

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Thirteenth Session
Geneva, November 10 to 14, 2025

REPORT ON TASK NO. 52 BY THE PUBLIC ACCESS TO PATENT INFORMATION TASK FORCE

Document prepared by the PAPI Task Force Leader

SUMMARY

1. The Public Access to Patent Information (PAPI) Task Force is responsible for Task No. 52 and presents this report on the progress made since the twelfth session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS). In line with its mandate, the Task Force has worked on a proposal to update the Part 6.1 “Recommended minimum contents for intellectual property offices’ websites” of the WIPO Handbook on Intellectual Property Information and Documentation, which is submitted for the consideration and approval of the CWS at this session.

BACKGROUND

2. At its reconvened fourth session held in 2016, the CWS noted the request and information provided by the Patent Documentation Group (PDG) regarding the requirements for national and regional patent registers. In particular, the CWS agreed to document the practices of Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs) with respect to the content, functionalities and future plans of their patent registers (see Annex III to document CWS/4BIS/6).

3. In response to this request, at its fifth session in 2017, the CWS created Task No. 52 whose description reads as follows:

“Survey on content and functionalities of systems for providing access to publicly available patent information of industrial property offices, as well as future plans with respect to their publication practices; prepare recommendations for systems for providing access to publicly available patent information of industrial property offices.”

The International Bureau was designated as the Task Force Leader. (See paragraphs 94 to 100 of document CWS/5/22.)

4. At its seventh session in 2019, the CWS considered the Public Access to Patent Information questionnaire, presented by the PAPI Task Force. It approved Part 1 of the questionnaire and referred Part 2 back to the PAPI Task Force for further discussion. (See paragraphs 197 and 201 of document CWS/7/29.)

5. At its eighth session in 2020, the CWS noted the results of the survey on the content, practices, functionalities and plans of IPOs with respect to patent information available to the public, to which 60 IPOs responded. The CWS approved the publication of the PAPI survey results, as set out in the Annex to document CWS/8/10 (see paragraphs 71 and 72 of document CWS/8/24). The survey is now available on the WIPO website as [Part 7.18.1: Survey on public access to patent information, Part 1](#). At the same session, the CWS also approved the revised questionnaire for Part 2 of the survey, as presented by the PAPI Task Force.

6. At its ninth session in 2021, the CWS took note of the results of Part 2 of the PAPI survey. The CWS approved publication of the survey results and analysis in [Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook](#). At the same session, the CWS approved the revision to the description of Task No. 52, which reads:

“Prepare recommendations for systems for providing access to publicly available patent information of intellectual property offices.”

(See paragraphs 84 to 88 of document CWS/9/25.)

7. At its eleventh session in 2023, the CWS took note of the proposals to transfer the responsibility for updating Part 6 of the WIPO Handbook from the Digital Transformation Task Force within the remit of Task No. 62. The CWS also noted the letter from the PDG in support of updates to Part 6 of the WIPO Handbook, including a proposal, which was reproduced as the Annex to document CWS/11/12. The CWS approved the proposal, consequently approving the update to the description of Task No. 52, which now reads:

“Prepare a proposal for the update of the WIPO Handbook Part 6.1: Recommended minimum contents for intellectual property offices’ websites”

(see paragraph 92 of document CWS/11/28).

8. At its twelfth session in 2024, the CWS noted that the PAPI Task Force plans to present a proposal for the update of WIPO Handbook Part 6.1 for consideration at its thirteenth session (see paragraph 47 of document CWS/12/29).

PROGRESS REPORT ON TASK NO. 52

Objectives

9. The objective of Task No. 52 is to prepare a proposal to update the WIPO Handbook Part 6.1 for IPOs, setting out the recommended minimum content for their websites.

Relevant actions for 2025

10. The PAPI Task Force reviewed the proposal contained in the Annex to document [CWS/11/12](#), as well as the results of the relevant CWS surveys published in WIPO Handbook Parts 7.18 (*Public Access to Patent Information*) and 7.19 (*Practices for Digital Transformation*). Based on this review, the Task Force analyzed the types of information that patent information experts and users expect to find on IPOs websites, as well as the extent to which such information is currently provided. Building on this analysis, the Task Force has prepared a set of revised recommendations to update Part 6.1 of the WIPO Handbook, which is presented in the Annex to document CWS/13/24.

Potential challenges or dependencies

- Task priority within IPOs: Varying levels of priority assigned to this initiative may lead to limited participation and resource allocation within IPOs.
- Engagement of the IP industry: The success of the Task Force is closely related to the interest, input and active involvement of stakeholders in the IP industry.
- Internal website policies of IPOs: Differences in policies governing website content and management may present coordination and alignment challenges across IPOs.

Progress evaluation

11. The PAPI Task Force held two meetings on April 29 and on July 29, 2025. At the meetings, the Task force reviewed the proposal outlined in the Annex to document [CWS/11/12](#), as well as the results of relevant CWS surveys published as WIPO Handbook Part 7.18 (*Public Access to Patent Information*) and Part 7.19 (*Practices for Digital Transformation*).

12. The Task Force analyzed the types of information and services that intellectual property experts and users expect to find on IPO websites, as well as the extent to which this information is currently provided. Based on this analysis, the Task Force revised recommendations to update Part 6.1 of the WIPO Handbook. The draft was posted on the PAPI Task Force wiki from July to August 2025 for two rounds of discussion among Task Force members. Feedback received was incorporated into the final proposal, which is reproduced in the Annex to document CWS/13/24 for consideration and approval by the CWS.

PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE TASK NO. 52 AND THE PAPI TASK FORCE

13. If the CWS approves the proposed recommendations for updating Part 6.1 of the WIPO Handbook contained in the Annex to document CWS/13/24 at this session, Task No. 52 could be considered completed. Therefore, the International Bureau, as the Task Force leader, proposes that Task No. 52 be closed. Consequently, the International Bureau also proposes to discontinue the PAPI Task Force.

14. *The CWS is invited to:*

(a) note the content of this document; and

(b) consider and approve the proposal to discontinue Task No. 52 and the PAPI Task Force as described in paragraph 13 above.

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