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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INFORMATION DOCUMENT REGARDING NUMBERING OF APPLICATIONS AND PRIORITY APPLICATIONS – CURRENT PRACTICES AND FORMER PRACTICES

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

## BACKGROUND

1. This document refers to document CWS/13/5, “Report on Task no. 50 by the Part 7 Task Force”, which includes the results of the survey on numbering of applications and priority applications – current and former practices.
2. Following the agreement by the CWS at its twelfth session, the Secretariat issued circular C.CWS.199 inviting intellectual property (IP) offices to provide information on their current and former practices related to the numbering of applications and priority applications. This information will be used to update Parts 7.2.6 and 7.2.7 of the WIPO Handbook on Intellectual Property Information and Documentation, which cover current and former practices, respectively.
3. According to the original plan outlined in paragraphs 16 and 17 of document CWS/13/5, the Secretariat has been working to prepare the respective documents and to publish them in Parts 7.2.6 and 7.2.7 of the WIPO Handbook. However, the Secretariat has encountered certain challenges, including lack of response from some IP offices that already have their information published in Parts 7.2.6 and 7.2.7 of the WIPO Handbook but have not replied to the survey to confirm whether their information remains up to date or to report any changes in their numbering systems. Additional challenges were also faced in obtaining clarifications on some of the responses received, which has further slowed down the process.
4. In order to ensure Parts 7.2.6 and 7.2.7 of the WIPO Handbook contain accurate, up-to-date information, the Secretariat provides draft updates as Annexes I and II to this document, for IP offices to review prior to its publication.

CURRENT NUMBERING PRACTICES OF APPLICATIONS AND PRIORITY APPLICATIONS

1. Part 7.2.6 of the WIPO Handbook, published in 2017, contains information from 37 IP offices. In response to the 2025 survey, as of the date of reporting, 27 of these 37 IP offices have submitted updated information regarding their current application and priority numbering practices. Since the preparation of document CWS/13/5, only two additional IP offices have responded to the survey after being contacted by the Secretariat, while 10 Offices have not yet responded.
2. Annex I to the present document contains information on 49 IP offices, comprising 39 Offices that responded to the survey and 10 Offices that have not yet responded. For the latter, the information has been obtained from Part 7.2.6 of the WIPO Handbook (2017 edition).
3. The IP offices are encouraged to review the information provided in Annex I regarding their current practices on the numbering of applications and priority numbers, and to submit any corrections or updates as necessary. The Secretariat also wishes to invite any other IP offices interested in publishing their practices in Part 7.2.6 of the WIPO Handbook to provide the relevant information from their Offices. For further details or inquiries, please contact the Secretariat at: [cws.surveys@wipo.int](mailto:cws.surveys@wipo.int). The deadline for providing feedback is November 21, 2025. After this date, the Secretariat will consider the information confirmed and will proceed with its publication in Part 7.2.6 of the WIPO Handbook.

FORMER NUMBERING PRACTICES OF APPLICATIONS AND PRIORITY APPLICATIONS

1. Part 7.2.7 of the WIPO Handbook, published in 2017, contains information from 12 IP offices. In response to the 2025 survey, as of the date of reporting, 10 of these 12 IP offices have submitted updated information regarding their current application and priority numbering practices. Since the preparation of document CWS/13/5, no additional IP offices have responded to the survey after being contacted by the Secretariat.
2. Annex II to the present document contains information on a total of 19 IP offices, comprising 17 Offices that responded to the survey and 2 Offices that have not yet responded. For the latter, the information has been obtained from Part 7.2.7 of the WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation (2017 edition)
3. The IP offices are encouraged to review the information provided in Annex II regarding their former practices on the numbering of applications and priority numbers, and to submit any corrections or updates as necessary. The Secretariat also wishes to invite any other IP offices interested in publishing their practices in Part 7.2.7 of the WIPO Handbook to provide the relevant information from their Offices. For further details or inquiries, please contact the Secretariat at [cws.surveys@wipo.int](mailto:cws.surveys@wipo.int) . The deadline for providing feedback is November 21, 2025. After this date, the Secretariat will consider the information confirmed and will proceed with its publication in Part 7.2.7 of the WIPO Handbook.

[Annex I follows]