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Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Thirteenth Session
Geneva, November 10 to 14, 2025

REPORT

adopted by the Committee

INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee on WIPO Standards (herein after referred to as "the Committee", or "the CWS") held its Thirteenth Session in Geneva from November 10 to 14, 2025.

2. The following Member States of WIPO and/or members of the Paris Union and/or Bern Union were represented at the thirteenth session of the CWS: Antigua and Barbuda; Australia; Austria; Brazil; Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Canada; China; Côte d'Ivoire; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Estonia; Finland; Gambia; Germany; Ghana; Greece; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Ireland; Israel; Italy; Jamaica; Japan; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Lithuania; Mexico; Nicaragua; Niger; Nigeria; Norway; Pakistan; Paraguay; Poland; Portugal; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Serbia; Singapore; Slovakia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Syrian Arab Republic; Uganda; Ukraine; United Kingdom; United States of America; Uruguay; and Viet Nam (59).

3. In their capacity as members of the CWS, the representatives of the following Intergovernmental Organizations took part in the session: African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI); African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO); Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO); European Patent Organization (EPO); and the European Union (EU) (5).

4. Representatives of the following Non-Governmental Organizations took part in the session in an observer capacity: Confederacy of Patent Information User Groups (CEPIUG); Health and Environment Program (HEP); International Committee for the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas (Incomindios); and Patent Documentation Group (PDG) (4).

5. The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Thirteenth Session

6. Mr. Ken-Ichiro Natsume, Assistant Director General of WIPO, opened the session on behalf of the Director General of WIPO, who welcomed the participants. Mr. Natsume emphasized that WIPO Standards are collective agreements designed to achieve shared objectives, in particular in the context of digital transformation, and noted that the active involvement of CWS Members and Observers is vital in achieving these goals. Mr. Natsume also acknowledged the introductory webinar organized by the Secretariat for the first time for new participants before the session this year.

7. The two Vice-Chairs, Mr. Ali Alharbi (Saudi Arabia) and Mr. Alexandre Ciancio (Brazil) presided over the session as the acting Chairs.

Agenda Item 2: Election of the Chair and two Vice-Chairs

8. The CWS unanimously elected for the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions, Mr. Sudeep Acharya (Canada) as Chair, and Mr. Alexandre Ciancio (Brazil) and Mr. Ali Alharbi (Saudi Arabia) as Vice-Chairs, whose terms will begin with the closure of the thirteenth session.

9. Mr. Young-Woo Yun (WIPO) acted as Secretary to the CWS.

DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the agenda

10. The CWS unanimously adopted the agenda as proposed in document CWS/13/1 PROV. 2 without further comment.

General statements

11. After the adoption of the agenda, the delegations were invited to deliver general statements. The Delegation of the Russian Federation delivered a general statement on behalf of the Group of Countries of Central Asia, the Caucasus and Eastern Europe (CACEEC), extending congratulations to the acting Chairs, Mr. Alharbi and Mr. Ciancio. The Delegation also conveyed its appreciation to the Secretariat for the organization of the session and the preparation of the accompanying documentation. The Delegation underscored the Committee's vital role in the development, enhancement, and revision of WIPO Standards, which constitute an essential foundation for international cooperation and digital harmonization among intellectual property (IP) offices, with particular emphasis that was placed on the continued advancement of key WIPO Standards, including WIPO Standards ST.26 and ST.90, as well as the Application Programming Interface (API) Catalog for Intellectual Property. The Delegation further highlighted the significance of ongoing improvement of WIPO Standard ST.91, notably regarding improved search mechanisms for 3D models and 3D images and reaffirmed the IP offices of the CACEEC Group commitment to constructive engagement in the Committee's work and that of its Task Forces.

12. The Delegation of Germany raised a concern regarding the structure of Agenda Items of the Committee since the eleventh session. The Delegation observed that the grouping of Agenda Items under specific actions, such as Task Force progress reports or proposal for revision of WIPO Standards, has resulted in topics managed by a particular Task Force being addressed multiple times under different Agenda Items. The Delegation noted that the current agenda structure may lead to fragmented discussions and reduce the efficiency of the discussions by delegations on related topics. The Delegation further requested the Secretariat to collect feedback from delegations under Agenda Item 9. Depending on the feedback provided, the agenda structure would be reviewed for future sessions of the CWS. The Secretariat agreed on a brief discussion under Agenda item 9, "CWS Work Program", to collect

feedback from other delegations, with a view to potentially grouping relevant Agenda Items together.

PRESENTATIONS

13. The presentations, working documents and any other related documents from this session have been published on the WIPO website at: https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=86450 .

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS, AND DECISIONS

14. As decided by the Governing Bodies of WIPO at their tenth series of meetings held from September 24 to October 2, 1979 (see document AB/X/32, paragraphs 51 to 52), the report of this session reflects only the conclusions of the Committee (decisions, recommendations, opinions, etc.) and does not, in particular, reflect the statements made by any participant, except where a reservation in relation to any specific conclusion of the CWS was expressed or repeated after the conclusion was reached.

Agenda Item 4: Progress reports by CWS Task Forces

15. The CWS noted the list of membership of the CWS Task Forces, which is available on WIPO website at: https://www.wipo.int/en/web/cws/taskforce/members .

16. The Secretariat reported that the Committee's Work Program includes 20 active Tasks. Sixteen of these Tasks were managed by dedicated Task Forces, while the remaining four are being undertaken on an ad-hoc or ordinary work basis without associated Task Forces. The Secretariat expressed appreciation for the diligence and commitment demonstrated by all Task Forces, noting that their collective efforts have resulted in proposals submitted for consideration at the thirteenth session of the Committee.

Agenda Item 4(a): Report on Task No. 41 by the XML4IP Task Force

17. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/2.

18. The International Bureau, as the Task Force leader, presented on the work conducted by the Task Force since the last session, including the publication of version 9.0 of WIPO Standard ST.96. The International Bureau also updated the CWS on the Joint API and XML4IP Task Force meeting held in July 2025 and on the pilot project for the centralized schema repository, which is hosted by the International Bureau. Furthermore, the International Bureau highlighted some outstanding items, including the finalization of the extensible markup language (XML) schemas on patent records, and sought more active participation from the Task Force.

19. Several delegations expressed support for the centralized repository pilot project and confirmed their participation, including uploading their customized XML schemas and reporting their experiences back to the International Bureau. The CWS encouraged IP offices to take part in this pilot project.

20. The CWS noted the content of the document, the release of WIPO Standard ST.96 Version 9.0 on April 1, 2025, as well as the challenges and work plan of the XML4IP Task Force.

Agenda Item 4(b): Report on Task No. 44 by the Sequence Listings Task Force

21. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/3.

22. The Representative of the European Patent Organization (EPO), as the Task Force leader, informed the CWS that the Task Force had reached consensus on two substantive proposals to revise the WIPO Standard ST.26: representing certain nucleotide and peptide

analogs by unmodified residue symbols, and lifting the minimum sequence length requirement to allow short sequences. The CWS was informed that a proposal for a major revision of WIPO Standard ST.26, version 2.0, with a proposed tentative entry into force date of July 1, 2027, is being presented for approval at this session. The Task Force leader also shared practices regarding manual validation checks for filed sequence listings and supported the testing by Offices of new releases of the WIPO Sequence Suite.

23. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular, the proposed revision of WIPO Standard ST.26 being presented for consideration and approval at Agenda Item 5(b). The CWS noted the work plan and challenges experienced by the Sequence Listings Task Force.

Agenda Item 4(c): Report on Task No. 47 by the Legal Status Task Force

24. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/4.

25. The International Bureau, as the Task Force leader, presented the progress made by the Legal Status Task Force since the last session of the CWS. Considering that legal status XML schemas for industrial designs and trademarks have been incorporated into version 8.0 of WIPO Standard ST.96, which was published on November 1, 2024, the Task Force proposed to revise the description of Task No. 47. The proposed description is intended to reflect the current and future work that should be conducted under Task No. 47.

26. The International Bureau encouraged IP offices to provide or update their mapping tables, which map national or regional legal status events to those indicated in one of the three WIPO legal status Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87. These mapping tables are published in Part 7.13 of the *WIPO Handbook on Intellectual Property Information and Documentation* (herein after referred to as the WIPO Handbook). The Delegation of the Russian Federation indicated its intention to provide updated mapping tables.

27. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular, the work plan and the challenges of the Legal Status Task Force.

28. The CWS approved the proposed revision to the description of Task No. 47 which reads:

"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 and API Task Forces to improve existing XML components and to develop JSON components respectively for legal statuses, where necessary."

Agenda Item 4(d): Report on Task No. 50 by the Part 7 Task Force

29. Discussions were based on documents CWS/13/5 and CWS/13/5-INF.

30. The International Bureau, as the Task Force leader, presented the result of the surveys on Numbering of Applications and Priority Applications – Current and Former Practices, and challenges faced by the Secretariat in collecting the information and updating Parts 7.2.6 and 7.2.7 of the WIPO Handbook.

31. The CWS noted the challenges in updating Parts 7.2.6 and 7.2.7 of the WIPO Handbook, as outlined in document CWS/13/5-INF.

32. The CWS requested its Members to verify the information concerning their current and former application and priority number practices, which are published in Annexes I

and II of document CWS/13/5-INF respectively and to submit any necessary corrections or updates to the Secretariat by November 21, 2025.

33. The CWS requested that the Secretariat collect and publish the updated information in Parts 7.2.6 and 7.2.7 of the WIPO Handbook after that date, November 21, 2025.

