updating Part 6 of WIPO Handbook to thPAPI Task Force from the Digital Transformation Task Force (see paragraph 19 of document CWS/11/28), and consequently approved the update to the description for Task (see paragraph 92 of document CWS/11/28).

5. *Proposal*:

a) Document CWS/13/6 provides a summary of the work conducted by the PAPI Task Force since the last session of the CWS and proposes to discontinue Task No. 52 and the PAPI Task Force if the proposal for revision of WIPO Handbook Part 6.1 will be approved.

b) Document CWS/13/24 proposes a revision of WIPO Handbook Part 6.1, for consideration and approval.

TASK NO. 55

1. *Description*:

Prepare a proposal for future actions aimed at achieving the standardization of names in Intellectual Property (IP) documents, with the view to developing a WIPO standard to assist IP offices in providing a better “quality at source” in relation to names.

2. *Task Force / Task Force Leader*:

Name Standardization Task Force / Ministry of Intellectual Property (MOIP), Republic of Korea and the International Bureau

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:

a) The Task Force to revisit and improve the draft standard on proposal for a set of recommendations for the data cleaning of names for consideration and adoption at the thirteenth session.

b) The International Bureau to organize a workshop on data cleaning of names, where all interested parties may attend.

c) The Task Force Members to support the International Bureau by promoting this workshop.

4. *Remarks*:

a) The CWS, at its fifth session, agreed to create the new Task No. 55 and to establish the new Name Standardization Task Force to handle the Task (see paragraphs 85 and 86 of document CWS/5/22).

b) The CWS, at its sixth session, approved a questionnaire on use of identifiers. The International Bureau surveyed IP offices and reported the results to the seventh session of the CWS. WIPO also hosted workshop on name standardization which was held from May 2 to3, 2019 at WIPO headquarters. (See paragraphs 164 to 170 of document CWS/6/34.)

c) The CWS, at its seventh session, approved publication of the results of the survey on use of identifiers and requested the Task Force to present a proposal for future actions at its eighth session (see paragraphs 73 to 84 of document CWS/7/29).

d) The CWS, at its eighth session, requested the Task Force to propose recommendations for quality of applicant data to support name standardization.

e) The CWS, at its tenth session, noted the draft recommendations provided on name standardization (see document CWS/10/17). The CWS considered the proposal for establishing an international database to standardize applicant names. The CWS requested the International Bureau to collaborate with some interested Offices on the global (digital) identifier pilot and report the results at its next session (see paragraphs 65 to 70 of document CWS/10/22).

f) The CWS, at its eleventh session, noted the set of guidelines to support cleaning of applicant names as presented by the Task Force; however the CWS determined these were not mature enough for adoption. The Task Force agreed to update the draft and present a draft standard for consideration and adoption at the next session (see paragraphs 135 to 137 of document CWS/11/28).

g) The CWS, at its twelfth session, noted the improved set of guidelines presented as draft standard WIPO ST.96, however again did not adopt it. Instead, the CWS requested

that the Task Force revisit and continue to improve the draft standard as necessary. The CWS encouraged intellectual property (IP) offices and the IP industry to nominate experts to join the Name Standardization Task Force. (See paragraph 91 of document CWS/12/29.)

h) At the same session, the CWS requested that the International Bureau organize a workshop on the data cleaning of names in 2025, which would be open to any interested parties. The CWS also encouraged its members and observers to support the International Bureau by actively promoting the workshop. (See paragraphs 91 and 92 of document CWS/12/29.)

5. *Proposal*:

a) Document CWS/13/7 provides a summary of the work conducted by the Name Standardization Task Force since the last session of the CWS; proposes to update the description of Task No. 55; and proposes not to proceed with a revision of WIPO Standard ST.20 at this stage, but to retain the item on the list of action items for future analysis and consideration.

b) Document CWS/13/15 proposes a new Standard recommending best methods of maintaining quality user data to support name standardization for consideration and adoption by the CWS.

TASK NO. 56

1. *Description*:

Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.90; support the International Bureau in promoting and implementing WIPO Standard ST.90; and promote the API Catalog for Intellectual Property.

