

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

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REPORT ON TASK NO. 67 BY THE IP DATA EXCHANGE TASK FORCE

Document prepared by the IP Data Exchange Task Force Co-Leaders

SUMMARY

1. The IP Data Exchange Task Force presents a progress report on Task No. 67, describing the work carried out since the last session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS). A survey was conducted on the practices and challenges of intellectual property (IP) data exchange between Offices; and the Task Force has been busy conducting the analysis. The Task Force is also presenting a working draft of a new standard being developed on IP Data exchange.

BACKGROUND

2. At the eleventh session of the CWS, the Delegations of Japan and Saudi Arabia presented separate proposals to resolve issues experienced in establishing intellectual property (IP) data exchange with other Offices. To find solutions, the two Delegations proposed to add two new separate Tasks to the CWS work program. The Delegation of Japan proposed the creation of a framework which establishes guidance on IP data exchange policies including authorization for third-party use, providing quality data at source, and data structure and format for exchange, preferably through use of WIPO Standards (see document CWS/11/16). The Delegation of Saudi Arabia proposed to create a global data exchange platform, under the supervision of WIPO, which aims to harmonize and standardize IP data provided by disparate sources (see document CWS/11/25).

3. At the same session, the CWS considered that the two proposals were interlinked and suggested that the two proponents work together to prepare and present a consolidated proposal with more concrete and achievable goals at its twelfth session (see paragraph 175 of document CWS/11/28).

4. At its twelfth session, after consideration of the project brief prepared by the Japan Patent Office (JPO) and the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) to include a new Task, the CWS approved the creation of Task No. 67, the description of which reads as follows:

“Analyze existing practices and challenges experienced by IP offices with a view to explore solutions to improve global IP data exchange.”

To undertake this Task, the CWS established the IP Data Exchange Task Force and designated JPO, SAIP and the International Bureau as the co-leaders of the Task Force. (See paragraphs 146 and 147 of document CWS/12/29.)

5. Following this decision, the Secretariat issued the circular C.CWS.188 on October 21, 2024, inviting IP offices to nominate experts to join the IP Data Exchange Task Force. At the time of preparation of this document, the Task Force comprises experts from 29 IP offices.

PROGRESS ON TASK NO. 67

Objective

Task No. 67 explicitly sets out one of its aims as improving global IP data exchange efficiency.

Progress Evaluation

6. Since the last session of the CWS, the IP Data Exchange Task Force has convened five online meetings, one in 2024 and four in 2025; to analyze practices and challenges encountered by IP offices, with the objective of identifying effective solutions to enhance global IP data exchange. At its first meeting held in November 2024, the Task Force agreed to the following workplan including key actions to be undertaken in 2025:

- Gather further data exchange practices, challenges and potential solutions within the Task Force Offices;
- Analyze practices and challenges gathered; and
- Prepare potential solutions to improve global IP data exchange.

7. Regarding the first action, a survey on ‘Practices and Challenges in IP Data Exchange’ was conducted within the Task Force. Twenty Task Force members responded to the survey, comprising Offices from the following Member States: Australia (AU), Brazil (BR), Canada (CA), China (CN), Croatia (HR), Ghana (GH), Honduras (HN), Japan (JP), Mexico (MX), Peru (PE), Poland (PL), Republic of Korea (KR), Russian Federation (RU), Saudi Arabia (SA), Ukraine (UA), United Kingdom (GB), United States of America (US) and Uruguay (UY); and the following regional Offices: the European Patent Organization (EP) and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EM).

8. At the Task Force meeting held in April 2025, several participants proposed completing the analysis of challenges prior to developing guidelines and technical solutions. They emphasized the importance of a detailed analysis for a deeper understanding of the reported issues. In response, the Task Force co-leaders encouraged the Task Force members to participate in the analysis.

9. In June 2025, an informal meeting was held between the International Bureau, the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), the European Patent Office (EPO), JPO, the Ministry of Intellectual Property (MOIP) – the former Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and SAIP to review the results of this survey. The discussion centered on the survey findings and underscored the need to establish a data exchange framework aligned with IP5 guidelines. The survey analysis was presented at the subsequent Task Force meeting and

posted to the Task Force wiki space. A detailed summary of the survey is included in the Annex of the present document. It should be noted that the copyright Office in Jordan posted a comment, but it has not been reflected in the summary as it did not answer to the survey questionnaire.

10. At the Task Force meeting held in June 2025, JPO presented a proposal to draft a new WIPO standard on IP data exchange and its use, building on the existing [IP5 Data Exchange Policy](#). There was broad consensus among the Task Force members to proceed with drafting the new standard based on the IP5 Policy, incorporating additional items as required.

11. As consensus was reached by the Task Force, the Task Force co-leaders prepared a working draft of the new standard on IP data exchange in cooperation with the EPO. A working draft of this standard has been submitted to the CWS for consideration and comments as the Annex to the document CWS/13/27.