34. The International Bureau also presented the Part 7 Task Force's proposal for ways to update the contents of Part 7.3 of the WIPO Handbook. Acknowledging that the traditional survey-based approach has resulted in delays and infrequent updates, the Part 7 Task Force proposed three options for consideration: *Option 1* - continuing with periodic survey-based updates; *Option 2* - adopting a fully ad-hoc approach allowing IP offices to submit their changes at any time to the Secretariat; and *Option 3* - implementing a hybrid approach by combining periodic surveys and ad-hoc submissions for updates when needed. For ad-hoc submissions, the International Bureau proposed a revised template on the basis of the template previously used to collect information, to facilitate IP offices providing updated information for publication in Part 7.3 of the WIPO Handbook. The International Bureau also suggested applying the same approach to Parts 7.1, 7.2, and 7.6 of WIPO Handbook.

35. There was broad support from delegations for Option 3, the hybrid approach, for both updating Part 7.3 of the WIPO Handbook and applying the same approach to update Part 7.1, Part 7.2 and Part 7.6 of WIPO Handbook. The Delegations of Canada, Brazil, India, China, and Germany and Russian Federation supported the Option 3 approach, noting its flexibility and potential extension to the other Handbook Parts as proposed by the International Bureau. The Delegation of Singapore also supported Option 3 and requested that the Secretariat consider the timing of surveys, suggesting that an Office would not need to respond if a survey was conducted immediately after their ad-hoc submission had been made. The International Bureau clarified that "ad-hoc" refers to Offices contacting the International Bureau whenever changes are needed.

36. The CWS approved Option 3, the hybrid approach, that allows for both periodic surveys and ad-hoc submissions by IP offices whenever updates to Part 7.3 of the WIPO Handbook are necessary. The CWS approved the revised template and requested that the Secretariat update Part 7.3 accordingly.

37. The CWS also approved the application of the hybrid approach to update Part 7.1, Part 7.2 and Part 7.6 of WIPO Handbook and requested the Secretariat prepare respective templates to collect information for these additional referenced Parts of the WIPO Handbook.

38. The International Bureau presented a revised survey questionnaire on the citation practices of IP offices, to update Part 7.9 of the WIPO Handbook, which was included in the Annex II of document CWS/13/5. The revised questionnaire incorporated editorial updates, clarification of questions, and a new Section 8 addressing the citation of machine-translated documents, following input from the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Quality Subgroup in 2024. Several delegations provided feedback during the session, which resulted in the following further changes to the draft questionnaire:

- Question 15: The description for the "*Yes*" answer option was revised to: *"If yes, please provide examples in detail";*
- Questions 18 and 26: The answer option *"Sometimes"* was added;
- Questions 18, 19, and 20: A text box with the prompt *"specify when"* was added to the "*Sometimes*" answer option; and
- Question 26: The question description was revised and now reads: *"If 'Yes' or 'Sometimes', please specify the location where the references are searchable"*

39. The CWS approved the revised survey questionnaire on citation practices with further amendments during the session, which were reflected in document CWS/13/5-ANNEXII-REV. The CWS agreed that the Secretariat adjust questions as needed when preparing the survey in the online tool.

40. The CWS also requested the Secretariat issue a circular inviting the IP office to respond to the survey and subsequently update Part 7.9 of the WIPO Handbook based on the survey results.

Agenda Item 4(e): Report on Task No. 52 by the Public Access to Patent Information Task Force

41. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/6.

42. The International Bureau, as the Task Force leader, presented on the progress made by the Public Access to Patent Information (PAPI) Task Force in preparing a proposal to revise Part 6.1 of the WIPO Handbook, as presented in document CWS/13/24. The proposed revision was developed on the basis of an analysis of the information and services that users expect to find on IP office websites and responds to longstanding requests from the IP community, including the Patent Documentation Group (PDG) and the Confederation of European Patent Information Users (CEPIUG), to update the minimum content requirements for IP office websites. As the objective of Task No. 52 had been achieved by the PAPI Task Force in preparing a proposal for updating Part 6.1 of the WIPO Handbook, Task No. 52 would be considered completed, subject to the approval of these recommendations by the CWS. Consequently, the International Bureau proposed the closure of Task No. 52 and the discontinuation of the PAPI Task Force.

43. The CWS noted the content of the document and approved discontinuing of Task No. 52 and the PAPI Task Force.

Agenda Item 4(f): Report on Task No. 55 by the Name Standardization Task Force

44. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/7 and document CWS/13/7 Rev.

45. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea, as a Task Force co-leader, presented on the progress made by the Name Standardization Task Force since the last session, including the successful convening of the Name Standardization Workshop in May 2025. The Workshop brought together 88 participants from 35 countries, comprising representatives of IP offices, IP industry, and academia. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea highlighted that the main outcome of the Workshop was the broad support expressed for a harmonized methodology for the cleaning and management of customer name data.

46. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea also reported on the results of a survey regarding the potential revision of WIPO Standard ST.20, noting that 70 per cent of responding IP offices did not support revising the Standard.

47. The Delegation of the Russian Federation expressed its appreciation to the Task Force and the International Bureau for their work and for organizing the Workshop. The Delegation emphasized its interest in exchanging information with other IP offices, particularly regarding approaches to name standardization for applicant identification, and related analytical purposes. The Delegation also noted that IP offices use different alphabets, underscoring the importance of harmonizing transliteration systems, given the Russian Federation's use of the Cyrillic alphabet.

48. The CWS noted that the Task Force presented a proposal for the new WIPO Standard ST.93 as document CWS/13/15. The Task Force proposed to revise the description of Task

No. 55 once the proposed new Standard ST.93 is adopted by the CWS. The CWS also noted that the Task Force plans to continue its work under the revised description of Task No. 55.

49. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular, the work plan and the challenges of the Name Standardization Task Force. The CWS also noted the progress made in preparing the final draft for WIPO Standard ST.93.

50. Since the proposal for the new WIPO Standard ST.93 was not adopted by the Committee, the description of Task No. 55 remained unchanged.

51. The CWS noted the analysis of the survey on the implementation and potential revision of WIPO Standard ST.20 and the proposal by the Name Standardization Task Force not to revise the Standard for the time being. The CWS also noted that this item would be retained on the list of future Task Force's action items.

Agenda Item 4(g): Report on Task No. 56 and No. 64 by the API Task Force

52. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/8.

53. The Delegation of Canada, as a Task Force co-leader, reported progress on Task No. 56, including a proposal for revision of WIPO Standard ST.90 and the continued development of the API Catalog for Intellectual Property, which currently includes 179 APIs from 10 IP offices.

54. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the work plan and the challenges of the API Task Force, on Task No. 56.

55. The CWS noted the availability of the API Catalog for Intellectual Property and encouraged its Members and Observers to participate.

56. The Delegation of Canada also reported progress on Task No. 64 related to the ongoing efforts to improve the JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) schemas of WIPO Standard ST.97, in particular the progress made on the Joint API and XML4IP Task Force meeting that took place from July 21 to 24, 2025. The Delegation informed the Committee that participants had discussed the revision of WIPO Standards ST.97, ST.90 and ST.96, with a particular focus on refining JSON design rules and simplifying the JSON schemas, and the improvements of the XSD2JSON transformation tool, which is a tool developed by the United States Patent and Trademark Office to support the transformation of WIPO ST.96 XML schemas to respective ST.97 JSON Schema, according to a set of predefined rules.

57. The Delegations of Australia and the Russian Federation expressed appreciation for the Task Force's work and emphasized the importance of the WIPO Standard ST.97 and the value of the API Catalog for IP. The International Bureau emphasized the growing importance of JSON-native WIPO ST.97 for IP data exchange and reaffirmed its dedication to improving WIPO Standards ST.90 and ST.97.

58. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the work plan and the challenges of the API Task Force, on Task No. 64.

59. The CWS encouraged its Members and Observers to test the upgraded version of the XSD2JSON Transformation Tool, once available.

Agenda Item 4(h): Report on Task No. 58 by the ICT Strategy Task Force

60. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/9.

61. The Delegation of Australia, as a Task Force co-leader, reported on the progress made by the Task Force on Task No. 58, noting that the Task Force continued its work in 2025 to support IP offices in implementing the 10 ICT-related recommendations adopted at the twelfth session

of the CWS. The Task Force conducted a survey open to all CWS Members to assess the level of implementation of the 10 recommendations, identify common challenges, and gather insights to inform future work. Twenty-one responses were received, including some from non-Task Force members. The survey results and analysis were presented in document CWS/13/26.

62. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular, the work plan and the challenges of the ICT Strategy Task Force.

Agenda Item 4(i): Report on Task No. 59 by the Blockchain Task Force

63. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/10.

64. The Delegation of the Russian Federation, as the Task Force leader, presented the progress made by the Task Force's since the last session of the CWS. The Task Force leader highlighted that experience with blockchain among current members is limited and encouraged IP offices that are using or planning to use the technology to join the Task Force and share their expertise.

65. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular, the work plan of the Blockchain Task Force and the challenges regarding the varying levels of experience with this technology at Offices.

66. The CWS encouraged IP offices currently implementing or planning to implement blockchain technology to join the Blockchain Task Force to share their experiences.

Agenda Item 4(j): Report on Task No. 61 by the 3D Task Force

67. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/11.

68. The Delegation of the Russian Federation, as the Task Force leader, reported on the progress made in revising WIPO Standard ST.91, in particular on the preparation of a working draft on 3D Model Search as Annex II of the Standard. The working draft aimed to provide recommendations for the implementation of 3D-to-3D search systems and outlined both text-based and content-based search methods, with particular emphasis on geometry-based approaches for identifying visual similarities between 3D models. The Task Force presented the working draft for 3D Model Search for comment by the CWS. The CWS noted that the Task Force would continue refining the draft on the basis of the comments received and would submit a final proposal for consideration by the CWS in due course.

69. The Delegation also highlighted that the Workshop on IP Data in 3D Models and Images, held in May 2025, confirmed that WIPO Standard ST.91 provides a solid foundation for the application with IP data. The Delegation also presented the results of a survey on the legal framework and publication of 3D models and 3D images for patents, industrial designs, and trademarks, which was conducted among the 3D Task Force members.

70. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular, the challenges and the work plan of the 3D Task Force as well as the results of the analysis of the survey on the legal framework and publication of 3D models and 3D images for IP rights, which was conducted within the 3D Task Force.

71. The CWS noted the working draft for a new Annex to WIPO Standard ST.91, which provides recommendations for developing and implementing 3D model search systems.

Agenda Item 4(k): Report on Task No. 62, No. 63 and No. 65 by the Digital Transformation Task Force

72. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/12.

73. On behalf of the Delegation of United States of America, the Task Force leader, the Secretariat presented the progress made by the Task Force on Tasks No.62, No.63 and No. 65.

74. With regard to Task No. 62, a working draft of DOCX2XML converter functional specification document, was presented as the Annex to the document for comments by the CWS. In addition to the development of the common functional specification, several delegations, including the Delegations of Brazil, India, Singapore and Spain expressed strong support for the development of a common DOCX2XML conversion tool, implementing the agreed functional specification. The CWS noted that many IP offices, particularly those with limited technical resources, would benefit from WIPO developing and making this solution available. The Delegations of Singapore and India also expressed their difficulties in convincing applicants and agents to file in DOCX rather than PDF. They requested IP offices that have successfully seen an increase in DOCX filings to share their experience with them. The Delegation of China expressed appreciation for the work on the development of the draft functional specification and would review it to learn from different Office practices. The International Bureau acknowledged the comments, indicated ongoing internal discussions on the common tool and agreed to organize information-sharing sessions on successful experiences in developing and maintaining DOCX2XML conversion tools.

75. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular, the Digital Transformation Task Force work plan and the challenges experienced by this Task Force on Task No.62. The CWS reviewed and commented on the working draft of the DOCX2XML converter functional specification document.

76. With regard to Task No. 63, the Secretariat informed the CWS that the Digital Transformation Task Force had prioritized the work of Task No. 65 and No.62 over Task No. 63. As such, work on Task No. 63 had not been conducted since the eleventh session of the CWS. The CWS noted that the Digital Transformation Task Force plans to restart its work on Task No. 63.

77. The Secretariat also presented the progress made by the Digital Transformation Task Force on Task No. 65, in particular its work on preparing a proposal to revise WIPO Standard ST.92 to include industrial designs and trademark priority documents, as well as conducting a survey to evaluate IP offices' readiness to implement WIPO Standard ST.92 by the proposed sunset date. Further details regarding the revised WIPO Standard ST.92 and the survey results are available in document CWS/13/20 REV.

78. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular, the Digital Transformation Task Force's work plan and the challenges experienced by this Task Force on Task No.65.

Agenda Item 4(l): Report on Task No. 66 by the Authority File Task Force

79. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/13.

80. The Delegation of United Kingdom, as the Task Force leader, outlined progress made under Task No. 66 in producing the updated version of WIPO Standard ST.37 and support for Offices producing WIPO Standard ST.37-compliant authority files. Firstly, the Delegation noted that the version number in the working document was incorrect and should be version 3.0, and not version 2.3. The CWS noted that a hybrid Authority File Task Force Workshop and two online meetings were convened to address key technical matters, including exception codes, text-searchable indicators, optional data elements, and improvements to the XML schema and Document Type Definition (DTD). The Task Force Leader highlighted challenges such as misunderstanding the use of exception codes.

81. The Delegation of Brazil congratulated the Task Force for its work and for the support provided in implementing WIPO Standard ST.37.

82. The CWS noted the content of the document, including the work plan and challenges of the Authority File Task Force. The CWS encouraged interested IP offices, in particular, the PCT International Searching Authorities (ISAs) to join the Authority File Task Force.

Agenda Item 4(m): Report on Task No. 67 by the IP Data Exchange Task Force

83. Discussions were based on documents CWS/13/14 and CWS/13/14 Rev.

84. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia, as a Task Force co-leader, presented the progress made by the IP Data Exchange Task Force since its establishment at the last session of the CWS. This included analysis of challenges encountered in IP data exchange, as shared by Task Force members in response to a survey on Practices and Challenges in IP Data Exchange conducted within the Task Force. The Delegation also reported on the work of the Task Force in preparing a working draft of a proposed WIPO Standard on IP data exchange, based on Five IP Offices (IP5) data exchange policies as outlined in document CWS/13/27. The Task Force proposed conducting a survey in 2026 to collect IP offices' practices and suggestions to facilitate IP data exchange. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia expressed appreciation to all Task Force members and emphasized the importance of aligning the proposed framework with IP5 guidelines.

85. The Delegation of China highlighted the importance of establishing a universally applicable framework aligned with national legal and policy frameworks. The Delegation stated that, at the current stage, the Task Force should, in accordance with the resolution adopted at the twelfth session of CWS, focus on the "Project Brief on IP Data Exchange Framework and Platform" proposed in Annex II of document CWS/12/23 REV. 2, with an emphasis on "Analyze practices and challenges of IP offices in exchanging their data; explore technical solutions; and prepare recommendations on IP data exchange". The Delegation considered that the development of a new WIPO standard is merely one among those solutions. The Delegation suggested that the Task Force should first reach a consensus on the proposed solutions outlined in Annex II mentioned above by addressing the concerns expressed by IP offices before considering whether a new WIPO standard can be developed, rather than directly advance to the stage of developing a standard for IP data exchange.

86. In that regard, the Delegation proposed revising an action item included in the Taks Force's work plan "The Task Force to further improve the draft standard considering the outcomes of the survey (from June to August 2026)" to read "The Task Force should first reach a consensus on the project brief on IP Data Exchange Framework and Platform as discussed at the twelfth session of CWS and then proceed to improve the draft standard in the next phase considering the outcomes of the survey (from June to August 2026)". The Delegation stated that the proposed revision aims to clarify the Task Force's implementation of the agreement made at the twelfth session of the CWS.

87. In response, the Task Force co-leaders confirmed that, following the agreement reached at the twelfth session of the CWS, the Task Force had further discussed the project brief in 2025 through its online meetings and via a dedicated wiki page. Since no objections or comments on the project brief were provided, the Task Force concluded its discussion on the project brief and proceeded to collect and analyze challenges related to IP data exchange. Consequently, the Task Force discussed and agreed to begin drafting the new WIPO standard based on the IP5 data exchange policies.

88. The Delegation of Brazil supported conducting of the proposed survey and recommended that its outcomes be reflected in subsequent work. The Delegation of the United Kingdom

noted that the proposed standard, in its current form, could raise issues relating to compliance with national laws, legislative frameworks, and data integrity.

89. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the work plan and challenges of the IP Data Exchange Task Force after including amendments to the work plan, at the request of the Delegation of China, which were incorporated in document CWS/13/14 Rev.

90. The CWS also noted the analysis of survey results on practices and challenges on IP data exchange conducted within the IP Data Exchange Task Force.

91. The CWS approved that the Task Force Co-Leaders prepare a draft survey questionnaire to gather IP offices' practices and suggestions to facilitate IP data exchange and discuss it with the Task Force. The CWS agreed that the Secretariat conduct the survey by issuing a CWS circular inviting IP offices to the survey.

92. The CWS also agreed that the Task Force analyze the survey results and present them at the fourteenth session of the CWS.

93. The CWS noted that the Task Force will first reach a consensus on the project brief on IP Data Exchange Framework and Platform as discussed at the twelfth session of CWS and then proceed to improve the draft standard in the next phase considering the outcomes of the survey.

94. The CWS noted that the Task Force plans to present a final proposal for the new draft standard on the IP data exchange framework and its use for consideration and adoption at the fourteenth session of the CWS.

Agenda Item 5: Development of WIPO Standards

Agenda Item 5(a): Proposal for a new WIPO Standard supporting the data cleaning of names

95. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/15 and CWS/13/15 REV.

96. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea, as a Task Force co-leader, recalled the CWS that discussions a draft set of recommendations for data cleaning of customer names commenced in 2022. The draft WIPO Standard ST.93 was presented for consideration and adoption at the twelfth session of the CWS. The CWS did not adopt it and requested the Task Force to improve it.

97. The improved draft WIPO Standard ST.93 was presented as the Annex to document CWS/13/15 for adoption. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea highlighted that the objective of proposed draft WIPO Standard ST.93 was to improve the quality, accuracy, and consistency of customer name data in IP data. This would enhance data integrity, interoperability, and operational efficiency across IP offices. The draft Standard provided general recommendations for the collection, processing, transformation, validation, disambiguation, maintenance, and dissemination of name data. It does not prescribe specific methods for transliteration, translation, or algorithmic processing. Updates made to the draft since it was considered at the last session include removing the Annex to the draft standard, containing transliteration tables, due to concerns about its completeness and potential bias and making editorial changes to improve clarity.

98. The Delegation of China expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Task Force but raised concerns regarding its expected benefits and the maturity of the draft standard. The Delegation recommended further improvements, including feasibility assessments, a cost-

benefit analysis, and small-scale pilot projects to be conducted before adoption, and consequently stated that it could not support adoption at the thirteenth session.

99. Consequently, the Delegation of China highlighted six points as follows: (a) collecting applicant name data in the original language could pose legal and legislative challenges, particularly due to strict personal data protection requirements; (b) regarding name data conversion, the draft lacks guidance on appropriate methods or tools, which could result in inconsistent outcomes across languages and limit interoperability; (c) with respect to the publication of IP data, simultaneous updates across different IP rights would require extensive system interconnectivity and coordinated governance, which are beyond the capabilities of many offices; (d) different IP industry views on name data cleaning, e.g., while IP information service providers may support standardization, industry sectors such as telecommunications and pharmaceuticals are reluctant to have their IP strategies easily accessible to competitors and have expressed particular concern about privacy risks associated with name standardization; (e) challenges of name standardization across IP offices referring to an IP5 Offices' initiative on applicant name standardization that a similar technical approach had proven unworkable and is now being reconsidered in favor of the global identifier as an alternative solution; and (f) a WIPO standard should be concrete and implementable. Considering those points, the Delegation recommended that the Task Force undertake further work, including a feasibility and cost–benefit analysis.

