

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Fourteenth Session
Geneva, November 23 to 27, 2026

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 ICT Recommendations related to Intellectual Property (IP) administration and for evaluating and updating these Recommendations as needed to maintain their relevance according to Task No. 58. The Task Force reports progress on its activities since the last session of the CWS, including a Workshop on the implementation of the Recommendations.

BACKGROUND

2. At its sixth session in 2018, the CWS created Task No. 58, whose description read as follows:

“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. At the same session, 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. Over the course of several CWS sessions, the Task Force prioritized work on the 40 Recommendations, including the distribution and analysis of surveys. In view of the survey outcomes and the adoption of the CWS mandate at its tenth session in 2022, 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.”

5. At its eleventh session held in 2023, the CWS considered a new set of draft Recommendations presented by the Task Force, reproduced in the Annex to document CWS/11/18. A circular was issued inviting the CWS Members to comment on the draft.

6. At the same session, IP Australia was designated as co-leader of the 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.)

7. At its twelfth session held in 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.)

8. At its thirteenth session held in 2025, the CWS noted the results of a survey conducted by the Task Force on the implementation of the 10 Recommendations. The results showed current areas of high priority and interest in knowledge-sharing between IP offices, allowing the Task Force to better facilitate the implementation of the Recommendations in accordance with the Task description. The results also indicated that the Recommendations were still relevant and not yet in need of updating. The CWS also noted that the adopted Recommendations were published on the WIPO website at: <https://www.wipo.int/en/web/cws/ict-recommendations>.

9. The CWS noted that the WIPO ICT Leadership Dialogue (WILD) was launched in April 2025 as an annual, voluntary forum for executive leaders and Chief Information Officers of IP offices to exchange experience and collaborate on ICT-related challenges affecting IP administration. The CWS also noted that the results of the first session of WILD addressed digital transformation and other emerging technology priorities relevant to the work of the Task Force.

OBJECTIVES

10. The Task Force has established the following objectives under Task No. 58:
- Explore ways of measuring and tracking progress in the implementation of the Recommendations;
 - Facilitate collaboration and knowledge-sharing on high-priority and high-interest Recommendations to further support their implementation; and
 - Consider any new proposals to update the Recommendations.

PROGRESS REPORT

11. The ICT Strategy Task Force is comprised of experts representing 27 CWS Members and Observers. The Task Force met twice online in 2026: in March and in June 2026.

12. Recognizing the difficulty of tracking and objectively measuring implementation of the Recommendations, the Task Force agreed to draft ICT maturity index and key performance indicators. These maturity index and indicators would help IP offices assess their implementation status for the Recommendations.

13. Following discussions on the Digital Maturity Index (DMI) at the second session of WILD in April 2026, the Task Force explored ways to refine the draft ICT maturity index and related key performance indicators. The Task Force noted that its work partly overlapped with WILD's discussions on the DMI. Therefore, the Task Force considered that the possibility of transferring responsibility for advancing its work to the WILD Chief Information Officer (CIO) Network, as the CIO Network has been developing its DMI model considering the 10 Recommendations along with other relevant industry models.

14. As the CWS approved at its thirteenth session, the Task Force organized the Workshop on [ICT Recommendations for IP Offices](#) on September 1, 2026. The Workshop focused on Recommendation 10 and provided participants with an opportunity to discuss its implementation and learn from the experiences of IP offices. At the Workshop, the International Bureau presented the draft DMI model that the CIO Network has been working on, which referred to the exploratory work of the Task Force and the 10 ICT Recommendations, as well as other referenced industry models. Further details on the outcomes of the Workshop are provided in document CWS/14/17.

15. Finally, the Task Force agreed to transfer its work to the CIO Network considering that the DMI covers the 10 Recommendations with the CIO Network advancing the development of the DMI for presentation at the third session of WILD, to be held in 2027.

16. Over the course of the year, the Task Force continued to seek feedback on the wording and relevance of the 10 Recommendations. No substantive amendments were proposed, consistent with the outcomes of the 2025 survey. The Task Force also considered whether the original 40 Recommendations included content that should be reconsidered in light of recent ICT-related developments but identified no matters requiring further action. It therefore concluded that the 10 Recommendations remain fit for purpose.

TRANSITION OF TASK NO. 58

17. The Task Force Co-leaders note an increasing overlap between the work of the ICT Strategy Task Force and that of the WILD CIO Network. In particular, the CIO Network has assumed responsibility for advancing the DMI, building on the initial work undertaken by the Task Force.

18. Task No. 58 has two components: firstly, the provision of support and promotion to IP offices that are implementing the 10 ICT Recommendations, and secondly, the maintenance of these recommendations, to ensure they remain relevant.

19. Regarding the first component of Task No. 58, sharing of knowledge and experience on these and related topics already occurs regularly outside the CWS through the CIO Network, the broader WILD forum, and other multilateral and bilateral meetings of IP offices. Maintaining the Task Force for this purpose would therefore duplicate these existing mechanisms.

20. Given the transfer of the DMI to the CIO Network and the suitability of the 10 Recommendations in their current form, the second component of Task No. 58 could be managed under Task No. 33 of the CWS Work Program.

21. Therefore, the Task Force proposes that Task No. 58 be considered complete and the ICT Strategy Task Force be closed.

22. *The CWS is invited to:*

(a) note the content of the present document;

(b) consider and approve that any future revisions of the 10 ICT Recommendations be managed under Task No. 33, as indicated in paragraph 20;

(c) consider and approve the completion of the remainder of Task No. 58, as indicated in paragraph 21; and

(d) consider and approve the closure of the ICT Strategy Task Force, as indicated in paragraph 21.

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