CHALLENGES

12. The IP Data Exchange Task Force can report the following challenges and dependencies:

- Limited active participation and input from IP offices;
- The need to further analyze practices, challenges and suggestions related to global IP data exchange to finalize a draft standard document; and
- Requirements to explore potential solutions to improve global IP data exchange.

WORK PLAN

13. The Task Force co-leaders plan to present a final proposal for the new standard on the IP data exchange framework and its use for consideration and adoption at the fourteenth session of the CWS. In this regard, the Task Force co-leaders propose a new survey to gather IP offices' practices and suggestions to facilitate IP data exchange. Therefore, the following activities are considered priorities for the upcoming year:

- The Task Force co-leaders to prepare a draft survey questionnaire based on the decision of CWS/13 if the CWS approves to conduct a survey (from December 2025 to January 2026);
- The Task Force to discuss and approve the draft survey questionnaire (February 2026);
- The Secretariat to conduct the survey and collect responses (from March to April 2026);
- The Task Force to compile and analyze the survey results (May 2026);
- The Task Force to further improve the draft standard considering the outcomes of the survey (from June to August 2026);
- The Task Force to present the survey analysis at the fourteenth session of the CWS (November 2026); and
- The Task Force to present the final proposal for consideration and adoption at the fourteenth session of the CWS (November 2026).

14. *The CWS is invited to:*

(a) note the contents of the present document and its Annex;

(b) note the challenges and work plan of the IP Data Exchange Task Force as indicated in paragraphs 12 and 13 above; and

(c) consider and approve the proposed survey referred to in paragraph 13 above.

[Annex follows]

ANALYSIS OF SURVEY RESULTS ON PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) DATA EXCHANGE

Document prepared by IP Data Exchange Task Force Co-Leaders

BACKGROUND

The IP Data Exchange Task Force was established at the twelfth session of the CWS. In line with the IP Data Exchange Task Force Workplan, the Task Force agreed to conduct a survey within the Task Force Offices to collect existing practices and challenges experienced by the Task Force Offices as regards to IP data exchange. The survey was conducted from January 27 to April 23, 2025. Twenty Task Force members responded to the survey, comprising Offices from the following Member States: Australia (AU), Brazil (BR), Canada (CA), China (CN), Croatia (HR), Ghana (GH), Honduras (HN), Japan (JP), Mexico (MX), Peru (PE), Poland (PL), Republic of Korea (KR), Russian Federation (RU), Saudi Arabia (SA), Ukraine (UA), United Kingdom (GB), United States of America (US) and Uruguay (UY); and the following regional Offices: the European Patent Office (EP) and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EM). Of the responding Offices, 19 actively share IP data with other IP offices. It should be noted that the copyright Office in Jordan posted a comment, but it has not been reflected in the present analysis as it did not answer to the survey questionnaire.

NATIONAL LAWS GOVERNING IP DATA EXCHANGE

Twelve out of 20 IP offices reported having national laws or regulations governing the sharing or exchange of IP data beyond their jurisdiction.

IP DOMAINS EXCHANGED

- Patent (18 IP offices);
- Trademark and industrial design (15 each);
- Geographical Indication (6); and
- Others like copyright, plant breeders rights, topologies of integrated circuits computer programs (1 each).

TYPES OF IP DATA EXCHANGED

- Bibliographic or abstract data (17 IP offices);
- Full text of claims or descriptions (14); and
- Legal status (12), Office actions (9), IP gazettes (13).

FILE FORMAT USED ON IP DATA EXCHANGE

- XML (18 IP offices), PDF (14), IMG (9), TXT (5), DOCX (4); and
- Others: TIFF (3), MP4, MP3, OBJ, XLT, X3D (1 each), CSV (1), JSON (3).

WIPO STANDARDS USED ON IP DATA EXCHANGE

WIPO Standard	Title	No. of IP offices
ST.26	Presentation of nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings using XML	11
ST.27	Exchange of Patent Legal Status Data	5
ST.32	Markup of patent documents using SGML	1
ST.36	Processing of patent information using XML	12
ST.37	Authority File of Published Patent Documents	1
ST.61	Recommendation for the exchange of trademark legal status data	1
ST.66	Processing trademark information using XML	2
ST.86	Processing of industrial design information using XML	4
ST.87	Exchange of industrial design legal status data	1
ST.90	Recommendation for processing and communicating Intellectual Property data using Web APIs (Application Programming Interfaces)	2
ST.96	Processing of Intellectual Property information using XML	11

CHALLENGES IN SHARING IP DATA WITH OTHER IP OFFICES

Technical Challenges

Challenge	No. of IP offices	Analysis/Remarks
Lack of IT resources (databases, tools, storage, etc.)	5	A key foundational barrier, indicating insufficient investment in digital systems and capacity.
Non-standard data formats	5	Highlights lack of harmonized data structures or limited adoption of WIPO Standards.
IP Data not digitized	1	While largely resolved, a few offices still face issues with full digitization.
Poor data quality (digitized but needs correction)	4	Reflects legacy systems or inconsistent data entry practices.
Ongoing data correction project	4	Demonstrates awareness of data quality issues and commitment to improvement.
Partial digitization of IP data	1	Indicates remaining gaps in complete digitization of IP records.