100. The Secretariat clarified general procedures for development and implementation of WIPO Standards. WIPO Standards are in general recommendations. IP offices implement WIPO Standards that are best suited to their resources available and when they are ready. Conducting a cost-benefit analysis for a new standard and piloting the implementation of the standard is not common practice as each IP office has differences in database structures, resources, and operational environments; and IP offices implement a standard once it has been adopted, not before. In addition, the Secretariat also noted that the Standard once adopted would evolve over time based on feedback from IP offices and the broader IP community.

101. An informal meeting was convened with the Name Standardization Task Force and any interested delegations during the session to address the six points of concern raised by the Delegation of China. During the meeting the Task Force provided some clarifications in order to address the concerns raised.

102. The following 10 Delegations supported the adoption of the draft standard: Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Germany, India, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, and Uganda. Several delegations emphasized that the draft standard is a non-binding recommendation and is meant to only provide guidance for IP offices which are normalizing customer name data. Some delegations highlighted that the draft standard is already assisting in their operations and should be adopted, based on the belief that it could be improved over time.

103. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea noted that the draft WIPO Standard ST.93 had received supports from many delegations during the thirteenth session. The Delegation emphasized that the draft Standard addresses the longstanding need to improve the quality, consistency, and interoperability of applicant name data between IP offices.

104. Given that consensus was not reached, despite broad support from Member States, and to avoid further delays in adopting the Standard at the upcoming CWS session, the Delegation of the Republic of Korea, in its capacity as co-leader of the Name Standardization Task Force, proposed that the Delegation of China join the co-leadership of the Name Standardization Task Force. This joint leadership would allow both Delegations to guide ongoing improvements to the draft standard and help foster broader consensus among Member States.

105. The CWS did not reach an agreement to adopt the proposed WIPO Standard ST.93 because consensus was not reached.

106. The CWS requested that the Name Standardization Task Force revisit and improve the draft WIPO Standard ST.93 and present the final proposal for consideration at the next session of the Committee.

107. The CWS noted the request by the Delegation of the Republic of Korea that the Delegation of China join as a co-leader of the Name Standardization Task Force and the Delegation of China would confirm its position on whether it accepts the co-leadership as soon as it is able and committed to actively participate in the Task Force. The CWS also approved that the Delegation of China should be designated as a co-leader of the Task Force once the Delegation accepts the offer.

Agenda Item 5(b): Proposal for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.26

108. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/16 REV.

109. The International Bureau presented the proposed draft version 2.0 of WIPO Standard ST.26, which incorporated amendments to allow optional inclusion of short nucleotide and amino acid sequences and requires the use of specifically defined symbols for modified nucleotide and peptide analogs. The draft also included editorial updates, corrections, and expanded guidance in Annex VI of Standard ST.26.

110. The Sequence Listings Task Force proposed that version 2.0 of WIPO Standard ST.26 to enter into force on July 1, 2027, with the current version 1.7 remaining in use until that time. While no technical changes will be required by IP offices to implement version 2.0, awareness-raising for applicants and examiners will be crucial. The Task Force recommended that the lifting of the minimum length requirement apply immediately upon entry into force, while the mandatory inclusion of nucleotide and peptide analogs will apply based on the filing date of the patent application. Updates to the WIPO Sequence Suite will be scheduled for release in early 2027 incorporating the necessary changes.

111. The Delegation of China requested WIPO provide a test version of the WIPO Sequence to allow IP offices to determine what upgrades would be required internally, in advance of the date of entry into force.

112. The CWS approved the proposed revision to WIPO Standard ST.26 as version 2.0 and approved its date of entry into force as July 1, 2027. The CWS also approved that version 2.0 of WIPO Standard ST.26 would apply to all patent applications with a filing date on or after that date with an exception that paragraph 8 of the Standard will apply as from the date of entry into force of version 2.0, independent of the filing date of the patent application concerned.

113. The CWS agreed on the means of transitioning to use of the new version 2.0 of the Standard which was proposed by the Sequence Listings Task Force in document CWS/13/16 REV.

114. The CWS also agreed to present version 2.0 of WIPO Standard ST.26 to the WIPO General Assembly in 2026 so that WIPO Member States are made aware of the new version and its effective date, July 1, 2027, at national, regional and international levels.

Agenda Item 5(c): Proposal for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.37

115. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/17 REV. 2.

116. The International Bureau presented the proposed revision to WIPO Standard ST.37 for version 3.0, which incorporated changes to enforce the mandatory provision of a definition file, to introduce clarifications of text-searchable indicators and exception codes and resolve inconsistencies between the schema and DTD, as well as the complete restructure of the Standard to improve readability. Version 3.0 is not backward compatible with version 2.2, which remains applicable for authorities generating files for PCT minimum documentation.

117. Several delegations, including the Delegation of United Kingdom which is the Authority File Task Force leader, expressed appreciation for the Task Force's work and in particular the effectiveness of the hybrid workshop held in February 2025.

118. The CWS approved the proposed revision to WIPO Standard ST.37, as version 3.0, which is effective from the date of publication.

Agenda Item 5(d): Proposal for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.60

119. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/18 and CWS/13/18 REV.

120. The International Bureau presented the proposed revision to WIPO Standard ST.60 to ensure that bibliographic data published under the Madrid System reflects recent relevant regulatory developments and evolving trademark representation practices.

121. The Delegation of China expressed appreciation for the International Bureau's work and agreed with the proposed amendments relating to INID codes (540) and (546), as well as the introduction of new subheadings. Regarding INID codes (861) and (862), the Delegation noted that, under the administrative practice of the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), notifications issued under Rule 17 of the Marid Regulations are considered final decisions according to Rules 17 and 18*ter* of the Madrid Regulations. Therefore, the Delegation emphasized the need for the Standard to accurately reflect this legal effect so that the terminology does not mislead users regarding the finality of such decisions.

122. To address the concern raised by the Delegation of China, the International Bureau proposed adding a new explanatory note in Appendix 1 to WIPO Standard ST.60 regarding the definitions of INID codes (861), (862), and (866).

123. The Delegation of Samoa expressed its appreciation for the work undertaken by the Committee and acknowledged the progress achieved, particularly regarding the irregularity procedures for Madrid applications. As the only participating member from the Pacific region, Samoa highlighted the importance of efficient processes and recommended introducing an email notification system, or any other practical and effective mechanism, to ensure that IP offices are promptly informed when irregularities are posted.

124. The CWS approved the revision to WIPO Standard ST.60, following the addition of a newly proposed explanatory note to Appendix 1 of WIPO Standard ST.60 regarding the definitions of INID codes (861), (862), and (866) which reads:

> "These codes identify recorded notifications of provisional refusal, which are generally subject to requests for review or appeal to the Office that issued the notifications. However, these notifications are deemed to have the effect of a final decision when the Office concerned has notified the International Bureau that *ex officio* refusals are not open to review before that Office."

125. The CWS also approved that the Secretariat should update Appendix 2 of WIPO Standard ST.60 accordingly. The revised version of the WIPO Standard ST.60 is effective from the date of publication.

Agenda Item 5(e): Proposal for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.90

126. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/19.

127. The Representative of the European Union, as an API Task Force co-leader, presented the proposal for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.90, as version 2.0, which updates technical references to the external industry standards, clarifies rule descriptions, relaxes certain requirements for flexibility, and incorporates editorial and structural improvements. Key enhancements included updating references to obsolete Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Requests for Comments (RFCs), improved examples, and two enhanced Annexes of Standard ST.90 consolidating web service rules and supporting harmonization with WIPO Standards ST.97 and ST.96.

128. The Delegation of China raised a question regarding the potential impact of the revision of WIPO Standard ST.90, on the machine-to-machine (M2M) data exchange between the International Bureau and IP offices such as Contracting Parties of the PCT and Hague Systems. The European Union clarified that the proposed revision of the Standard primarily aims to align it with API industry's best practices, addressing minor inconsistencies, and does not change the overall implementation of Representational State Transfer (REST) or Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) APIs. The Secretariat confirmed that the International Bureau plans a gradual approach for implementing WIPO Standard ST.90. New WIPO API services will implement the revised WIPO Standard ST.90, and existing API will be upgraded when feasible. Any potential impacts on M2M transactions will be communicated to IP offices during the upgrade process of WIPO web services.

129. The CWS approved the proposed revision to WIPO Standard ST.90, as version 2.0, which is effective from the date of publication.

Agenda Item 5(f): Proposal for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.92

130. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/20 REV. and CWS/13/20 REV.-ANNEXII-REV.

131. On behalf of the Delegation of United States of America, the Task Force leader, the Secretariat presented the proposed revision of WIPO Standard ST.92 prepared by the Digital Transformation Task Force, which extends the scope of the Standard to incorporate recommendations for industrial design and trademark priority documents. As the changes were not backward compatible, the Task Force proposed the revised Standard as version 2.0.

132. The Secretariat also presented the survey results regarding the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.92 and the proposed sunset date of July 1, 2027. The CWS noted 37 IP offices responded, representing 34 Member States and three regional organizations. The survey shows that only 30 percent of offices have concrete transition plans, generally targeting implementation between 2026 and 2028, while most have not yet developed formal plans due to resource constraints, competing IT priorities, and the need to extend the Standard to designs and trademarks. Although few legal obstacles were identified, some IP offices cited data protection, storage, and legislative considerations. Resource limitations remain the key challenge. Most Offices expect to support multiple priority-document formats during the transition and expressed mixed confidence in meeting the 2027 sunset date. Given these differing circumstances, it appears most practical for Offices to proceed at their own pace, with the WIPO Digital Access Service (DAS) supporting priority document exchange during the transition.