2. *Task Force / Task Force Leader*:

API Task Force / Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) and European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:

a) The Task Force Member Offices to put their effort to promote WIPO ST.90 and implement it in their products and services.

b) The Task Force Member Offices to review WIPO ST.90 rules in comparison with their implementation.

c) The Task Force to continue working on proposals currently listed on the Improvement Register available on the Task Force wiki, including potential improvements to Annexes I and II of WIPO ST.90.

d) The API Task Force to support the International Bureau to enhance the API Catalog to deliver better IP services to stakeholders and users in IP community.

e) Task Force Member Offices to share their implementation plans for WIPO Standard ST.90 and their experience in conducting these plans using the dedicated page for the implementation of WIPO ST.90 and the results of the compatibility matrix assessment.

f) Task Force Members to test the XML2JSON transformation tool.

4. *Remarks*:

a) The CWS, at its fifth session, agreed to create the new Task No. 56 and assigned it to the XML4IP Task Force (see paragraphs 92 and 93 of document CWS/5/22).

b) The CWS, at its seventh session, assigned this Task to the newly created API Task Force and requested that a final proposal for a new standard be presented at the eighth session (see paragraphs 50 to 54 of document CWS/7/29).

c) The CWS, at its eighth session, adopted new WIPO Standard ST.90 on Web APIs for IP data (see paragraph 15 of document CWS/8/24). The Task description for Task No. 56 was also updated to ensure the ongoing improvement of this Standard.

d) The CWS, at its tenth session, noted that the UK IPO stepped down from its co-leadership of the Task Force and the EUIPO was approved as a replacement (see paragraph 34 of document CWS/10/22).

e) The CWS, at its eleventh session, noted the publication of WIPO ST.90 version 1.1 and the API Day 2023 event held that year (see paragraph 18 of document CWS/11/27).

f) The CWS, at its twelfth session, noted that the International Bureau had launched 'API Catalog for Intellectual Property' in July 2024, which is a unified platform that offers a list of public-facing APIs provided by IP institutions for their products and services. The CWS also noted that the API Task Force supported the successful launch of the API Catalog; assessed the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.90 by IP offices; and discussed a potential revision of WIPO ST.90. At the same session, the CWS revised the description of the Task No. 56. (See paragraphs 53 and 60 of document CWS/12/29.)

5. *Proposal*:

a) Document CWS/13/8 provides a summary of the work conducted by the API Task Force since the last session of the CWS, to revise WIPO ST.90.

b) Document CWS/13/19 proposes a revision of WIPO Standard ST.90 for consideration and approval by the CWS.

TASK NO. 58

1. *Description*:

Facilitate the implementation of the ICT related Recommendations by IP offices and the International Bureau; and evaluate and update these Recommendations as needed to maintain their relevance.

2. *Task Force / Task Force Leader*:

ICT Strategy Task Force / IP Austrailia and International Bureau

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:

a) The Task Force to consider how to facilitate implementation of the 10 approved ICT Recommendations by IP offices and the International Bureau and how to measure and track progress in this implementation.

b) The Task Force to run a survey to understand the current degree of implementation for IP offices.

c) The Task Force to decide on review procedure to maintain relevance of 10 ICT Recommendations, including how often and through what process they should be updated.

4. *Remarks*:

a) The CWS, at the sixth session, created new Task No. 58 to carry out activities related to ICT strategy. The CWS requested that the new Task Force coordinate with existing Task Forces on the priority of work, with any differences of opinion between Task Forces raised to the CWS for resolution. The CWS requested the new Task Force to prepare a report for its eighth session on the new Task, including a prioritization of the work items in relation to the 40 Recommendations listed in the Annex of document CWS/6/3. (See paragraphs 18 to 27 of document CWS/6/34.)

b) The CWS, at its seventh session, noted the progress of the Task Force and noted their plan to present a strategic roadmap at the eighth session of the CWS (see paragraphs 19 to 21 of document CWS/7/29).

c) The CWS, at its eighth session, noted the progress of the Task and the work plan of the ICT Strategy for Standards Task Force (see document CWS/8/13). Taking into account the suggestion and support by delegations, the CWS requested the International Bureau to invite all Offices to respond to the survey on priority of 40 Recommendations and to report the results of survey at its ninth session (see paragraphs 80 to 84 of document CWS/8/24).

d) Also at its eighth session, the CWS noted the results of the survey of Task Force to prioritize the 40 Recommendations.

