

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Fourteenth Session
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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, responsible for Task No. 67, reports on the activities it has undertaken since the thirteenth session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS). During the reporting period, the Task Force prepared the survey questionnaire on intellectual property (IP) data exchange and discussed the survey results. Based on the survey findings, the Task Force further improved the draft for a new WIPO standard on the exchange and use of IP data, and the Task Force is proposing the draft to the CWS for consideration and, if appropriate, adoption.

BACKGROUND

2. At its eleventh session, the CWS considered two separate proposals submitted by the Delegations of Japan and Saudi Arabia, concerning the resolution of issues encountered in the establishment of IP data exchange with other Offices. With a view to addressing these issues, both Delegations proposed the creation of two separate new Tasks in the CWS work program. The Delegation of Japan proposed the development of a new WIPO standard providing 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, such as ST.96 and ST.97 (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 observed that the two proposals were interrelated and recommended that the two proponents collaborate in preparing and presenting a consolidated proposal, incorporating more concrete and achievable goals, for consideration at its twelfth session (see paragraph 175 of document CWS/11/28).

4. At its twelfth session, considering the project brief prepared by the Delegations of Japan and Saudi Arabia, the CWS approved the establishment of Task No. 67, described as follows:

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

To undertake this Task, the CWS established the IP Data Exchange Task Force and designated the Japan Patent Office (JPO) and the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP), and the International Bureau as Co-Leaders of the Task Force (see paragraphs 146 and 147 of document CWS/12/29).

5. At its thirteenth session, the CWS approved the preparation, by the IP Data Exchange Task Force, of a survey questionnaire to collect information on IP offices' practices and suggestions for facilitating IP data exchange, and requested the Secretariat to conduct the survey among the IP offices of CWS members. The CWS further decided that the Task Force would analyze the survey results and present its findings at the fourteenth session. At the same session, the Task Force presented, for consideration by the CWS, a working draft of WIPO standard on IP data exchange and its use, reproduced in the Annex to document CWS/13/27. The CWS noted that the Task Force would first seek consensus on the project brief for the IP data exchange framework and platform, as discussed at its twelfth session, and subsequently revise the draft WIPO standard on IP data exchange in light of the survey findings, with a view to submitting a final proposal for consideration and adoption at its fourteenth session. (See paragraphs 91 to 94 of document CWS/13/33.)

PROGRESS ON TASK NO. 67

Objective

6. The objective of Task No. 67 is to analyze existing practices and challenges in the exchange and use of IP data with a view to exploring solutions for improving global IP data exchange.

Potential challenges or dependencies

7. Progress under Task No. 67 may be affected by differences among IP offices in the legal, policy and operational frameworks governing the exchange, use and redistribution of IP data. Further discussion has been required to reconcile differing views on certain provisions of the draft WIPO standard. Other relevant factors include variations in data formats, data quality and technical infrastructure, as well as the financial and technical resources required for implementation. Consideration of a possible global IP data exchange platform will also depend on the outcome of a feasibility assessment and the extent of confirmation among CWS members on its scope, governance and implementation approach.

Progress evaluation

8. Since the thirteenth session of the CWS, the IP Data Exchange Task Force has held meetings in February, April, July and September 2026 to advance its work on the activities regarding Task No. 67.

Discussion on the project brief and Task No. 67 description

9. In response to the request made by the CWS at its thirteenth session, that the IP Data Exchange Task Force reach consensus on the project brief for the IP data exchange framework and platform, the Task Force considered the matter at its February 2026 meeting. The Secretariat explained that the project brief primarily supports the establishment of a CWS Task and its corresponding Task Force. Once a Task has been approved, its description becomes the operative mandate, and the project brief no longer serves an ongoing procedural function. The Secretariat therefore noted that revisiting the project brief after the establishment of the Task and Task Force would not be consistent with the usual procedure and suggested that any proposed changes be addressed instead through the description of Task No. 67. At the same meeting, the Task Force also considered the scope of the project brief, the proposed solutions and the appropriate sequencing of activities under its work plan.

10. Following further consultations concerning the project brief and the description and scope of Task No. 67, the Task Force reached agreement on the solutions proposed in the project brief. These solutions comprise (a) collecting and sharing best practices; (b) establishing a communication mechanism through which Offices can exchange experience, knowledge and information on IP data exchange, including data quality issues and corrections; (c) developing a new WIPO standard on the exchange and use of IP data; and (d) further considering the feasibility of the possible development of a global IP data exchange platform.

