

## **Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

**Thirteenth Session**  
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### **REPORT ON TASKS NO. 56 AND NO. 64 BY THE API TASK FORCE**

*Document prepared by the API Task Force Co-Leaders*

#### **SUMMARY**

1. The API Task Force, responsible for Tasks No. 56 and No. 64, is presenting this report to summarize the progress that has been made since the last session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS). It outlines developments related to the ongoing revision of WIPO Standards ST.90 and ST.97, as well as improvement to the API Catalog for Intellectual Property.

#### **BACKGROUND**

2. At its seventh session the CWS established the API Task Force and assigned Task No. 56, which was initially undertaken by the XML4IP Task Force (see paragraph 51 of document CWS/7/29). Currently, the API Task Force is co-led by the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

3. At its eighth session, the CWS adopted WIPO Standard ST.90 on “Recommendation for Processing and Communicating Intellectual Property Data Using Web APIs (Application Programming Interfaces)” (see paragraph 15 of CWS/8/24).

4. At its tenth session, the CWS adopted WIPO Standard ST.97 on “Recommendation for the Processing of Intellectual Property Data Using JSON”. Alongside this adoption, the CWS revised the description of Task No. 64 and assigned it to the API Task Force. The revised description of Task No. 64 reads as follows:

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

(See paragraphs 43 and 44 of document CWS/10/22.)

Additionally, at the same session, the CWS approved the revision of WIPO Standard ST.90, version 1.1, to align it with the newly adopted Standard ST.97 (see paragraph 48 of document CWS/10/2).

5. At its twelfth session, the CWS further revised the description of Task No. 56, which reads as follows:

*“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 (IP) and facilitate further participation of IP institutions in the API Catalog.”*

(See paragraph 60 of document CWS/12/29.)

## PROGRESS ON TASK NO. 56

### Objectives

6. The primary objective of Task No. 56 is to ensure the timely revision of WIPO Standard ST.90, as needed, and to assist the International Bureau in promoting both WIPO ST.90 and the API Catalog for Intellectual Property.

### Relevant actions for 2025

7. The following priorities related to Task No. 56 were identified for the calendar year of 2025:

- Support the ongoing development and evolution of the API Catalog for Intellectual Property;
- Continue engaging with participating IP offices to gather feedback and suggestions for improving WIPO Standard ST.90, and maintain these in the improvement register; and
- Prepare a formal proposal for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.90.

### Potential challenges or dependencies

8. The API Task Force identified potential challenges to achieve its goals, including guaranteeing the participation of IP offices in Task Force activities and overcoming time and resource constraints. Despite these challenges, important milestones have been achieved, as outlined below.

### Progress evaluation

9. Throughout 2025, the API Task Force held quarterly virtual meetings to discuss potential improvements to WIPO Standards ST.90 and ST.97. From July 21 to 24, 2025, the API and XML4IP Task Forces also jointly convened a hybrid meeting in Geneva. The goal of this meeting was to advance WIPO Standards ST.90, ST.96, and ST.97. The progress achieved by the API Task Force is outlined below.

### *API Catalog for Intellectual Property*

10. Launched in July 2024, the API Catalog for Intellectual Property serves as a comprehensive platform, offering access to a wide range of APIs from IP offices around the world. At the time of preparing this document, the catalog features 179 APIs from 10 IP offices, including: IP Australia, the European Patent Office (EPO), EUIPO, the German Patent and Trademark Office (DPMA), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), the Ministry of Intellectual Property (MOIP) – the former Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), the National Institute of

Intellectual Property of Kazakhstan (QAZ Patent), the Ukrainian Patent Office (UPRP), the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). This unified platform enables users to search for APIs offered by the IP offices participating in the API Catalog.

11. Significant progress has been made in enhancing the functionality of the API Catalog for Intellectual Property. An admin filter management interface has been developed to streamline administrative tasks, and OpenSearch integration has improved search accuracy, including exact phrase searches using quotation marks. To better serve a global audience, the API Catalog for Intellectual Property now offers a fully translated user interface and documentation in 10 languages: Arabic, Chinese, German, English, French, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. Upon the Task Force's request, the International Bureau is publishing monthly API usage statistics on the Task Force's wiki, showing an increasing interest in the portal.

#### *Joint API-XML4IP Task Force*

12. A Joint API and XML4IP Task Force meeting took place in Geneva from July 21 to 24, 2025, and was held in a hybrid format. The following 15 IP offices and organizations were represented at the meeting: the Austrian Patent Office (APO), IP Australia, the National Institute of Industrial Property Brazil (INPI Brazil), CIPO, the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI CH), the Danish Patent and Trademark Office (DKPTO), EPO, EUIPO, MOIP, the Korean Copyright Commission (KCC), the Federal Service for Intellectual Property (ROSPATENT), the Ukrainian National Office for Intellectual Property and Innovations (UANIPPO), the United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office (UK IPO), USPTO and the International Bureau.

