



ST.26 Implementation of WIPO Standards

Kenya's Journey towards Implementation

Geneva, November 2025

Kenya's Transformative Journey (1)

- ❖ The transition from the familiar, often paper-based, WIPO Standard ST.25 to the entirely digital, XML-centric ST.26 has been a truly transformative experience for examiners at KIPi.
- ❖ It represented a significant shift in our daily operations and technical landscape.
- ❖ The "big bang" implementation of ST.26 wasn't just a policy change; it necessitated substantial internal reforms to meet new technical requirements and ensure our processes aligned seamlessly with other WIPO standards and international obligations.
- ❖ A primary technical challenge for our examiners involved the intricate validation of ST.26 sequence listings. This meant meticulously verifying the completeness, structural integrity, and scientific accuracy of complex XML-based submissions - a far cry from previous formats and requiring new software competencies.

Kenya's Transformative Journey(2)

- ❖ Despite facing resource constraints common in many developing nations, Kenya adopted a determined and proactive approach to learning and adaptation.
- ❖ Our commitment to successful implementation never wavered.
- ❖ This practical approach included active participation in the CWS sessions and the crucial Sequence Listing Task Force, allowing our technical teams to engage directly with global experts.
- ❖ These direct engagements provided invaluable, real-world insights that were instrumental in shaping and refining Kenya's national implementation strategy, enabling us to tackle challenges head-on and adapt effectively.

Milestones and Progress

- ❖ **Crucial Examiner Training:** We held a pivotal online training session, expertly led by Ms. Emma Francis with invaluable support from the WIPO Secretariat. It gave our examiners hands-on guidance on ST.26 specifications, clarified common submission errors.
- ❖ **Deploying Our Advanced Online Filing System:** We're in the final stages of rolling out a new online filing system, developed with critical technical assistance from WIPO.
- ❖ **Fostering Strategic Collaborations and Developing Essential Tools:** We recognize ST.26 is an evolving standard, so we're actively collaborating to stay ahead. Our partnership with WIPO is focused on developing specialized online tools for filing and management.

Ongoing Challenges and Call for Support

- ❖ **Navigating resource constraints:** ST.26 transition continues to demand significant resources that are challenging for our office to sustain. It's a constant struggle to upgrade our technical infrastructure to reliably handle large datasets and complex XML processing, all while ensuring uninterrupted service.
- ❖ **Keeping pace with evolving standards:** The ST.26 guidelines are dynamic, and staying current requires continuous learning and system adjustments. For a smaller office like ours, adapting to every update and refinement.
- ❖ **Bridging Diverse Knowledge gaps:** We work with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, from our own patent office staff to applicants and practitioners, all with varying levels of technical proficiency.
- ❖ **A Plea for Targeted Assistance:** To overcome these challenges and truly achieve full ST.26 compliance, we humbly appeal for further, more focused assistance from WIPO and this Committee (**Advanced, Hands-on Training, Customized Capacity Building eg applicants and examiners, Peer-to-Peer Knowledge Exchange**)

Kenya's Commitment

- ❖ Kenya reaffirms its commitment to this Committee and the global advancement of the international patent system.
- ❖ We stand ready, not just to share our journey and hard-won lessons, but to actively partner with fellow Member States.
- ❖ We aspire to serve as a bridge, fostering dialogue and collaboration between diverse IP offices to ensure inclusive growth and shared progress for all.
- ❖ Together, we can forge a path forward where no nation is left behind in embracing the future of intellectual property.
- ❖ Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair, for this invaluable opportunity to contribute to our collective mission.