e) The CWS, at its ninth session, noted the results of the survey of IP offices to prioritize the 40 Recommendations. The CWS requested the ICT Strategy Task Force to take into account the results of the survey when it prepares the planned ICT strategic roadmap and its work plan for 2022. (See paragraphs 14 to 18 of document CWS/9/25.)

f) The CWS, at its tenth session, noted the progress report provided by the Task Force (see paragraphs 117 to 120 of document CWS/10/22).

g) The CWS, at its eleventh session, approved the updated name for the Task Force, the "ICT Strategy Task Force", as well as updated the description of Task No. 58 (see paragraph 28 of document CWS/11/27).

h) The CWS, at its twelfth session, adopted the set of 10 Recommendations, as presented in document CWS/12/22; and encouraged its Members and the Observers to implement the set of Recommendations and share their plan or experience in implementing those Recommendations at the next session of the CWS.

5. *Proposal*:

a) Document CWS/13/9 provides a summary of the work conducted by the ICT Strategy Task Force since the last session of the CWS.

b) Document CWS/13/26 presents several proposals by the ICT Strategy Task Force, including the continuation of the work under Task No. 58 for one more year.

TASK NO. 59

1. *Description*:

Explore the possibility of using blockchain technology in the processes of providing IP rights protection, processing information about IP objects and their use; 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; develop reference models 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; and prepare a proposal for a new WIPO Standard supporting the potential application of blockchain technology within the IP ecosystem.

2. *Task Force / Task Force Leader*:

Blockchain Task Force / Rospatent

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:

The Task Force to prepare a draft Standard for consideration by the Task Force.

4. *Remarks*:

a) The CWS, at the sixth session, created new Task No. 59 to carry out activities related to the use of blockchain for IP business. A new Blockchain Task Force was created to work on this task. The CWS noted that the Task Force will explore whether good use cases exist for using blockchain before the grant of IP rights. (See paragraphs 28 to 35 of document CWS/6/34.)

b) The International Bureau organized a workshop on blockchain in April 2019, inviting CWS Members and any interested parties to explore use cases related to IP. The Blockchain Task Force held a meeting in person immediately following the workshop.

c) The CWS, at its seventh session, noted the progress of the Task Force and revised the description of Task No. 59 slightly to improve clarity (see paragraphs 61 to 67 of document CWS/7/29).

d) The CWS, at its ninth session, noted the progress of the Task Force and the forthcoming whitepaper from the International Bureau (see paragraphs 35 to 44 of document CWS/9/25).

e) The CWS, at its tenth session, noted that following IP Australia stepping down as Co-Leader of the Task Force that Rospatent became the only Task Force Leader (see paragraph 62 of document CWS/10/22).

5. *Proposal*:

Document CWS/13/10 provides a summary of the work conducted by the Blockchain Task Force since the last session of the CWS.

TASK NO. 60

1. *Description*:

Prepare a proposal for the numbering of INID (Internationally agreed Numbers for Identification of (bibliographic) Data) codes regarding word marks and figurative marks, on splitting INID code (551), and a potential INID code for combined marks.

2. *Task Force / Task Force Leader*:

Trademark Standardization Task Force / International Bureau

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:

Task No. 60 is held in abeyance.

4. *Remarks*:

a) The CWS, at the sixth session, created new Task No. 59 to provide recommendations on several trademark proposals for INID codes. A proposal by the EUIPO to introduce new INID codes for certain types of marks was adopted by the CWS, with the issue of which code numbers to assign referred to the Task Force. The other proposals in Task 60 were raised during the plenary. (See paragraphs 128 to 133 of document CWS/6/34.)

b) The CWS, at its seventh session, discussed a proposal to discontinue Task No. 60, but decided to continue the Task so the Trademark Standardization Task Force could continue to discuss the proposal to split INID code 551 (see paragraphs 161 to 162 of document CWS/7/29).

c) The CWS, at its ninth session, noted that further work on the proposal to split INID codes is pending the outcome of discussions in the Madrid Working Group (see paragraphs 119 to 120 of document CWS/9/25).

d) The CWS, at its eleventh session, agreed to move this Task into abeyance until a decision regarding the splitting of this INID code could be resolved by the Madrid Working Group (see paragraph 23 of document CWS/11/28).

