

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Thirteenth Session
Geneva, November 10 to 14, 2025

REPORT ON TASK NO. 58 BY THE ICT STRATEGY TASK FORCE

Document prepared by the ICT Strategy Task Force Co-Leaders

SUMMARY

1. The ICT Strategy Task Force is responsible for facilitating the implementation of the 10 Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Recommendations related to Intellectual Property (IP) administration and for evaluating and updating these Recommendations as needed to maintain their relevance. The Task Force reports progress on its activities, including its work plan.

BACKGROUND

2. At its sixth session in 2018, the CWS created the new Task No. 58 the description of which reads:

“Prepare a proposal for a roadmap of future development and enhancement of WIPO standards, including policy Recommendations, in view of more effective production, sharing, and utilization of data by IP offices and other interested parties, taking the following activities:

- to review the Recommendations in Group 1 indicated in the Annex of document CWS/6/3, in collaboration with other relevant CWS Task Forces;*
- to review the Recommendations in Group 2 and Group 3 indicated in the Annex of document CWS/6/3;*
- to prioritize Recommendations and suggest a timeline; and*
- to explore the impact of disruptive technologies on IP administration and IP data in view of harmonization and collaboration.”*

3. The CWS also established the ICT Strategy for Standards Task Force to work on Task No. 58 and designated the International Bureau as the Task Force leader (see paragraphs 17 to 24 of document CWS/6/34).

4. At its seventh session in 2019, the CWS noted that the Task Force had started prioritizing the 40 Recommendations for which feedback had been requested, including the development of a common DOCX conversion tool. The CWS noted that the Task Force would prepare a strategic roadmap of future work of the CWS and collaboration among IP offices for consideration by the CWS at a future session (see paragraphs 19 to 21 of document CWS/7/29).

5. At its eighth session in 2020, the CWS noted the prioritization of 40 Recommendations which was collected as the result of the survey distributed to the members of the Task Force. To reflect the opinions of a wider group, the CWS requested the International Bureau invite all IP offices to respond to the survey on the prioritization of 40 Recommendations and to report the results of the survey at its ninth session (See paragraphs 80 to 84 of document CWS/8/24).

6. At its ninth session in 2021, the CWS noted the results of the survey on the priority of the 40 Recommendations for which all IP offices were invited to respond. Participating offices had different interpretations of the questionnaire and rated the recommendations by applying different criteria. Results of this survey were quite different from the survey results of the Task Force, reported at the eighth session of the CWS. The CWS requested the Task Force take into account the results of the survey when it prepared the planned ICT strategic roadmap and its work plan for 2022 (See paragraphs 15 to 18 of document CWS/9/25).

7. At its tenth session in 2022, the CWS adopted its Organizational Matters and Special Rules of Procedure which details the mandate of CWS:

“The mandate of the CWS will be to provide a forum to adopt new or revised WIPO standards, policies, Recommendations and statements of principle relating to intellectual property data, global information system related matters, information services on the global system, data dissemination and documentation, which may be promulgated or referred to the WIPO General Assembly for consideration or approval.”

Considering the above mandate, the Task Force reviewed the 40 Recommendations and agreed to reclassify the grouping, as all the Recommendations seemed relevant to the CWS activities in light of the CWS mandate.

8. Also at its tenth session, the CWS noted that the work on developing a common DOCX converter would be assigned to the Digital Transformation Task Force, including the development of a common technical specification to meet the goals of IP offices and applicants (see paragraphs 117 to 120 of document CWS/10/22). Additionally, the CWS revised the description of Task No. 58 as follows:

“Prepare a proposal for revised Recommendations taking into account the mandate of the CWS and relevant ICT activities in IP community.”

9. At its eleventh session in 2023, the CWS considered a set of draft recommendations presented by the Task Force, which was reproduced in the Annex to document CWS/11/18. The CWS requested that the Secretariat issue a circular inviting its Members to comment on the draft recommendations and the Task Force to report the results of responses to the circular (see paragraphs 156 to 159 of document CWS/11/28).

10. At the same session, IP Australia was designated as co-leader of the ICT Strategy Task Force. The CWS approved the new Task Force name "ICT Strategy Task Force", removing "for Standards", and revised the description of Task No. 58 as follows:

"Prepare a final proposal for a set of Recommendations based on the feedback from the CWS Members on the proposed 10 Recommendations on ICT and IP administration." (See paragraphs 70 and 71 of document CWS/11/28.)

11. At its twelfth session in September 2024, the CWS considered and adopted the proposed set of 10 Recommendations as presented in document CWS/12/22. With the Recommendations adopted, the CWS also approved a further revision to the description of Task No. 58, which reads:

"Facilitate the implementation of the ICT related Recommendations by IP offices and the International Bureau; and evaluate and update these Recommendations as needed to maintain their relevance."

(See paragraphs 62 and 63 of document CWS/12/29.)

PROGRESS REPORT ON TASK NO. 58

Objectives

12. The Task Force worked towards the following objectives under Task No. 58:
- *To support IP offices in the implementation of the 10 Recommendations on ICT and IP administration; and*
 - *To evaluate and update Recommendations as required.*

Relevant Actions for 2025

13. The Task Force agreed to prepare and conduct a survey open to all CWS member Offices to understand the current level of implementation of the 10 Recommendations, along with any common areas of focus, challenge and learning opportunities. In doing so, the Task Force is well placed to support Offices in their implementation and evaluate the Recommendations.

14. Based on the survey outcomes, the Task Force was able to conduct an informed discussion of how it will continue to work towards its objectives under the current Task No. 58 description.

Potential Challenges or Dependencies

15. The Task Force has identified challenges in being able to track or self-assess the implementation of Recommendations in a detailed and objective manner, as they are not associated with any key performance indicators in their current form.

16. The WIPO ICT Leadership Dialogue (WILD) is identified as a potential dependency, as there is some overlap in subject matter between WILD and the ICT Strategy Task Force. The Task Force recognizes the opportunity of leveraging both forums to continue to develop the ICT maturity of the global IP ecosystem, as well as the importance of avoiding the duplication of work and content.

Progress Evaluation

17. The Task Force met twice after the twelfth session of the CWS; in March and in August 2025.

18. The Task Force prepared a survey on the 10 Recommendations and circulated it to all CWS members. Twenty-one responses were received, a third of which came from non-Task Force members. The outcomes of this survey will be informative for the Task Force to focus its efforts when carrying out Task No. 58. The outcomes are discussed in document CWS/13/26.

FUTURE WORK PLAN

19. The ICT Strategy Task Force will continue to facilitate the implementation of the ICT-related Recommendations by IP offices and the International Bureau. In doing so, the outcomes of the survey will be leveraged to inform current areas of high priority and opportunities for knowledge-sharing between Offices.

20. The Task Force will continue to evaluate and update these Recommendations as needed to maintain their relevance. The best mechanism for ongoing evaluation is a topic of ongoing consideration by the Task Force. With the continuation of Task No. 58, future Task Force meetings remain an appropriate forum to discuss any suggested updates.

21. *The CWS is invited to:*

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

(b) note the work plan of the ICT Strategy Task Force as referred to in paragraphs 19 and 20 above.

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