133. The Task Force proposed to revise the description of Task No. 65 as Task No. 65 would be considered substantially complete once the CWS has approved the proposed revisions to WIPO Standard ST.92. Furthermore, the Task Force suggested that it would continue to support IP offices in implementing the revised Standard ST.92. Recognizing that practical

implementation may reveal areas requiring further improvements to WIPO Standard ST.92, the Task Force proposed revising the description of Task No. 65 to reflect this ongoing commitment.

134. The Representative of the European Union suggested adding references to "MP3", "MP4" and "3D objects" under the mandatory artifacts listed in paragraph 11 and including the hyphen among permitted filename characters in paragraph 25 of the revised Standard ST.92. The Secretariat incorporated these proposed improvements, and published on the meeting page in the revised proposal as document CWS/13/20 REV.-ANNEXII-REV.

135. The Delegation of Germany supported the revised WIPO Standard ST.92 along with the proposals suggested by the Representative of the European Union. The Delegation of Brazil sought clarification on the proposed implementation plan for WIPO Standard ST.92. The Secretariat confirmed that for IP offices using the WIPO DAS portal for exchanging priority documents, the current procedures may continue until the agreed sunset date, after which only WIPO Standard ST.92 priority document data package (PDDP) files will be accepted. The Delegation of China informed the Committee of its plan to implement WIPO Standard ST.92 and requested details on when WIPO DAS will make available this new version. The Secretariat informed that WIPO DAS will require approximately six months to make the necessary changes.

136. The CWS noted the content of the document in particular results of the survey on WIPO Standard ST.92 Implementation Plan.

137. The CWS approved the proposal for revision to WIPO Standard ST.92, after including minor amendments proposed by the Representative of the European Union to paragraphs 11 and 25, which are incorporated in document CWS/13/20 REV.-ANNEXII-REV., as version 2.0, which is effective from the date of publication.

138. The CWS approved June 30, 2028 as the sunset date for transition to electronically exchanging patent, trademark and industrial design priority documents in WIPO Standard ST.92 format.

139. The CWS approved the proposed new description of Task No. 65 which reads:

> "Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.92 and support IP offices for their implementation of the Standard before July 1, 2028."

Agenda Item 6: Implementation of WIPO Standards by Offices

140. Under Agenda Item 6, the CWS noted updates on the implementation of WIPO Standards ST.26, ST.37 and ST.96. The CWS received information from the International Bureau and several delegations on progress made, challenges encountered and ongoing initiatives related to the application of these WIPO Standards, including their role in meeting the PCT minimum documentation requirements.

Agenda Item 6(a): WIPO Standard ST.26

141. The Delegation of India reported that WIPO Standard ST.26 had been implemented for international applications as of July 1, 2022, requiring extensive IT system adjustments for filing, prosecution, and publication processes. The Delegation further noted that approximately 99 per cent of sequence listings received as an ISA were successfully validated, with the only remaining challenges relating to file-size limitations and indicated that national legislation is under review to make WIPO Standard ST.26 mandatory.

142. The Delegation of Kenya explained that it has not yet fully implemented WIPO Standard ST.26 due to infrastructural and capacity constraints. The Delegation outlined ongoing efforts focused on capacity building, stakeholder awareness, collaboration with WIPO, and the deployment of a new online filing system to support future implementation.

143. The CWS noted presentations delivered by the Delegations of India and Kenya on their implementation of WIPO Standard ST.26 and challenges experienced in processing sequence listings compliant with this format.

Agenda Item 6(b): WIPO Standard ST.37

144. The International Bureau provided an overview of the forthcoming changes to the PCT minimum documentation entering into force on January 1, 2026, and highlighted the central role of WIPO Standard ST.37 in this process. They explained that, under the new system, any IP office may have their patent or utility model collection included in the PCT minimum documentation provided it meets the technical and accessibility requirements set out in Annex H of the PCT Administrative Instructions, including the availability of documents in full-text searchable format and the provision of a WIPO ST.37-compliant authority file. The International Bureau reported significant progress by the PCT Minimum Documentation Task Force, noting that 33 IP offices had notified compliance by the end of October and that the expanded minimum documentation will now cover 34 collections. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the support provided by the International Bureau and partner offices during this intensive implementation period.

145. The Delegation of Brazil outlined their work to build a comprehensive authority file, including the digitization of historical gazettes and preparation for text-searchable publications in line with PCT minimum documentation requirements.

146. The Representative of EAPO presented their updated publication system, which now supports text-based documents and uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, while publishing XML instances compliant with both WIPO ST.36 and WIPO ST.96, for compatibility with partner offices.

147. The Delegation of Ireland described the creation of its WIPO Standard ST.37-compliant authority file generated directly from its internal IP system and noted plans to extend its coverage back to 1927. They also highlighted resource challenges for smaller offices in conducting projects such as these. In response to a question by a Delegation, the Secretariat confirmed that both versions 2.2 and 3.0 of WIPO ST.37 remain valid in the context of producing authority files for the purposes of meeting the PCT minimum documentation requirements.

148. The Delegation of Poland presented its implementation of WIPO Standard ST.37 within the Polish Patent Office's API system. The Delegation described the data analysis, XML field mapping, and validation processes conducted to ensure full compliance with the Standard, as well as the deployment of a secure API enabling authorized access to their WIPO ST.37-compliant authority files. The Delegation also noted ongoing work to incorporate the text-searchable indicators required according to the PCT minimum documentation requirements, which must be implemented from January 1, 2026.

149. The CWS noted presentations by the International Bureau, the Delegations of Brazil, Ireland and Poland, and the Representative of Eurasian Patent Office, which shared their experiences in producing compliant patent authority files.

Agenda Item 6(c): WIPO Standard ST.96

150. The Delegation of Australia presented an update on the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.96 with a goal of publishing their patent specifications compliant with this Standard. The Delegation outlined the *Structured Patent Specifications* project, initiated in early 2024, which aims to ensure the new PCT minimum documentation requirements were met by January 1, 2026. Key components of the project included enhanced OCR for extracting text, tables, chemical and mathematical formulas from unstructured PDF documents, bibliographic data management, and the assembly of these outputs as WIPO ST.96-compliant XML

instances. Potential future work was also presented, including deeper text categorization, structured national phase filings, and internal benefits such as automated claim counting.

151. The Representative of the Eurasian Patent Organization reported on the introduction of WIPO Standard ST.96 for the publication of patent documents on inventions and industrial designs in 2025, noting that both WIPO Standards ST.36 and ST.96 are now supported in its new publication system. The Representative outlined the main challenges encountered, including the need to extend the standard for certain search-related data and to address specific requirements for multi-design applications, which were resolved in cooperation with the XML4IP Task Force and incorporated into WIPO ST.96 version 9.0.

152. The Delegation of the Russian Federation delivered a single presentation on its implementation of WIPO Standards ST.26, ST.37 and ST.96 across its document management systems, state registers, electronic services and international data exchange. The Delegation outlined as well ongoing development of a new digital infrastructure based on unified WIPO Standard ST.96 XML schemas, provision of national patent and sequence data in compliance with updated PCT minimum documentation requirements, and the application of WIPO Sequence validation tool. The Delegation noted the need for limited schema adaptations to reflect national legal specificities.

153. The CWS noted presentations by the Delegations of Australia and Russian Federation and the Representative of Eurasian Patent Organization who shared their implementation experiences and challenges in implementing and customizing WIPO Standard ST.96 XML schemas.

Agenda Item 7: Technical assistance and collaboration on global information systems

Agenda Item 7(a): Report by the International Bureau on the provision of technical advice and assistance for capacity building to industrial property offices in connection with the mandate of the CWS

154. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/21.

155. The International Bureau presented the report outlining the support provided to IP offices and their users in implementing WIPO Standards, through the provision of training, webinars and workshops. During 2024, this support included technical assistance for WIPO Standards ST.26, ST.37, and ST.96. Key initiatives included providing training and support for Offices implementing WIPO Sequence Suite or WIPO Sequence Validator, conducting a pilot project to train research institutions to transform sequence data to WIPO Standard format, developing the API Catalog which consolidates 177 APIs from nine offices, and enhancing IP office infrastructure via the WIPO Industrial Property Administration System (IPAS), WIPO Centralized Access to Search and Examination (CASE), and WIPO DAS platforms. Capacity-building efforts also extended to patent examiners through training on IPC classification and examination tools. Particular attention was given to supporting developing countries for their participation in IP data exchange via global databases, with a view to providing users in those countries with greater access to their IP information. The exchange of IP data was organized, when possible, in accordance with relevant WIPO Standards.

156. Several delegations welcomed the International Bureau efforts in providing this type of technical assistance. The Delegation of India expressed appreciation for support in implementing WIPO Standard ST.26, and the Delegation of Uganda proposed the development of a list of essential WIPO Standards for developing Offices to start their implementation with.

157. The CWS noted both the content of document CWS/13/21and that this document would serve as the basis of the relevant report to be presented to the WIPO General Assembly to be held in 2026.

Agenda Item 7(b): WIPO Standard ST.26 and WIPO Sequence Suite

158. The International Bureau presented the progress made in the development of the WIPO Sequence Suite since the last session of the CWS, as well as the plans for future development. Since the last session, improvements have focused on enhancing performance for WIPO Sequence and improving the user experience by extending the bulk editing functionality. Version 3.1.0 of the WIPO Sequence Validator has been released, and WIPO Sequence will undergo a pilot with the WIPO Sequence Insider Group before its planned public release in the first quarter of 2026. Planned future improvements include the transformation of filed sequence listings into a human-readable format, project archiving, and updates following the approval of WIPO Standard ST.26 version 2.0. CWS Members were invited to subscribe to the WIPO Sequence subscriber list and participate in the WIPO Sequence Insider group to pilot early releases of WIPO Sequence.

Agenda Item 7(c): WIPO Standard ST.37 and Authority File Portal

159. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/22 CORR.