TASK NO. 61

1. *Description*:

Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.91, including methods of search for 3D models and 3D images.

2. *Task Force / Task Force Leader*:

3D Task Force / Rospatent

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:

The Task Force to consider future proposals to revise WIPO Standard ST.91.

4. *Remarks*:

a) The CWS, at the sixth session, considered a proposal by the Russian Federation to address technical and regulatory limitations that currently prevent submission of 3D models to IPOs. The CWS created new Task No. 61 to address issues with the filing, processing and searching 3D models and images during the IP right lifecycle. A new 3D Task Force was created to work on this task. (See paragraphs 138 to 144 of document CWS/6/34.)

b) The CWS, at its seventh session, approved a survey questionnaire for IP offices on the use of 3D models and 3D images and requested the International Bureau to invite its Members to take the survey (see paragraphs 90 to 101 of document CWS/7/29).

c) The CWS, at its eighth session, noted the results of the survey and preliminary text for a draft standard from the Task Force (see paragraphs 73 to 75 and 103 to 108 of document CWS/8/24).

d) The CWS, at its ninth session, adopted WIPO Standard ST.91 on 3D models and 3D images (see paragraphs 28 to 33 of document CWS/9/25).

e) The CWS, at its eleventh session, approved a survey questionnaire on the implementation of WIPO ST.91 and requested the Secretariat to issue a circular inviting its Members to participate in the survey (see paragraph 87 of document CWS/11/27).

f) The CWS, at its twelfth session, approved a revision of the WIPO Standard ST.91 (see paragraph 106 of document CWS/12/29). At the same session, the CWS considered the analysis of the responses received for the implementation of the WIPO Standard ST.91 survey and agreed to publish it in Part 7.17.2 of the WIPO Handbook and supported the proposal to organize an information session on 3D models and 3D images, hosted by the Task Force in 2025 (see paragraphs 116 and 117 of document CWS/12/29).

5. *Proposal*:

Document CWS/13/11 provides a summary of the work conducted by the 3D Task Force since the last session of the CWS and a working draft of the Annex II (3D Model Search) to WIPO Standard ST.91, for the CWS review and comment.

TASK NO. 62

1. *Description*:

Review WIPO Standards developed for paper or image-based communication in view of electronic filing and publication and exchange of IP documentation and propose revisions of those Standards or new recommendations if needed; and prepare a proposal for the recommendation on a common requirements specification for a DOCX to XML (DOCX2XML) converter.

2. *Task Force / Task Force Leader*:

Digital Transformation Task Force / United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:

The Task Force to focus on the development of DOCX converter technical specifications.

4. *Remarks*:

a) The CWS, at the sixth session, created new Task No. 62 to review and update WIPO Standards relating to paper-based publications that may need to be updated in light of the move to more commonly digital publication. The Task was assigned to the new Digital Transformation Task Force (see paragraphs 149 to 152 of document CWS/6/34).

b) The CWS, at its seventh session, noted the progress report by the Task Force (see paragraphs 102 to 104 of document CWS/7/29).

c) The CWS, at its eighth session, noted the progress report by the Task Force (see paragraphs 109 to 113 of document CWS/8/24).

d) The CWS, at its ninth session, approved a survey questionnaire to gather feedback from IP offices on their digital transformation practices (see paragraphs 90 to 95 of document CWS/9/25).

e) The CWS, at its tenth session, noted the digital transformation survey results approved at the ninth session and approved the publication of the results (see paragraphs 107 to 109 of document CWS/10/22).

f) The CWS, at its eleventh session, encouraged IPOs to provide feedback on DOCX converters (see paragraph 25 of document CWS/11/27). Updates to Part 6 of the WIPO Handbook were transferred to the PAPI Task Force (see paragraph 26 of document CWS/11/27). The CWS also approved the updated Task description resulting from this agreement (see paragraph 58 of document CWS/11/28).

g) The CWS, at its twelfth session, noted that the Task Force had conducted a review and corresponding analysis of the functionality of a range of DOCX2XML converters and encouraged Offices that are currently using DOCX2XML converters to share their experience with the Digital Transformation Task Force (see paragraphs 69 and 71 of document CWS/12/29).