Survey questionnaire on IP Data Exchange

11. In response to the request made by the CWS at its thirteenth session, the IP Data Exchange Task Force Co-Leaders prepared a draft questionnaire and presented it to the Task Force for review at its February 2026 meeting. A dedicated wiki page was subsequently established to collect comments from Task Force members within a specified period. The Co-Leaders consolidated the comments and proposed revisions submitted by several Offices and prepared a final draft for consideration by the Task Force. At its April 2026 meeting, the Task Force conducted a detailed review of the revised questionnaire and, after reaching agreement on its content, invited volunteer Offices to test it before wider distribution. Following successful testing, the survey was launched through Circular C.CWS 211, issued on June 9, 2026, to all CWS members and observers. The Task Force subsequently reviewed and discussed the survey results. Further details and the related analysis are provided in document CWS/14/12.

Development of the draft new WIPO standard

12. Using the working draft presented at the thirteenth session of the CWS as a basis, and as requested by the CWS at its thirteenth session, the Task Force Co-Leaders prepared a revised draft WIPO standard reflecting the findings of the survey on IP data exchange, including the practices, challenges and preferences reported by responding Offices. The revised draft was then posted on the dedicated wiki page for review and comments by Task Force members.

13. At its September 2026 meeting and during subsequent consultations on the wiki page, the Task Force reviewed the draft standard. Discussions focused primarily on its scope, particularly whether it should address both the exchange and use of IP data or be limited to data exchange. The Task Force also considered the redistribution of exchanged data to third parties, including whether this matter should be addressed through recommendations in the WIPO standard or governed by bilateral agreements, and whether further dissemination should generally be permitted or restricted.

14. The Task Force further considered the distinction between a “third party” and a “third-party Office”, the degree of flexibility to be provided in the contract model, and the relationship between IP data exchanged under specific bilateral conditions and data published and made freely accessible by an Office, for example through its website. In the latter case, the originating Office may have limited control over the data once accessed. It was clarified that the WIPO standard is intended to address the further use of exchanged IP data rather than the publication of data by the originating Office.

15. The Task Force noted that differing views remained on several issues, particularly the scope of the WIPO standard in relation to data use and redistribution to third parties. The Co-Leaders reviewed all comments received and incorporated them into the draft WIPO standard, as appropriate. Certain comments were also discussed directly with the Offices that had submitted them. Following this review, the Co-Leaders are presenting the revised draft standard to the CWS for consideration and, if appropriate, adoption. Further details are provided in document CWS/14/13.

16. Subject to the adoption of the proposed WIPO standard on IP Data Exchange and its use, presented in document CWS/14/13, the Task Force will continue its work on the next steps set out in the proposed work plan. In line with this objective, the Task Force proposed a revision to the description of Task No. 67, as set out in document CWS/14/13.

TASK FORCE WORK PLAN

17. The Task Force discussed the sequencing and anticipated duration of its future activities. The Task Force members considered an overall implementation period of three to five years from the establishment of the Task Force in 2024, although views initially differed on the appropriate timeframe. Assuming the adoption of the proposed new WIPO standard, the Task Force is expected to focus on establishing a communication mechanism for sharing experience, practices and challenges, and on exploring the possible development of a global IP data exchange platform.

18. On this basis, the Task Force Co-Leaders propose the following four-year work plan for consideration and, if appropriate, approval by the CWS:

Activity	Timeline
Continue collecting and sharing best practices and information on challenges relating to IP data exchange.	Ongoing
Finalize and submit the draft new WIPO standard on the exchange and use of IP data and present it to the fourteenth session of the CWS for consideration.	2026 and CWS/14
Establish a communication mechanism and portal through which IP offices can share experience and information, including information on data correction and cleaning processes, with appropriate access controls and authentication procedures.	2027–2028
Explore technical options and assess the feasibility of developing a global IP data exchange tool or platform.	2027–2028
Develop a global IP data exchange platform, subject to the outcome of the feasibility assessment.	2029–2030

19. *The CWS is invited to:*

(a) note the contents of the present document, in particular the confirmation reached by the IP Data Exchange Task Force related to the project brief; and

(b) consider and approve the work plan of the IP Data Exchange Task Force as indicated in paragraphs 17 and 18 above.

[End of document]