Legal and Policy Challenges

Challenge	No. of IP offices	Analysis/Remarks
Legal concerns about ownership and redistribution: IP data could be shared only if not redistributed or altered without written consent.	6	Legal restrictions limit sharing unless formal agreements are established.
Legal concerns about hosting outside IP office jurisdiction.	6	Jurisdictional constraints (e.g., national security or data sovereignty) restrict data hosting.
IP data is considered potential revenue for the IP office, therefore data sharing free of charge is restricted.	1	Commercial interests restrict open collaboration and free access to IP data.

Organizational Constraints

Challenge	No. of IP offices	Analysis/Remarks
IP office does not share any IP data	2	Either due to policy or capability limitations.
Lack of personnel to improve systems	1	Staff shortages impact modernization of IP data exchange processes.

CHALLENGES IN COLLECTING IP DATA FROM OTHER IP OFFICES

Technical Challenges

Challenge	No. of IP offices	Analysis/Remarks
Non-standard/unfamiliar formats	4	Limits automated processing and integration.
Poor quality data (e.g., incorrect XML tags)	2	Impacts downstream usability and automation.
Lack of IT resources at partner IP offices	4	Reflects uneven maturity across global IP systems.
Technical reliability of systems (e.g., WIPO CASE)	1	Points to the need for improved infrastructure or maintenance.

Legal and Policy Challenges

Challenge	No. of IP offices	Analysis/Remarks
Legal concerns (redistribution, error correction)	4	Restrictions on how IP data can be used or modified limit transparency and reuse.
Hosting restriction outside IP office jurisdiction	4	Similar to challenges in sharing IP data, cloud and cross-border data laws pose significant barriers to external data hosting.
Data protection regulations (e.g., GDPR)	2	Regulations like GDPR impose strict rules on IP data access and use, especially on personal or sensitive data.

Operational and Coordination Issues

Challenge	No. of IP offices	Analysis/Remarks
Incomplete datasets	5	May reflect intentional filtering or lack of standard IP data sets.
Irregular data delivery	4	Unpredictable updates disrupt automation and reduce data reliability.
Sudden discontinuation without notice	3	Indicates poor coordination and lack of communication between offices.
Data commercialization differences	3	Conflicting views on whether data should be free or monetized cause friction.
No collection from others	5	Offices may be isolated or lack agreements to receive data from others.

Strategic and Other Challenges

Challenge	Analysis/Remarks
Data governance and access policies	Lack of clarity around who can use data, how it can be stored, and dissemination rights.
Data completeness	Incomplete records limit the utility of shared data.
Data dictionary issues	Limits interoperability due to a lack of shared definitions/structures.

KEY ISSUES AND FINDINGS

1. Interoperability and poor data quality issues dominate
 - Non-standard formats and poor data quality are persistent and inhibit seamless integration;
 - Incomplete records limit the utility of shared data;

- Lack of clarity around who can use data, how it can be stored, and dissemination rights;
 - Irregular data delivery;
 - Sudden discontinuation without notice; and
 - Data commercialization differences.
2. Legal and policy barriers are significant
- Data ownership, hosting restrictions, redistribution restrictions and revenue-driven models prevent open sharing.
3. Infrastructure and human resources gaps
- Lack of IT resources, both locally and in partner IP offices, is a key blocker; and
 - Insufficient staff to develop or maintain data exchange systems undermines progress.
4. Asymmetry between IP offices
- While some IP offices are advanced and sharing their IP data, others are still partially digitized or isolated.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Area	Action
Technical	Adopt a WIPO standard on IP data exchange and promote wide implementation existing WIPO Standards such as ST.90, ST.96 and ST.97. Improve IP data quality, using AI tools If possible. Support of IP data digitalization.
Legal & Policy	Create model data-sharing agreements.
Coordination	Assign Data Exchange Coordinators; implement multilateral SLAs; create a shared update calendar.
Capacity Building	Launch training programs; establish a twinning program on knowledge exchange.
Governance	Establish Global IP Data Exchange Framework; develop a central data portal; monitor progress via transparency dashboard.

BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Benefit	Description
Efficiency	Streamlined data processing and reduced duplication of effort.
Interoperability	Improved integration of global IP systems and automation of services.
Transparency	Reliable, predictable access to legal and bibliographic IP data.
Legal Confidence	Clear rules on data usage, hosting, and redistribution.
Capacity Building	Support of developing IP offices to participate meaningfully in global exchange.

[End of Annex and of document]