

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Thirteenth Session Geneva, November 10 to 14, 2025

REPORT ON TASK NO. 59 BY THE BLOCKCHAIN TASK FORCE

Document prepared by the Blockchain Task Force Leader

SUMMARY

1. The Blockchain Task Force is responsible for Task No. 59, which relates in part to the development of a new WIPO standard supporting the potential application of blockchain technology within the IP ecosystems. The Task Force reports progress on its activities, including working on further improving the draft standard since the last session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS).

BACKGROUND

2. At the eighth session of the CWS, held in November 2020, the Task Force presented a progress report of its activities (see document CWS/8/15). At the same session, the CWS also encouraged the Intellectual Property (IP) offices to participate in the discussions of the Blockchain Task Force and noted the significant benefits of working in collaboration with the private sector, universities and non-governmental organizations (see paragraphs 96 to 99 of document CWS/8/24).

3. The Task Force continued to work under Task No. 59, which was last amended at the seventh session of the CWS, and whose description reads as follows:

“Explore the possibility of using blockchain technology in the processes of providing Intellectual Property rights (IPRs) 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 ecosystems.”

(see paragraph 67 of document CWS/7/29).

PROGRESS REPORT ON TASK NO. 59

Objective

4. The main objective of Task No. 59 is to collect and analyze information relating to blockchain technologies and their application to the IP ecosystem; secondly, to develop a set of recommendations on blockchain technology for IP ecosystems.

Progress evaluation

5. Since the last session of the CWS, the Task Force Leader has continued to improve the draft of the new WIPO standard based on the extensive research carried out from 2019 to 2021.

6. The Task Force met online on May 20, 2025. At the meeting, the Task Force Leader presented preliminary results of its analysis on the list of potential use cases presented in the *Blockchain technologies and IP ecosystems: A WIPO white paper*, published in 2021 and gave a brief overview of each use case. It was noted that some of the presented use cases are too broad for the purpose of preparing recommendations for IP offices, while some use cases may be grouped.

7. Based on these preliminary results, the Task Force Leader identified the direction of the further work, which includes a revised list of use cases in the draft WIPO standard. The list of potential use cases may include the following topics:

- Timestamping as proof of existence for digital files;
- Digital identity verification for applicants;
- Distributed IP registers;
- Evidence of IP rights generation; and
- Priority document exchange systems.

8. The Task Force noted joint studies on blockchain and IP produced by the Offices of Singapore and Switzerland, whose results were presented at the first session of WIPO ICT Leadership Dialogue. During the Task Force meeting held in May, it was proposed to focus on one or two key areas for deeper study, referring to the joint study results as a useful reference. A suggestion was also made to engage with other IP offices that are already utilizing blockchain technology to gather further practical examples.

9. As part of the said ongoing study, the Task Force Leader reviewed publications related to blockchain available on the official websites of the Offices or Organizations. The following IP Offices from 15 member states and four Organizations appear to be most active regarding the use of blockchain technologies: Australia (AU), Greece (GR), Israel (IL), Japan (JP), New Zealand (NZ), Norway (NO), Philippines (PH), Russian Federation (RU), Singapore (SG), Slovakia (SK), Spain (ES), Sweden (SE), Switzerland (CH), United Kingdom (GB), United States of America (US), the European Patent Organization (EPO), the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). In this regard, their experience may serve as a main focus of further research. Among those IP offices, the most developed practical application of blockchain was mentioned on the EUIPO website, namely its authentication blockchain infrastructure.

Challenges

10. The Task Force faced the following critical challenges: lack of involvement from the Task Force members due to lack of experience implementing blockchain technologies in the IP domains. The Task Force requests the CWS to encourage IP offices, currently implementing or planning to implement the blockchain technology, to join the Task Force to share their experiences.

WORK PLAN

11. The Task Force informs the CWS of its work plan for 2025-2026 as follows:

Item	Description	Time frame
CWS/13	Task Force report at CWS/13	November 10-14, 2025
Improvement of the draft standard	Research and analyze the use cases of blockchain technologies in IP community, which utilize blockchain technologies, and further improve the draft standard.	2025 – 2026
Task Force meeting	Organize a Task Force virtual meeting to discuss the outcome of the research.	2026
Preparation for the CWS/14	To draft working documents for the next CWS session.	2026
CWS/14	Task Force report on CWS/14	2026

12. *The CWS is invited to:*

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

(b) *encourage IP offices to join the Task Force and to share their experiences as referred to in paragraph 10 above; and*

(c) *note the proposed workplan for the Blockchain Task Force, as indicated in paragraph 11 above.*

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