13. Over four days, participants engaged in detailed discussions on the revision of WIPO Standards ST.97, ST.90 and ST.96, with a particular focus on, refining design rules and simplifying JSON schema of WIPO Standard ST.97 as well as improving XSD2JSON transformation tool. The meeting also addressed the development of a centralized repository for customized IP office schemas and reviewed the API Catalog for Intellectual Property improvement. The agenda was structured to maximize collaborative inputs: Days 1 and 2 focused on WIPO ST.97 revisions, including the review and finalization of Annex III example instances for `trademarkApplication`, `designApplication`, and `patentPublication`. Day 3 covered the WIPO ST.90 revision, proposed publication windows for WIPO ST.97, and strategic discussions on the API Catalog for Intellectual Property improvement, promotion and usability. Day 4 concluded with presentations on customized WIPO ST.96 and ST.36 schemas, finalization of the patent record schema, and a review of the draft meeting report. The meeting closed with a reaffirmation of the importance of continued alignment between WIPO ST.96 and ST.97 and a call for contributions to the centralized repository initiative.

#### *Revision and updates of the WIPO Standard ST.90*

14. Throughout 2025, the API Task Force continued its efforts to improve WIPO Standard ST.90 by managing proposed improvements through an Improvement Register. Significant progress was made in preparing a draft revision of WIPO ST.90. The proposed revisions were discussed at all Task Force meetings, on the wiki collaboration platform and most notably, at the joint meeting of API and XML4IP Task Forces. At this meeting, the task force reviewed and approved of all proposed improvements to the standard. Consequently, the Task Force agreed to submit the proposal for WIPO Standard ST.90, version 2.0, to the thirteenth session of the CWS for approval. Further details on the proposed revision of WIPO Standard ST.90 are available in document CWS/13/19.

## PROGRESS ON TASK NO. 64

### Objectives

15. In undertaking Task No. 64, the Task Force aims to deliver the necessary revisions and updates to WIPO Standard ST.97.

### Relevant actions for 2025

16. The planned actions for 2025, were to review the history of development for the WIPO Standard ST.97 and collect outstanding issues in a dedicated Improvement Register. The Task Force also collaborated on exploring ways to simplify the hierarchy of JSON schemas to ensure compatibility with the WIPO ST.96 XML structure.

### Potential challenges or dependencies

17. The API Task Force identified potential challenges and dependencies in conducting this Task including:

- Maintaining the compatibility of WIPO Standard ST.97 across future revisions of WIPO ST.96. Future revisions to WIPO Standards ST.96 and ST.97 may need to be aligned and/or reference each other where appropriate. When adopted in 2022, the JSON schemas of WIPO Standard have been developed based on WIPO Standard ST.96 version 5.0, however currently WIPO ST.96 has been revised to version 9.0. The Task Force has determined that there is no need to update WIPO ST.97 each time WIPO Standard ST.96 is revised;
- Reducing the complexity inherited from WIPO ST.96, with the goal to develop a clear and good version of WIPO ST.97 which facilitates the maximum adoption among the IP offices; and
- Dependency on the XSD2JSON transformation tool, which is used to develop WIPO ST.97 JSON schemas based on WIPO ST.96. The USPTO has been upgrading the tool, which will be used for generating the draft of WIPO ST.97 version 2.0 in 2026. Testing of the tool and feedback by the Task Force members would be critical to assure good quality of the JSON schemas produced.

### Progress evaluation

18. The work carried out by the Task Force in 2025 for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.97 focused on:

- Simplifying JSON schemas for trademark, design and patent data;
- Improving transformation tools from XML to JSON;
- Resolving technical inconsistencies documented in the Improvement Register; and
- Aligning WIPO ST.97 with ST.96 version 9.0.

19. At the API Task Force meeting on May 8, 2025, a decision was made to organize preparatory discussions to draft a proposal for revising WIPO Standard ST.97. The purpose of these revisions was to support discussions ahead of the joint meeting of the API and XML4IP Task Forces. Members of both task forces were invited to participate in the preparatory discussions. Experts from the International Bureau, IP Australia, INPI Brazil, CIPO, EUIPO, Rospatent, UKIPO and USPTO contributed a broad range of expertise to this initiative. Between June and July 2025, the International Bureau facilitated three preparatory meetings to advance this work. The key objectives of the aforementioned meetings were to advance the review of the WIPO Standard ST.97 Improvement Register and to prepare draft revisions that specifically address the following:

- WIPO ST.97 Annex III `trademarkApplication` example;
- WIPO ST.97 Annex III `designApplication` example;
- WIPO ST.97 Annex III `patentPublication` example; and
- Improvement of XSD2JSON Transformation Tool and production of new JSON Schema examples.