160. The International Bureau presented the updates made to the Authority File Portal since the last session of the CWS. The Authority File Portal ("the Portal") makes available in a centralized location authority files provided by IP offices in a standardized format, enabling database administrators to validate their patent collections. The associated Authority File Portal Guidelines aim to ensure consistency in authority file generation by Offices. Since the last session, the International Bureau published new authority files from Iceland and Ireland, and further expansion in the number of authority files made available in the Portal is anticipated following the implementation of PCT minimum documentation requirements in January 2026. The International Bureau also highlighted that improvements regarding how authority files should be made available on the Portal were being discussed by the Task Force.

161. Several delegations raised questions regarding the particular document kinds that should be provided within an authority file and sought advice on how to split authority files, as they are increasing in size. The Delegation of Brazil emphasized the need to harmonize document kind codes across IP offices. The Delegation also supported maintaining a single table view within the Portal, while acknowledging that large authority files may eventually need to be split. The Delegation of the United Kingdom described its approach to splitting authority files by decade and document type to manage large data sets. The Delegation of India indicated the software constraints resulting from the production of its authority file which comprises of around 1.4 million records and also endorsed closer collaboration between the International Bureau and the Authority File Task Force.

162. The International Bureau confirmed that the guidelines were being updated to provide further guidance on document-kind codes that should be included within an authority file, while still allowing for national variations. The International Bureau also noted its ongoing collaboration with the Task Force Members to improve the functionality of the Authority File Portal.

163. The CWS noted the presentation by the International Bureau and encouraged its Members to send the International Bureau any WIPO Standard ST.37-compliant authority files generated by Offices as well as any suggestions regarding improvements to the Authority File Portal.

Agenda Item 7(d): WIPO Standard ST.90 and API Catalog for Intellectual Property

164. The International Bureau presented an update on the improvements made to the API Catalog for Intellectual Property since the last session of the CWS, which includes expanded coverage, enhanced search functionality, the addition of a multilingual interface in the 10 PCT publication languages, and the introduction of an automated API crawler to detect new APIs.

The API Catalog recorded 6,080 unique visitors from 120 countries last year. The International Bureau presented future plans on the further expansion and promotion of the API Catalog, including further automated finding and indexing of new APIs using artificial intelligence.

165. Several delegations provided updates on the implementation of APIs and related WIPO Standards. The Delegation of China expressed continued support for the API Task Force and WIPO Standard ST.90 implementation. The Delegations of Brazil and Germany also verbally shared their experience on developing APIs and WIPO ST.90 implementation. The Delegation of Brazil shared the progress made on the development of their new IP service portal with API implementation in compliance with WIPO Standards ST.90 and ST.96. The CWS noted their plans to collect user feedback and integrate their APIs into the API Catalog for IP by mid-2026. The Delegation of Germany outlined its *DPMAConnectPlus* service which provides an SSL-encrypted rest-based interface for web service clients to allow to set up a client implementation.

166. The International Bureau presented an update on WIPO API Developer Portal which aims to bridge the gap between API consumers and WIPO, providing a platform for users to explore, test, and analyze WIPO's APIs. Key features included support for Open API specifications, automated testing, and programmatic access patterns, which will facilitate future AI agent-to-agent collaboration. The developer portal will offer self-service capabilities, rapid integration, and APIs compliance with WIPO Standard ST.90. The implementation follows a Minimal Viable Product (MVP) approach and leverages *Gravitee API Management* and *Gravitee Dev Portal* technologies. The International Bureau clarified the distinction between the API Catalog and WIPO API management through the developer portal and confirmed that all new APIs developed by WIPO would be compliant with WIPO Standard ST.90. The Delegation of China requested the International Bureau to incrementally rollout its APIs with impact assessment and detailed technical planning to allow IP offices for sufficient preparation time. The International Bureau noted the request by the Delegation of China.

> 167. The CWS noted the presentation by the International Bureau on API Catalog for IP and the WIPO API Developer Portal progress.

Agenda Item 7(e): WIPO Standard ST.92 and WIPO Digital Access Service (DAS)

168. The International Bureau presented the planned implementation of WIPO Standard ST.92 version 2.0 by WIPO DAS. The International Bureau outlined the current technical arrangements used by the 47 participating Offices in WIPO DAS, which include automated and manual exchange mechanisms, tailored for each Office. The International Bureau also presented a transition plan during the sunset period designed to facilitate gradual but efficient migration. During the sunset period, WIPO DAS will accommodate the existing PDF-based workflow and the WIPO Standard ST.92 PDDP package format. Appropriate validation measures will ensure the consistency and integrity of exchanged documents. Several use cases were described to illustrate operational scenarios depending on the implementation status of the providing and recipient Offices of priority documents. The International Bureau confirmed that WIPO DAS is expected to be fully prepared to support the WIPO Standard ST.92 by July 1, 2026 and can then begin testing the data exchange using the WIPO ST.92 PDDP package with interested Offices, with the goal of completing migration by the agreed sunset date of June 30, 2028.

169. The International Bureau addressed the questions of the delegations regarding the transition to WIPO Standard ST.92 and the operation of WIPO DAS. They clarified that IP offices using manual processes can continue as usual, and that WIPO Standard ST.92 packages will be delivered as ZIP files containing the relevant components. The IP offices moving to automated exchanges shall implement the DAS API, and the International Bureau will provide technical support. The International Bureau confirmed that oversized packages will continue to use existing Trilateral Document Access (TDA) protocol for the offices that are already using it. Minor API adjustments were anticipated, and Secure File Transfer Protocol

(SFTP) exchanges should be phased out after the sunset date. Further technical discussions will continue through the Digital Transformation Task Force.

170. The CWS noted the update and implementation plan provided by the International Bureau on WIPO DAS in terms of migrating participating Offices to provide and receive priority documents in the WIPO Standard ST.92 PDDP package format by the agreed sunset date of June 30, 2028.

171. The Delegation of Republic of Korea delivered a presentation on the progress that they have already made in implementing WIPO Standard ST.92 and transitioning to the upgraded WIPO DAS system. The Delegation reported that over 98 per cent of patent and design priority documents were currently being electronically exchanged, and there are plans to extend electronic exchange to trademark priority documents, pending the necessary amendments to the Korean Trademark Act. The Delegation confirmed that the two-year transition period from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2028, will be sufficient to finalize their implementation of WIPO Standard ST.92.

172. The Representative of the European Union (EU) presented the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) plan on their WIPO DAS implementation upgrade, the ongoing European Union design legal reform, and contributions to WIPO Standard ST.92. The Representative informed that EUIPO has participated in WIPO DAS, since July 2020, by exchanging design priority documents. The Representative also highlighted the changes under the EU design legal reform, which will take effect on July 1, 2026. These changes include the introduction of legally binding dynamic representations, such as animations and 3D objects. The Representative emphasized the need for the timely transitioning to WIPO Standard ST.92 to enable the exchange of structured ZIP packages and outlined its contributions to the technical revision of the Standard and its initial API testing and full implementation.

173. The CWS noted the presentations by the Delegation of Republic of Korea and the Representative of the European Union.

Agenda Item 8: Policies and activities relating to intellectual property (IP) data, information systems and information services

Agenda Item 8(a): Results of the first session of WIPO ICT Leadership Dialogue (WILD)

174. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/23.

175. The International Bureau provided a summary of the first session of the WIPO ICT Leadership Dialogue (WILD), convened at WIPO headquarters in Geneva from April 14 to 16, 2025, with forty-six Member States and five intergovernmental organizations in attendance. WILD was established as a platform for chief information officers, chief technology officers, and other senior information and communication technology (ICT) leaders to exchange experiences on developing digital strategies, ICT policies, intellectual property data management, and the use of emerging technologies.

176. Several delegations expressed their appreciation for the initiative. The Delegation of Russian Federation emphasized the importance of continued dialogue on state-of-the-art ICT solutions and suggested exploring the dissemination of WIPO-developed software under open-source models. The Delegation of Australia highlighted the benefits of sharing experiences in AI governance and noted potential synergies with the CWS ICT Strategy Task Force, as Task Force Co-Leaders. The Delegation of Uganda highlighted opportunities for developing countries to adopt emerging technologies for IP administration. The Representative of the European Union expressed its appreciation for organization of the first session of WILD and looked forward to its subsequent sessions.

177. The Delegation of China stated that based on the summary report from the first session of WILD, it could not be considered that participants had reached consensus on the relevant next steps, including the establishment of an “AI Tools Group”. These matters require further clarification and discussion under WILD platform. They asked that this be reflected in the summary of the present session.

178. Several delegations also suggested topics for discussion at the second session of WILD. The Delegation of Canada stressed the importance of a holistic, organization-wide approach to emerging technologies and recommended future discussions on leveraging data to support informed decision-making and service delivery. The Delegations of Singapore and India emphasized the potential of data as a public good to foster innovation and suggested this could be a topic at the second session. The Delegation of Denmark suggested addressing reference and solution architectures to strengthen collaboration and knowledge sharing.

179. The CWS noted the results of the first session of the WILD and that the second session of the WILD would be held from April 14 to 16, 2026.

Agenda Item 8(b): Proposal for revision of WIPO Handbook Part 6.1 Recommended Content for Intellectual Property Web Sites

180. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/24 and CWS/13/24-ANNEX-REV.

181. The International Bureau, as Task Force leader, presented the proposal by the PAPI Task Force for updating Part 6.1 of the WIPO Handbook. These updates reflected user needs and the current practices of IP offices and aimed to standardize the content provided on IP office websites. Key updates included guidance on website structure, available online services and searchable databases, accessibility, multilingual support, secure online filing, real-time application tracking, integrated payment systems, responsive communication tools, and user resources. The section on technical design principles was removed from Part 6.1 to allow for flexibility in how this type of content is provided or technically implemented by IP offices.

