English Language
The upward curving lines of the World Intellectual Property Organization’s logo evoke human progress driven by innovation and creativity.

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## Proposal for revision of WIPO Handbook Part 6.1 Recommended Content for Intellectual Property Web Sites

*Document prepared by the International Bureau*

## SummarY

The Public Access to Patent Information (PAPI) Task Force is proposing the update of Part 6.1 of the WIPO Handbook on Intellectual Property Information and Documentation, entitled “Recommended minimum contents for intellectual property offices' websites”.

## Background

At its eleventh session in 2023, the CWS noted a proposal to transfer the responsibility to update Part 6.1 of the WIPO Handbook, which was previously undertaken by the Digital Transformation Task Force under the framework of Task No. 62. The CWS also noted the letter of the Patent Documentation Group (PDG) in support of the update to Part 6.1 of the WIPO Handbook on intellectual property information and documentation with some suggestions, which was reproduced as the Annex to document CWS/11/12. The CWS approved the proposal and consequently approved the update to the description of Task No. 52 which reads:

*“Prepare a proposal for the update of the WIPO Handbook Part 6.1: Recommended minimum contents for intellectual property offices’ websites”*

(see paragraph 92 of document CWS/11/28).

At its twelfth session in 2024, the CWS noted that the PAPI Task Force plans to present a proposal for the update of the WIPO Handbook Part 6.1 for consideration at its thirteenth session (see paragraph 47 of document CWS/12/29).

The PAPI Task Force collected and analyzed the types of information that patent information experts and users expect to find on the websites of Intellectual Property (IP) offices, as well as the extent to which such information is currently provided. Based on this analysis, the PAPI Task Force prepared a proposal to update the WIPO Handbook Part 6.1, which is presented in the Annex to this document. Details on the history of the PAPI Task Force and the progress achieved since the previous session of the CWS are available in document CWS/13/6.

## Proposed Update of the WIPO Handbook Part 6.1

The PAPI Task Force presents a proposal for the update to the WIPO Handbook Part 6.1 for consideration and, where appropriate, approval by the CWS. This proposal is reproduced as the Annex to the present document, and all changes are indicated with tracked changes where strike-through text indicates deletion and underlined text indicates insertion.

The proposed changes to the WIPO Handbook Part 6.1 intend to shift the focus from static content delivery to interactive, service-driven, and user-centric infrastructure of the IPO websites, and can be summarized as follows:

1. Establish up-to-date guidelines to help IP offices standardize the structure, content, and functionality of their websites and the online services they provide.
2. Remove “Recommended Design Principles for Intellectual Property Web Sites” section. This proposal was made considering the rapid technical evolution in website designs and the fact that each IP office follows its own design recommendations.
3. Categorize recommendations on website content and online services offered by the IP offices.
4. Introduce some editorial changes.

The proposed update of the “Recommended Minimum Contents for the Websites of Intellectual Property Offices” modernizes the existing guidelines to meet today’s digital, user-focused, and accessibility standards. It expands the scope from basic informational websites to fully functional online platforms. There are proposed new recommendations, including secure online filing systems with user dashboards, real-time application tracking, guided wizards, integrated payment systems, and responsive communication tools like chatbots and dedicated support channels. There is also a stronger focus on public engagement through user guides, frequently asked questions (FAQs), and educational resources aimed at both new and experienced users.

Furthermore, the proposed update introduces comprehensive requirements for online searchable databases, emphasizing barrier-free access, multilingual support, up-to-date legal status data, detailed bibliographic standards, and visibility into post-grant activity such as renewals and ownership changes. Accessibility has been prioritized, with clear directives for compliance with global standards, ensuring usability across devices and for users with disabilities. Technical updates ensure compatibility with modern web technologies while encouraging simplicity, speed and inclusivity.

*The CWS is invited to:*

1. *note the contents of this document and its Annex; and*
2. *consider and approve the proposed update to the WIPO Handbook Part 6.1 as referred to in paragraphs 5 to 8 above and details in the Annex to the present document.*

[Annex follows]