5. *Proposal*:

Document CWS/13/12 provides a summary of work undertaken by the Digital Transformation Task Force on this Task since the last session, and a working draft of DOCX2XML converter functional specification for the CWS comments.

TASK NO. 63

1. *Description*:

Develop visual representation(s) of XML data, based on WIPO XML Standards, for electronic publication.

2. *Task Force / Task Force Leader*:

Digital Transformation Task Force / United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:

No actions are scheduled.

4. *Remarks*:

a) The CWS, at the sixth session, created new Task No. 63 to support work on developing visual representations of XML data. The Task was assigned to the XML4IP Task Force. (See paragraphs 145 to 148 and 153 of document CWS/6/34.)

b) The CWS, at its seventh session, reassigned Task No. 63 to the Digital Transformation Task Force (see paragraphs 39 to 40 of document CWS/7/29).

TASK NO. 64

1. *Description*:

Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.97.

2. *Task Force / Task Force Leader*:

API Task Force / European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO)

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:

a) The Task Force to discuss a need of a JSON native version of WIPO ST.97 and compatibilty of WIPO ST.97 with new versions of XML WIPO ST.96.

b) The Task Force to establish an Improvement Register to record proposed improvements for WIPO ST.97.

c) The International Bureau to host a joint XML4IP Task Force and API Task Force meeting in July 2025 to support collaboration on common activities including the finalization of the proposed revision to WIPO Standards ST.97 and ST.90.

4. *Remarks*:

a) The CWS, at its seventh session, created new Task No 64 to develop a new JSON standard. The CWS requested the XML4IP Task Force to present a proposal for this new WIPO standard at its eighth session. (See paragraphs 55 to 60 of document CWS/7/29.)

b) The CWS, at the eighth session, noted that while the Standard was not mature enough to be adopted, progress had been made in developing JSON schemas, based on WIPO Standard ST.96 (see paragraph 91 of document CWS/8/24).

c) The CWS, at the ninth session, noted the intention of the Task Force to present a final proposal for a JSON standard at the tenth session of the CWS (see paragraphs19 to 20 of document CWS/9/25).

d) The CWS, at the tenth session, adopted new WIPO Standard ST.97, and approved the updated Task description, the use of the 'fast track procedure' for the revision of WIPO ST.97 and its assignment to the API Task Force (see paragraphs 43 to 44 of document CWS/10/22).

e) The CWS, at its eleventh session, invited Offices to test the WIPO ST.97 JSON transformation tool, which converts XML schemas to their JSON schema equivalents, and report the results to the API Task Force (see paragraph 47 of document CWS/11/28).

5. *Proposal*:

Document CWS/13/8 provides a summary of the work conducted by the API Task Force on revision of WIPO Standard ST.97 since the last session of the CWS.

TASK NO. 65

1. *Description*:

Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.92 and support IP offices for their implementation of the Standard before July 1, 2027.

2. *Task Force / Task Force Leader*:

Digital Transformation Task Force / United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:

a) The Task Force to further improve WIPO Standard ST.92 to include recommendations on the exchange of trademark and industrial design priority documents, as well as draft a set of examples to be included as part of the.

b) The Task Force to support Offices to implement WIPO Standard ST.92.

c) The Task Force to draft a survey for implementing Offices to determine whether the tentative date for the conclusion of the sunset period is realistic, or not, and report the results of the survey at its thirteenth session of the CWS.

4. *Remarks*:

a) The CWS, at the tenth session, noted the creation of new Task No. 65 in response to a request from the PCT Working Group so that a new priority document package could be standardized for data exchange. The CWS assigned this Task to the Digital Transformation Task Force. (See paragraphs 22 to 25 of document CWS/10/22.)

b) The Secretariat issued circular C.CWS 170 inviting Offices to nominate experts to join the Digital Transformation Task Force.

c) The CWS, at its eleventh session, considered the draft standard put forward by the Task Force and determined that it was not yet mature enough for adoption (see paragraphs 111 and 113 of document CWS/11/28). The CWS also requested that the Secretariat organize monthly meetings of the Task Force to assist in finalizing the draft standard in time for the twelfth session (see paragraph 112 of document CWS/12/28).

d) The CWS, at its twelfth session, adopted new WIPO Standard ST.92. The Committee also agreed on a tentative sunset date of July 1, 2027, which applies solely to the adopted Standard, relating only to patent priority documents. The CWS also requested the Digital Transformation Task Force prepare a survey questionnaire on the implementation plan for WIPO ST.92, and that the Secretariat issue a circular inviting all CWS Members to respond the survey. The CWS noted that the Digital Transformation Task Force would report the results of the survey for consideration at its thirteenth session. (See paragraphs 80 to 83 of document CWS/12/29.)

