

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Thirteenth Session
Geneva, November 10 to 14, 2025

RESULTS OF THE FIRST SESSION OF WIPO ICT LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE (WILD)

Document prepared by the International Bureau

SUMMARY

1. This document is intended to inform the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) of the results of the first session of the WIPO ICT Leadership Dialogue (WILD). The inaugural session brought together information and communication technology (ICT) leaders and senior management officials from around the world to explore the rapidly evolving ICT landscape and its impact on intellectual property (IP) business strategies and service delivery.

BACKGROUND

2. The WILD aims to serve as a global platform for leaders at IP offices or organizations to engage in discussions and collaborations pertaining to ICT for IP business and services. This encompasses digital strategies and policies, digital solutions, IP data, and emerging technologies for IP administration and related services.

3. The inaugural session was held onsite at WIPO Headquarters from April 14 to 16, 2025. Senior ICT leaders, including chief information officers (CIOs) and chief technology officers (CTOs), from 46 Member States and five intergovernmental organizations, participated in the inaugural session; representing a wide range of national and regional contexts. The list of participants is available at: https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=86271.

4. A pre-meeting survey was conducted, and valuable input was provided for the session. Responses from 42 Member States and three intergovernmental organizations highlighted common priorities, including the need to strengthen data governance, invest in cybersecurity, and develop cooperative frameworks for emerging technologies. These findings shaped the design of the program and guided the discussions throughout the three days of the session.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

5. At the inaugural session of WILD, the ICT leaders had the opportunity to explore the rapidly evolving ICT landscape and its impact on IP business strategies and service delivery. They shared their views on how ICT is transforming the IP business landscape, including key challenges and opportunities of emerging technologies. Additionally, they identified the ways that IP offices or organizations strengthen global collaboration through multilateral ICT partnerships and enhance interoperability among IP information systems.

6. Grouped under 11 themes, 35 presentations were delivered. The program and speaker profile, and all the documents presented at the first session are available in the meeting page at: https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=86271.

Day 1: Setting the stage for digital transformation

7. On the first day, 15 presentations examined the foundations of digital transformation. Delegates discussed digital strategies, technology trends, data governance, and cyber resiliency, stressing the need to align ICT initiatives with organizational goals. Experiences ranged from the deployment of AI-assisted decision-making tools with responsible governance frameworks, to the adoption of cloud computing and containerization, weighed against cost and security concerns.

8. Developing countries highlighted hybrid approaches that combine off-the-shelf solutions with in-house development to enhance efficiency despite resource constraints. Cybersecurity featured prominently, with emphasis on zero-trust frameworks, incident response plans and regular audits. The participants underscored that digital transformation is a continuous journey, requiring resilience, planning and international cooperation.

Day 2: Harnessing emerging technologies for IP

9. On the second day, along with 12 presentations, the WILD explored how emerging technologies such as AI and blockchain are reshaping IP ecosystems. AI was shown to improve classification, translation and search. Nevertheless, participants agreed that substantive examination remains the domain of human experts. AI was consistently framed as a supportive tool, designed to enhance quality and efficiency rather than displace staff.

10. Blockchain was presented as a tool to strengthen trust and transparency in rights management. Participants also spoke candidly about challenges, notably high costs, shortage of skilled personnel and change management issues. Strategies to address these included leveraging open-source tools, collaborating with startups and securing government funding.

11. The participants emphasized the importance of cross-functional collaboration involving IT experts, examiners, and legal professionals, as well as continuous skills development. They also stressed the need for clear ethical and regulatory safeguards to sustain trust in AI-driven processes.

Day 3: Strengthening global collaboration and digital harmonization

12. On the final day, the participants emphasized the importance of global collaboration to advance IP information systems and promote sustainable digital transformation. Discussions centered on improving interoperability through the application of WIPO Standards, facilitating global data exchange and closing the digital divide. The shared goal was to create actionable frameworks that support efficient, consistent and inclusive digital development across IP offices worldwide.

13. Speakers highlighted several advantages of achieving interoperability and harmonization within IP information systems, noting improvements in cost efficiency, user experience, decision-making and productivity. A harmonized digital infrastructure reduces duplication in

maintenance efforts, enhances operational cohesion and enables data-driven decisions to strengthen IP management. However, participants also acknowledged ongoing challenges, including limited financial and human resources, outdated legacy systems, differing legal and security requirements and the need for effective change management to address organizational resistance to transformation.

14. To overcome these obstacles, participants proposed enhanced data exchange policies, the establishment of a global data exchange platform and targeted strategies for capacity-building. These include investing in national-level digital infrastructure, fostering international cooperation through WIPO and leading IP offices, developing local expertise and adopting open-source solutions for flexibility and cost reduction. The meeting concluded that joint efforts to modernize and harmonize IP systems will improve interoperability, data quality and global cooperation; ultimately creating a more efficient and integrated IP ecosystem.

RESULTS

15. Participants identified a set of concrete next steps, including establishing a CIO/CTO network for IP offices, launching an AI tool focus group and organizing cooperative projects to test emerging technologies in practice.

16. The International Bureau was asked to play a central role by fostering and coordinating digital collaboration to reduce duplication of ICT efforts, supporting matchmaking among IP offices based on ICT maturity levels, providing strategic guidance on digital transformation and delivering targeted training and workshops.

17. After the first session, a post-meeting survey was conducted, which confirmed strong support for the WILD meeting. Considering the responses to the survey, the International Bureau decided to organize the meeting annually. The second session of the WILD is scheduled in April 2026 onsite at WIPO Headquarters.

18. *The CWS is invited to take note of the results of the first session of WILD.*

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