

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

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**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**

Document prepared by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. This report aims to implement the decision taken by the General Assembly in 2011 relating to the mandate of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) and to provide regular written reports on the details of activities undertaken during the year 2024, in which the Secretariat or the International Bureau of WIPO “endeavor[ed] to provide technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IP Offices (IPOs) by undertaking projects regarding dissemination of IP Standards information” (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19). Further information on technical assistance activities undertaken by the Organization is available under the Technical Assistance Database (www.wipo.int/tad).

2. As WIPO Standards are implemented in various WIPO information systems and WIPO software such as the WIPO Sequence Suite and IP Office Business Solutions, the following activities also implicitly cover dissemination of relevant IP Standards information.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ADVICE ON THE USE OF WIPO STANDARDS

3. In 2024, the International Bureau provided technical advice to assist IPOs and users to utilize WIPO Standards through emails and online conferences, including the implementation of WIPO Standards ST.26 and ST.96, and the production of authority files compliant with WIPO Standard ST.37.

4. Following on from last year's proof of concept (POC) for the technical public disclosure of plant variety sequence data, the International Bureau launched a new Task Force to further investigate and scope the addition of this data into PATENTSCOPE. The Indonesian National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) has partnered with the International Bureau, through the WIPO Academy, to provide genomic sequences for popular plant varieties. As the sequence data was to be transformed into WIPO Standard ST.26 format, training was provided to BRIN on both WIPO Standard ST.26 and WIPO Sequence.

5. In response to feedback from both IP Offices and users, the International Bureau launched a new WIPO Sequence Suite development project focused on improving the performance of XML validation. To achieve this goal, an updated technology stack was implemented for both WIPO Sequence and WIPO Sequence Validator. This complete overhaul of both components has required extensive testing to ensure that the implementation is functionally equivalent to version 2.3.0. The International Bureau launched the new version of the WIPO Sequence Validator, version 3.0.0, in the third quarter of 2024. The International Bureau took a more cautious approach in releasing WIPO Sequence to users, in light of the stability of version 2.3.0. In 2024, it was planned to release version 3.0.0 to a pilot group of users, known as the *WIPO Sequence Insider* group, in quarter 2 of 2025.

6. Regarding technical assistance in the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.26 and WIPO Sequence, the International Bureau was invited to present at two webinars on this topic, including one as part of WIPO Academy course DL-427.

7. In response to the request made by the CWS during its eighth session, the Application Programming Interface (API) Catalog for Intellectual Property was launched in July 2024. This unified platform provides a comprehensive list of APIs offered by various IP institutions for their products and services. In 2024, the International Bureau supported nine IP offices including a total of 177 APIs in the Catalog. Additionally, the International Bureau prepared and published two detailed guides in six UN languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish: the [API Catalog User Guide](#), which assists users in navigating and utilizing the platform, and the [API Catalog IP Institution Guide](#), which explains how IP institutions can make their APIs available through the Catalog. To further support IP offices in submitting OpenAPI Specification (OAS) files that meet the minimum requirements, the International Bureau also provided [JSON](#) and [YAML](#) templates.

8. The Secretariat continues to be committed to providing technical assistance and training regarding WIPO Standards on demand, depending on the availability of resources.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE IN IP INSTITUTIONS USING WIPO STANDARDS

9. WIPO's program of IP Office Business Solutions aims to enhance national and regional IPOs' business systems and technical infrastructure in order to help them provide more cost-effective and higher-quality services to their own stakeholders. The assistance provided is aligned with the Development Agenda recommendations aiming at strengthening institutional and technical infrastructure of IPOs and other institutions. The services include technical consultancy; business needs assessment; project scoping and planning; business process analysis; ongoing development and deployment of customized business systems solutions for the administration of IP rights and for the exchange of priority documents and of search and examination results; establishment of IP databases; assistance with digitization of IP records and preparation of data for online publications and electronic data exchange; training and knowledge transfer to staff of IP institutions and support for the systems provided by WIPO. The assistance takes into account WIPO Standards on IP data and information where appropriate. On-site or virtual training, mentoring and regional training workshops account for a significant portion of the activities and are critical in achieving the desired results.

10. At the end of 2024, 91 IPOs from developing countries in all regions were actively using WIPO's IP Office Business Solutions for the administration of their IP rights, in which WIPO Standards are integrated. Sixty IPOs were participating in one of the online exchange platforms offered by WIPO (the Centralized Access to Search and Examination and the Digital Access Service). A key focus is to upgrade the service level of IPOs by assisting them to move to online services for filing and for IP information dissemination. More information is available on the website of WIPO's technical assistance program for IPOs at:

https://www.wipo.int/global_ip/en/activities/ip_office_business_solutions/

11. Under WIPO's program of Global Databases, the International Bureau has continued to be supported by the Japan Fund-in-Trust program, to assist Member States in creating high quality full text for their patent publications. For the Japan Fiscal year of 2024, 14,951 patent documents (totalling 1,117,745 description and claims pages) from the Mexican patent office were OCRed, proofread, transformed into XML before being loaded into PATENTSCOPE.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF IP OFFICERS AND EXAMINERS FOR THE UTILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL TOOLS

12. Following requests, the International Bureau provided a training seminar on the use of IPC Classification for patent examiners, which was organized on June 24 and 28, 2024, jointly with the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Intellectual Property Management (RGNIIIPM) and Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks of India via an online platform on General Patent Search and Examination for Asia. In this context, the relevance of related WIPO Standards was explained.

BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WIPO STANDARDS

13. In order to increase awareness of WIPO Standards in developing countries and to facilitate the physical participation by more developing countries in the preparation of new or revised WIPO Standard(s), following the decision of the General Assembly in October 2011, the participation at the twelfth session of the CWS of 10 developing or least developed countries (LDCs) was funded by the International Bureau.

IP DATA EXCHANGE

14. The International Bureau has been working together with many IPOs, particularly in certain groups of developing countries, to promote the exchange of IP data 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. The trademark collections of the following countries/regional organizations have been included in Global Brand Database during the year 2024: St Vincent and the Grenadines, Qatar, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Sao Tome and Principe, ARIPO and OAPI, while the patent collections of the following countries have been included in PATENTSCOPE during the year 2024: Hungary, Türkiye and Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.

15. *The CWS is invited to take note of the 2024 activities of the International Bureau, related to providing technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IPOs, regarding dissemination of IP standards information. This document will serve as a basis of the relevant report to be presented to the WIPO General Assembly to be held in 2026, as requested at its 40th session held in October 2011 (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19).*

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