5. *Proposal*:

a) Document CWS/13/12 provides a summary of the work conducted by the Digital Transformation Task Force since the last session of the CWS and the results of survey on WIPO Standard ST.92 Implementation Plan.

b) Document CWS/13/20 proposes a revision of WIPO Standard ST.92 to include data package format for the electronic exchange of industrial design and trademark priority document, for consideration and approval.

TASK NO. 66

1. *Description*:

Encourage IP offices to provide their patent authority file in compliance with WIPO Standard ST.37 by providing any technical support or training necessary, based on available resources; and undertake any necessary revisions and updates to WIPO Standard ST.37.

2. *Task Force / Task Leader*:

Authority File Task Force / United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office (UK IPO)

3. *Scheduled actions to be carried out*:

a) The Task Force to host a hybrid clinic to resolve outstanding issues for the latest revision of WIPO Standard ST.37.

b) The Task Force to host bilateral clinics for International Searching Authorities at different stages of implementing WIPO ST.37.

c) The Task Force to work to prepare an improved version of WIPO ST.37 for consideration at the thirteenth session of the CWS.

4. *Remarks*:

a) The CWS, at its eleventh session, approved the creation of Task No. 66 to support the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.37 and designated the International Bureau as the Task Leader (see paragraphs 29 and 30 of document CWS/12/28).

b) The CWS, at its twelfth session, approved the restarting of the Authority File Task Force, with the UK IPO designated as the Task Force leader (see paragraph 171 of document CWS/12/29). At the same session, the Task description was updated to reflect the expansion in the scope of the activities managed under this Task (see paragraph 172 of document CWS/12/29).

5. *Proposal*:

a) Document CWS/13/13 provides a summary of the activities conducted by the Authority File Task Force under this Task since the last session of the CWS.

b) Document CWS/13/17 proposes a revision to WIPO ST.37 as version 3.0, for consideration and approval.

TASK NO. 67

1. Description:

Analyze existing practices and challenges experienced by IP offices with a view to explore solutions to improve access to global IP data exchange.

2. Task Force / Task Force Leader:

IP Data Exchange Task Force / Japan Patent Office (JPO), Saudi Authority of Intellectual Propery (SAIP) and International Bureau

3. Scheduled actions to be carried out:

a) The Task Force to analyze current IP office practices and challenges experienced by these offices in exchanging their IP data.

b) The Task Force to explore technical solutions on IP data exchange.

c) The Task Force to prepare recommendations on IP data exchange as a draft standard.

4. Remarks:

a) The CWS, at its twelfth session, approved the creation of Task No. 67 with the description:

“Analyze existing practices and challenges experienced by IP offices with a view to explore solutions to improve global IP data exchange.”

b) At the same session, the CWS also approved the establishment of the new IP Data Exchange Task Force, and designated Japan Patent Office (JPO), Saudi Authority on Intellectual Property (SAIP), and the International Bureau as Co-Leaders. Task No. 67 was assigned to this Task Force. (See paragraphs 146 and 147 of document CWS/12/29.)

5. Proposal:

a) Document CWS/13/14 provides a summary of the work conducted by the IP Data Exchange Task Force since the last session of the CWS, and the work plan of the Task Force for approval by the CWS.

b) Document CWS/13/27 provides a draft recommendation on Intellectual property data exchange framework and its use for consideration and comments.

[Annex II follows]

SECRETARIAT ANALYSIS OF CWS TASKS FOR RESOURCE ALLOCATION

Following the decisions made at the twelfth session of the CWS, the Secretariat analyzed the complexity and activity level of each CWS Task. The Secretariat also conducted an annual review of all CWS Tasks with a view to proposing Tasks that should be prioritized or else held in abeyance for consideration by the CWS members and observers to allocate their resources in the future.