The Task Force co-leaders and the Secretariat collected the outcome of the three preparatory meetings, updated the issue register and presented it to the joint API and XML4IP Task Force meeting for discussion and approval.

20. At the joint API and XML4IP Task Force meeting, the API Task Force discussed on JSON schemas simplification and developed sample instances, including `TrademarkApplication`, `DesignApplication` and `PatentPublication`. Through constructive dialogue and expert input, the Task Force achieved consensus on how to effectively address a range of JSON structure enhancements documented in the Improvement Register for WIPO Standard ST.97.

21. Issues closed during the joint API and XML4IP Task Force meeting are as follows:

- Issue ID 1: Bag suffix vs. plural property names (JGD-18), was closed with the conclusion that the component names of the WIPO Standard ST.97 should continue to make use of 'Bag' as a suffix to indicate plural, independent of whether the bag contains a series of identical components or a plurality of different components;
- Issue ID 2: Inline descriptive terms vs. single-property objects (JGD-23), was closed with the conclusion to remove the Rule JGD-23 in the next version of WIPO Standard ST.97;
- Issue ID 3: JSON material links, was closed as the links were corrected by the Secretariat;
- Issue ID 4: Unnecessary nesting in collections, was closed with the conclusion that XML collections having cardinality of `maxOccurs = unbounded` will be replaced with a JSON type "array" in the resulting JSON instance and the unnecessary wrapper introduced by transformation from XML will be removed;

- Issue ID 5: Unnecessary nesting for choice included in a sequence with more elements, was closed with the conclusion to remove the unnecessary wrapper 'Choice1' and define the properties explicitly as type: "array" with `minItems:1` and items referencing their respective schemas and use the 'anyOf' constraint at the top level of complex type definition to enforce the rule that the object must contain at least one of the options (which are defined as array with at least one item);
- Issue ID 7: Use of "\$" for Simple Text Values, was closed with the conclusion to replace the reserved JSON keyword '\$' with 'value'; and
- Issue ID 8: Unnecessary Nesting in Inheritance (`xsd:extension`), was closed with the conclusion that the extension of complex types in XML will be transformed using the JSON structure 'allOf' which comprises a reference to the object being extended and an object with additional properties of the extension.

22. Issues that remained open after the joint API and XML4IP Task Force meeting, are as follows:

- Issue ID 6: Unnecessary arrays for `xsd:choice` with `maxOccurs="unbounded"`;
- Issue ID 9: Inadequate translation of `PhraseType` and mixed content; and
- Issue ID 10: Introducing version indicator.

23. In addition, the USPTO released an upgraded version of the XSD2JSON Transformation Tool resolving some of the JSON schema issues while continuing work to resolve the remaining issues. The Task Force members are encouraged to test the tool. The Task Force, at the time of preparing this document, is still working on revisions to WIPO Standard ST.97. At its meeting held in September, the Task Force agreed that the publication window for WIPO ST.97 version 2.0 to be the first week of June 2026, allowing sufficient time for testing, review as well as alignment with related WIPO Standards.

#### WORK PLAN

24. The API Task Force will continue its work on Tasks No. 56 and No. 64 and present below the activities which are planned for the period prior to the fourteenth session of the CWS.

#### API Catalog for Intellectual Property support and evolution

25. The Task Force will continue to support the International Bureau in improving and promoting the API Catalog for Intellectual Property.

#### WIPO Standard ST.90

26. Discussions will continue, and proposals will be solicited and listed on the Improvement Register of WIPO Standard ST.90 managed by the Task Force. This includes potential improvements to the Standard, as deemed necessary. The Task Force will share its implementation plans for WIPO Standard ST.90, as well as its experience conducting these plans. They will also share the results of the compatibility matrix assessment.

WIPO Standard ST.97

27. The Task Force will finalize and approve the revised version of WIPO Standard ST.97, incorporating solutions to the resolved issues. It will request the Secretariat to publish the revised WIPO Standard ST.97 in accordance with the agreed publication window. The Improvement Register for WIPO ST.97 will be maintained and updated as necessary. Simultaneously, the Task Force will continue to collect information from various Offices, with the aim of driving continuous improvements and simplifying WIPO ST.97, ensuring it can be easily adopted by both IP offices and industry stakeholders.

28. *The CWS is invited to:*

*(a) note the contents of the present document;*

*(b) note the availability of the API Catalog for Intellectual Property and encourage its Members and Observers to participate;*

*(c) encourage its Members and Observers to test the upgraded version XSD2JSON Transformation Tool as indicated in paragraph 23 above; and*

*(d) note the work plan of the API Task Force, as indicated in paragraphs 24 to 27 above.*

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