182. The Delegation of the Russian Federation recommended emphasizing “current status” information in trademark databases in paragraph 8 of Part 6.1. The Delegation of India welcomed the flexibility in terms of technical implementation and focus on accessibility. The Delegations of Austria and the United Kingdom noted minor corrections and supported removing technical design requirements. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea supported the revision to Part 6.1. The Delegation of China suggested repositioning chatbots and modern communication tools to the website home page to improve public consultation. The Delegation of the United States of America agreed that the usage of "should" throughout the recommendations provide sufficient flexibility for IP offices.

183. The Secretariat confirmed that those agreed adjustments, including revising the language regarding homepage updates, trademark database content, and the placement of modern communication tools were reflected in document CWS/13/24-ANNEX-REV., which was made available in the meeting page.

184. The CWS approved the proposed updates to the WIPO Handbook Part 6.1, after inclusion of amendments in paragraphs 1, 4, and 8 agreed to in the session, as reflected in document CWS/13/24-ANNEX-REV.

Agenda Item 8(c): Update of WIPO Handbook Part 4 PCT Minimum Documentation

185. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/25 Rev.

186. The International Bureau presented the update to Part 4.1 of the WIPO Handbook, which details the patent collections which form part of the PCT minimum documentation when the new PCT Administrative Instructions come into force on January 1, 2026. For this particular update

the International Bureau proposed to reform the content to a more “digital-first” format, improving the accessibility of this important resource.

187. The CWS was invited to review the draft Part 4.1, published as part of document CWS/13/25 Rev. Several delegations noted that there were corrections to be made, and the Secretariat requested that any necessary corrections be provided to the Secretariat by email at: cws.mail@wipo.int by November 30, 2025. The Secretariat also confirmed that the update will reflect all corrections provided by that time and publish the update in December 2025.

188. The CWS approved both the new digital format and the proposed editorial note, as reproduced in the Annex to document CWS/13/25 Rev.

189. The CWS also agreed to send to the Secretariat any necessary corrections to the draft Part 4.1 referenced in document CWS/13/25 Rev. The CWS also agreed that the Secretariat prepare a final version of Part 4.1 of WIPO Handbook and publish it on WIPO website.

Agenda Item 8(d): Implementation of Recommendations on information and communication technologies (ICT) for Offices

190. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/26 and CWS/13/26-ANNEX-CORR.

191. The Delegation of Australia, as an ICT Strategy Force co-leader, presented the survey results collecting feedback regarding the level of implementation of the 10 ICT Recommendations by IP offices, adopted at the last session of the CWS.

192. The survey, which was completed by 21 national and regional IP offices, indicated a high level of adoption of all Recommendations, with most respondents reporting full implementation or ongoing work for each Recommendation. Very few offices indicated that any Recommendations were not planned or were considered a low priority, and most respondents considered the Recommendations to remain fit for purpose. Analysis of the responses showed that “Recommendation 10” emerged as a high priority for the Task Force, as it was frequently identified as a current focus, a significant implementation challenge, and a preferred topic for future discussion or presentation. “Recommendation 1” was also identified as a major area of focus and challenge, although it attracted limited interest as a topic for future knowledge-sharing.

193. In light of the survey outcomes, the Task Force did not propose any changes to the Recommendations at this stage. Instead, it proposed continuing its work under Task No. 58 for a further year and then evaluating the need for Task No. 58 and the Task Force at the fourteenth session of the CWS. The Task Force proposes to focus on facilitating implementation of the recommendation through targeted presentations or workshop activities, initially focusing on Recommendation 10. The Task Force also indicated its intention to explore key performance indicators and an ICT maturity matrix to support implementation and to help maintain the relevance of the Recommendations over time.

194. Several delegations supported the Task Force’s proposed future work, including the organization of workshop, the facilitation of implementation activities, the exploration of key performance indicators, and the consideration of an ICT maturity matrix aligned with the recommendations. Several delegations intervened, including Germany, which requested the correction of an error in the Annex to the document and the revised document was published on the meeting page as document CWS/13/26-ANNEX-CORR.

195. The CWS noted the content of the document in particular the results of the survey on 10 ICT Recommendations for IP offices presented by ICT Strategy Task Force.

196. The CWS agreed that the ICT Strategy Task Force will continue its work under Task No. 58 for one more year and will evaluate the need for Task No. 58 and the Task Force at the fourteenth session of the CWS.

197. The CWS approved the workshop proposed by the Task Force with an initial focus on Recommendation 10 and an option of exploring other high priority or high interest Recommendations, and requested the Secretariat to organize it in 2026.

198. The CWS also approved the proposal to further evaluate ways to maintain the relevance of the Recommendations, as well as the proposals to explore the concept of key performance indicators (KPIs), mechanisms for receiving feedback on the Recommendations, and any existing proposals throughout the year.

Agenda Item 8(e): Intellectual property data exchange framework and platform

199. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/27.

200. The Delegation of Japan, as an IP Data Exchange Task Force co-leader, presented the working draft document for a set of recommendations for the exchange of IP data and its use. The draft was prepared based on the IP5 Data Exchange Policy and provides recommendations on the exchange and use of IP data covering patents, trademarks, and industrial designs. The draft standard emphasizes key principles, including reciprocity, the conditions for provision to a third-party, and providing data free of charge or at marginal cost. The goal of the draft standard is to promote the transparent, efficient, and reciprocal sharing of IP data among IP offices globally.

201. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea expressed general support for the framework, noting that elements such as cost and the redistribution of data to third parties require careful consideration. The Delegation of Spain raised concerns about the exchange of personal data, including postcodes, given the stringent European data protection legislation. The Delegation of Singapore requested clarification on how the draft aligns with IP5 data policies and recommended considering input from private sector stakeholders. The Representative of the European Patent Organization expressed support for the open exchange and dissemination of patent data based on IP5 practices.

202. The Delegation of China emphasized that the decision on whether data recipients may redistribute IP data to third parties should remain with the data-providing office, and such data should not be made available to third parties without restrictions. The Delegation noted that restrictions on redistribution are usually applied in bilateral agreements, and that, several Task Force offices had raised concerns regarding policy and legal uncertainties surrounding data exchange proposed in the working draft document. The Delegation emphasized that those considerations should be fully addressed before finalizing the draft WIPO standard. The Delegation also stressed that the Task Force would first implement the resolution of the twelfth session of the CWS and reach a consensus on the proposed solutions outlined in Annex II of document CWS/12/23 REV. 2, “Project Brief on IP Data Exchange Framework and Platform”. The Delegation suggested that the development of a new WIPO standard should only be considered after addressing the concerns expressed by IP offices, rather than advancing directly to the stage of developing the new standard. Furthermore, when refining the draft standard, the Delegation urged that the opinions and suggestions provided by IP offices be fully considered, particularly those regarding data use and data distribution.

203. The Delegation of Brazil noted that utility models are considered patents under Brazilian law and should be explicitly included within the scope of exchanged IP data. In response, the International Bureau as a Task Force co-leader, clarified that the draft covers published documents of utility models as a type of patents according to their definition following WIPO Standard ST.9.

204. Regarding the IP Data Exchange Task Force work plan, the Delegation of Japan indicated that, based on the comments received, the Task Force intends to resume its discussions on the project brief on IP Data Exchange Framework and Platform as agreed upon at this session.

205. The CWS reviewed and commented on the working draft of the "Recommendations for the Exchange of Intellectual Property Data and its Use" presented by the IP Data Exchange Task Force. The CWS requested that the Task Force consider the comments provided to further improve the draft standard.

206. The CWS agreed on amendments to the Task Force's work plan, provided at the request of the Delegation of China, specifically to reach a consensus on the project brief on IP Data Exchange Framework and Platform before proceeding to improve the draft standard in the next phase considering the outcomes of the survey.

Agenda Item 8(f): Digitization of intellectual property documentation

207. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/28.

208. The International Bureau presented an overview of the challenges experienced by IP offices in the digitization of IP documentation, particularly patent publications, and outlined proposed next steps for supporting, in particular, Offices which must meet the PCT minimum documentation requirements. To gather details on challenges experienced by IP offices in generating machine-readable documents compliant with WIPO Standards, the International Bureau proposed to conduct a survey questionnaire on this topic by issuing joint CWS and PCT Circular. The International Bureau informed the CWS its intention to prepare a survey questionnaire and to invite the members of both bodies to complete the survey in the first quarter of 2026. Survey responses would serve as the basis of draft digitization guidelines which will be produced by the International Bureau. Following the deadline of the survey, the International Bureau intends to organize a meeting to discuss the preparation of the digitization guidelines in the first half of 2026.

209. The CWS also noted that the International Bureau also proposed to organize a workshop on the implementation of WIPO Standards ST.36 and ST.96 in the second quarter of 2026. Invitations to this workshop will be sent to the CWS Members and Observers. The International Bureau also invites Offices implementing WIPO Standards to reach out for technical assistance when needed.

210. The Delegation of Brazil expressed its appreciation for WIPO's Optical Character Recognition (OCR) solution and strongly supported both the planned survey and the organization of the meeting to discuss the preparation of the digitization guidelines.

211. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the challenges experienced by IP offices during the production of machine-readable documents.

212. The CWS approved the proposal for conducting the survey on digitization of IP documentation via joint CWS and PCT Circular sent to both CWS Members and PCT Contracting Parties as proposed by the International Bureau.

213. The CWS noted that the International Bureau intends to organize a meeting to discuss the preparation of the digitization guidelines in the first half of 2026 and encouraged its Members to participate in the meeting and the survey. The outcome of the meeting will be presented at the fourteenth session of the CWS.

214. The CWS encouraged its Members and Observers to participate in the workshop on WIPO Standards ST.36 and/or ST.96 which would be held in the second quarter of 2026.

Agenda Item 8(g): Global identifier for natural persons and legal entities

215. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/29.