Prioritized Tasks are identified as 'essential' and 'important'. 'Essential' Tasks are related to WIPO Standard(s) or recommendations which are under discussion by IP offices for harmonious implementation. 'Important' Tasks are those which are considered a priority in terms of developing or revising WIPO Standards or sharing Offices' practices on WIPO Standards or recommendations in 2026.

Task No.	Task Description	Activity Level	Complexity	Priority
18	Identify areas for standardization relevant to the exchange of machine-readable data on the basis of projects envisaged by such bodies as the Five IP Offices (IP5), the Five Trademark Offices (TM5), the Industrial Design 5 Forum (ID5), ISO, IEC and other well-known industry standard setting- bodies.	Ad-hoc	Medium	
24	Collect and publish Annual Technical Reports (ATRs) on Patent, Trademark and Industrial Design Information Activities of the CWS Members (ATR/PI, ATR/TM, ATR/ID).	Active	Medium	Important
33	Ongoing revision of WIPO Standards.	Ad-hoc	Medium	
33/3	Ongoing revision of WIPO Standard ST.3.	Ad-hoc	Low	
41	Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standards ST.36, ST.66, ST.86 and ST.96; and support the implementation of those Standards.	Very active	High	Important
43	Prepare guidelines for implementation by IPOs, regarding paragraph numbering, long paragraphs, and consistent rendering of patent documents.	In abeyance	Not applicable	
44	Support the International Bureau by testing new releases based on available resources and providing user feedback on the WIPO Sequence Suite; and prepare necessary revisions of WIPO Standard ST.26.	Very active	High	Essential

Task No.	Task Description	Activity Level	Complexity	Priority
47	Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.87, and ST.61; prepare supporting materials to assist the use of those Standards in the IP community; and support the XML4IP Task Force to develop XML components for legal status event data.	Active	Medium	Important
50	Ensure the necessary maintenance and update of surveys published in Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook on Intellectual Property Information and Documentation.	Active	Medium	Important
52	Prepare a proposal for the update of the WIPO Handbook Part 6.1 "Recommended minimum contents for intellectual property offices' websites".	Ad-hoc	Low	
55	Prepare a proposal for future actions aimed at achieving the standardization of names in Intellectual Property (IP) documents, with the view to developing a WIPO standard to assist IP offices in providing a better "quality at source" in relation to names.	Occasional	Medium	
56	Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.90; support the International Bureau in promoting and implementing WIPO Standard ST.90; and promote the API Catalog for Intellectual Property.	Very active	High	Important
58	Facilitate the implementation of the ICT related Recommendations by IP offices and the International Bureau; and evaluate and update these Recommendations as needed to maintain their relevance.	Active	High	Essential

Task No.	Task Description	Activity Level	Complexity	Priority
59	Explore the possibility of using blockchain technology in the processes of providing IP rights protection, processing information about IP objects and their use; 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; develop reference models 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; and prepare a proposal for a new WIPO Standard supporting the potential application of blockchain technology within the IP ecosystem.	Occasional	Medium	
60	Prepare a proposal for the numbering of INID codes regarding word marks and figurative marks, on splitting INID code (551), and a potential INID code for combined marks.	In abeyance	Not applicable	
61	Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.91, including methods of search for 3D models and 3D images.	Active	Medium	
62	Review WIPO Standards developed for paper or image-based communication in view of electronic filing and publication and exchange of IP documentation and propose revisions of those Standards or new recommendations if needed; and prepare a proposal for the recommendation on a common requirements specification for a DOCX to XML (DOCX2XML) converter.	Active	Medium	
63	Develop visual representation(s) of XML data, based on WIPO XML Standards, for electronic publication.	Occasional	Medium	
64	Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.97.	Very active	High	Important
65	Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.92 and support IP offices for their implementation of the Standard before July 1, 2027.	Very active	High	Essential

Task No.	Task Description	Activity Level	Complexity	Priority
66	Encourage IP offices to provide their patent authority file in compliance with WIPO Standard ST.37 by providing any technical support or training necessary, based on available resources.	Active	Medium	Essential
67	Analyze existing practices and challenges experienced by IP offices with a view to explore solutions to improve access to global IP data exchange.	Very active	High	Important

[End of Annex II and of document]