216. The International Bureau provided an update on the Global Identifier project since the last session of the CWS and outlined its decision to refocus its efforts on specific use cases, specifically the global assignment and the global address book. The International Bureau also highlighted the activities undertaken in 2025, including establishing a governance framework, revising technical specifications, and conducting a global end-user survey. The survey responses indicated strong support for a global identifier to address name normalization challenges and enhance the efficiency of IP transfers.

217. The Delegation of India requested clarification on the basis for issuing global identifiers to natural persons and legal entities highlighting challenges related to Know Your Customer (KYC) procedures and data privacy. The Delegation of Canada expressed support for the project while emphasizing the need to assess how a global identifier would interact with national identification systems, as well as the potential technical, legal, and financial implications of implementation. The Delegation of Germany emphasized the importance of providing detailed project information to all CWS Members and reiterated its request for information regarding this project being made available. The Delegation also stressed the importance of considering the legal and technical impacts early on to ensure the project's feasibility and broad adoption. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea recognized the initiative's benefits while noting the challenges of integrating a global identifier with existing national identification systems.

218. The International Bureau stated that it noted those comments and suggestions and would consider them in its future relevant works.

> 219. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the decision of the International Bureau to focus on the work of the global assignment which has been considered as the most interesting use case of the Global Identifier.

Agenda Item 8(h): Report on 2024 Annual Technical Reports (ATRs)

220. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/30 Corr.

221. The International Bureau provided an overview of the 2024 ATRs submitted by the IP offices. The International Bureau noted that the simplified ATR template increased participation in the last four years, resulting in 84 ATRs received from 33 IP offices, including nine Offices that resumed submission of their ATR(s) after a long absence. The ATR templates were revised to introduce a new Section VII on the implementation of WIPO Standards, allowing IP offices to report on whether WIPO Standards were “Implemented,” “On implementation phase,” “Planning to implement,” or “No plan to implement”. The new Section was well received and responses demonstrated high-levels of implementation for WIPO Standards relating to patents and variable implementation of WIPO Standards relating to trademarks and industrial designs. The CWS noted that the International Bureau plans to update the new Section considering the feedback from IP offices.

222. The CWS noted the suggestion by the Delegation of Russian Federation to add the following statuses: “partial implementation” and “outdated” to the new Section.

223. Analysis of the ATRs collected shows strong adoption of core WIPO Standards. For patents, WIPO Standards ST.3, ST.9, ST.26, and ST.36 have been implemented by over 20 IP offices, while newer WIPO Standards such as ST.92 were in the planning or implementation phase in 16 IP offices. For trademarks, WIPO Standard ST.3 was widely implemented by 26 Offices, whereas WIPO Standards ST.13, ST.61, and ST.90 show mixed implementation status, with several IP offices still planning or in the implementation phase. WIPO Standards on industrial designs display similar trends: Standards ST.3, ST.80, and ST.81 were largely

implemented, while ST.87, ST.90, and ST.91 remained in the planning phase or have low adoption.

224. The CWS noted that the International Bureau has been working on improving the means of ATR collection and publication platform to make it more user-friendly and to enhance data analysis. A more intuitive interface and improved structuring are expected to facilitate efficient reporting and enable better comparison of implementation statuses across Offices.

225. The CWS noted the report provided by the International Bureau, in particular the statistics relating to the implementation of WIPO Standards, collected through ATRs. The CWS also considered the listed WIPO Standards and options in the ATR templates and requested the Secretariat to review and update the template if needed.

Agenda Item 9: CWS Work Program

226. Discussions were based on document CWS/13/31 Rev. 2.

227. The Secretariat introduced the CWS Work Program, presenting an updated List of Tasks, its analysis of complexity and activity levels on each Task, and proposals for Task prioritization. The Secretariat noted that the Work Program currently includes 22 Tasks, two of which are held in abeyance. The Secretariat also indicated that there are currently 13 active Task Forces, with 72 participating CWS Members and three CWS Observers, who attended 41 Task Force meetings held since the last session of the CWS.

228. Regarding the task complexity and activity levels, the CWS noted that activity levels were categorized as "very active", "active", "occasional", or "ad hoc", and complexity levels were categorized as “low”, “medium”, “high”, or “not applicable”. For the Task prioritization, each Task was accessed as "essential" or "important" based on their relevance to WIPO Standards, ongoing implementation, or preparation for future CWS sessions.

229. The CWS considered and supported the analysis of Task complexity and activity level, and the proposal for Task prioritization, as presented by the Secretariat in Annex II to document CWS/13/31 Rev. 2.

230. Regarding the structure of the CWS agenda, the Delegation of Germany indicated that the structure of the agenda could be improved to ensure that working documents relating to a particular Task Force or Task could be discussed together. The Delegations of Australia, Brazil, Denmark, India, Kenya, Norway, Singapore, United Kingdom and the United States of America as well as the Representative of the European Patent Office supported the grouping of Agenda items by topic, as was done previously, for example, at the ninth session of the CWS. The Secretariat agreed to consider this suggestion at the next session.

231. The Delegation of Nigeria underscored the importance of technical assistance and capacity building for IP offices implementing WIPO Standards, particularly WIPO Standard ST.26.

232. The CWS encouraged its Members and Observers to participate in the CWS Task Forces and requested the Secretariat to issue a CWS circular inviting IP offices to nominate their subject matter experts to the CWS Task Forces.

233. The CWS approved that the Secretariat incorporate the agreements reached at this session as the updated CWS Work Program and publish the updated CWS Work Program Overview on the WIPO website. The updated Task List is presented as Annex II to this report.

MEETINGS OF THE CWS TASK FORCES

234. During this session, the following CWS Task Forces held meetings: Digital Transformation, Sequence Listings, Name Standardization and IP Data Exchange Task Forces, where any interested participants and Members of the relevant Task Force were invited.

235. The Delegation of the United States of America, as the Digital Transformation Task Force Leader, provided a summary of the outcomes of the Task Force meeting. The discussions were focused on Task No. 62 for the DOCX2XML converter specification, and Task No. 65 for WIPO Standard ST.92. Regarding Task No. 62, Task Force members shared their experiences, and the International Bureau confirmed the availability of a converter tool via ePCT. The CWS noted that the Task Force would continue the discussion and finalize a recommendation for consideration at the next CWS session. Regarding Task No. 65, the Task Force discussed possible use cases to implement WIPO Standard ST.92 by IP offices in a harmonized way within the agreed transition period.

236. The Representative of the EPO, as the Sequence Listings Task Force leader, provided a summary of the outcomes of the Task Force meeting. The Task Force reviewed the lessons learned from the entry into force of WIPO Standard ST.26 in 2022, and it discussed plans for the implementation of the new version 2.0. The Task Force emphasized user awareness and supported the International Bureau conducting campaign to promote the new version as well as planning the rollout of the WIPO Sequence Suite. The Task Force agreed that there would be no further revisions to WIPO Standard ST.26 presented for approval by the Committee before the entry into force of version 2.0. The Task Force 2026 work plan was agreed on, which includes preparing for the implementation of version 2.0 and supporting testing for new versions of the WIPO Sequence Suite. The International Bureau demonstrated version 3.1.0 of the WIPO Sequence Suite and noted Task Force's feedback for further improvement.

237. The Delegation of Japan, as an IP Data Exchange Task Force co-Leader, provided a summary of the outcomes of the Task Force meeting. The Task Force discussed a draft survey to gather IP offices' practices and suggestions for IP data exchange recommendation. Task Members provided comments, and further coordination on revising the draft survey and draft recommendation will continue within the Task Force.

238. The CWS noted the results of the Digital Transformation, Sequence Listings, and IP Data Exchange Task Force meetings.

Agenda Item 10: Summary by the Chair

239. The Summary by the Chair was prepared and published on the meeting page. The CWS approved the Summary by the Chair during the session.

Agenda Item 11: Closing of the session

240. The meeting was closed by the acting Chairs on November 14, 2025.

Adoption of the report of the session

241. This report was adopted by the participants to the thirteenth session of the CWS via an e-forum.

[Annex I follows]

I. ÉTATS/STATES

(dans l'ordre alphabétique des noms français des États)
(in alphabetical order of the names in French)

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[Annex II follows]

TASK LIST

(a) Tasks discontinued at this session:

Task No. 52: Prepare a proposal for the update of the WIPO Handbook Part 6.1 "Recommended minimum contents for intellectual property offices' websites".

(b) Tasks created at this session and on which work has not started:

No Tasks were created at this session.

(c) Tasks revised at this session:

Task No. 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 and API Task Forces to improve existing XML components and to develop JSON components respectively for legal statuses, where necessary.

Task No. 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, 2028.

(d) Tasks on which work remains to be done:

Task No. 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).

Task No. 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.

Task No. 50: Ensure the necessary maintenance and update of surveys published in Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook on Intellectual Property Information and Documentation.

Task No. 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.

Task No. 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.

Task No. 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.

Task No. 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.

Task No. 62: Review paper or image-based WIPO Standards 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.

Task No. 63: Develop visual representation(s) of XML data, based on WIPO XML Standards, for electronic publication.

Task No. 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; and undertake any necessary revisions and updates to WIPO Standard ST.37.

Task No. 67: Analyze existing practices and challenges experienced by IP offices with a view to explore solutions to improve global IP data exchange.

(e) Tasks to ensure continuous maintenance of WIPO Standards:

Task No. 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.

Task No. 61: Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.91, including methods of search for 3D models and 3D images.

Task No. 64: Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.97.

(f) Tasks of continuing activity and/or information nature:

Task No. 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.

Task No. 33: Ongoing revision of WIPO Standards.

Task No. 33/3: Ongoing revision of WIPO Standard ST.3.

(g) Tasks on which work has been held in abeyance:

Task No. 43:	Prepare guidelines for implementation by industrial property offices, regarding paragraph numbering, long paragraphs, and consistent rendering of patent documents.
Task No. 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.

[End of Annex II and of document]