

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

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**REPORT BY THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU ON THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL
ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING TO INDUSTRIAL
PROPERTY OFFICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE MANDATE OF THE CWS**

Document prepared by the International Bureau

INTRODUCTION

1. This report aims to implement the decision taken by the General Assembly in 2011 relating to the mandate of the CWS and to provide regular written reports on the details of activities undertaken during the year 2025, in which the Secretariat or the International Bureau of WIPO “endeavor[ed] to provide technical advice and assistance for capacity building to intellectual property (IP) offices by undertaking projects regarding dissemination of IP Standards information” (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19). Further information on technical assistance activities undertaken by the Organization is available under the Technical Assistance Database (www.wipo.int/tad).

2. As WIPO Standards are implemented in various WIPO information systems and WIPO software such as the WIPO Sequence Suite and IP Office Business Solutions, the following activities also implicitly cover dissemination of relevant IP Standards information.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ADVICE ON THE USE OF WIPO STANDARDS

3. In 2025, the International Bureau provided technical advice to assist Offices and users to utilize WIPO Standards through emails and online conferences, including the implementation of WIPO Standards ST.26, ST.36 and ST.96, and the production of authority files compliant with WIPO Standard ST.37.

4. As the new Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) minimum documentation requirements were due to enter into force on January 1, 2026, many Offices were busy producing authority files compliant with WIPO Standard ST.37 as well as producing structured patent documents compliant with WIPO Standard ST.36 or ST.96 for the first time. The International Bureau provided support in producing authority files compliant with WIPO Standard ST.37, as well as reviewing and providing feedback for all of the authority files submitted during the International Searching Authority (ISA) validation process. For further details on the specific support provided by the International Bureau in this context, refer to document CWS/13/28.

5. In response to the feedback from both Offices and IP industry users, the International Bureau launched a new software development project, focusing on implementing new functions for WIPO Sequence, in particular to improve the ability of users to annotate more easily sequences within a project of sequence listing. This version builds on the new technology stack that was implemented during 2024 development activities. After the success of its launch in 2024, the International Bureau continued its engagement with *the WIPO Sequence Insiders* group, and has piloted a new release, version 3.0.0, with them in July 2025.

6. Regarding technical assistance in the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.26 and WIPO Sequence, the International Bureau was invited to present at one webinar on this topic, hosted by the International Bureau for Georgian applicants in April 2025.

7. In response to a request made by the Italian Patent and Trademark Office, the International Bureau provided their advice on a new numbering scheme for patents, trademarks and industrial designs, to be implemented in the near future. This included technical assistance on WIPO Standards ST.6, ST.13 and ST.16.

8. The International Bureau assisted the Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic in reviewing and finalizing its WIPO Standard ST.27 mapping table. Guidance covered the correct mapping of national legal status events, including the distinction between patent and industrial design events and the appropriate use of WIPO Standard ST.27 key and detailed events. Following the review, the Office revised the mapping table in accordance with the recommendations, enabling its publication in Part 7.13.1 of the WIPO Handbook.

9. Following a request by the CWS at its eighth session, the *API Catalog for Intellectual Property* was launched in July 2024. The catalog offers a list of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) provided by IP institutions for their products and services regarding patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright, geographical indications, and plant variety protection. During 2025, significant progress was made in enhancing the functionality of the API Catalog for Intellectual Property. An administrative filter-management interface was developed to streamline administrative tasks, while OpenSearch integration improved search accuracy, including support for exact-phrases searches using quotation marks. To better serve a global audience the [API Catalog User Guide](#) and the [API Catalog IP Institution Guide](#) were made available in four additional languages: German, Japanese, Korean and Portuguese. The Catalog's user interface was also translated into Arabic, Chinese, German, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese and Russian. With these updates, language coverage was expanded to include all 10 PCT publication languages.

10. The Secretariat continues to be committed to providing technical assistance and training regarding WIPO Standards on demand, depending on the availability of resources.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE IN IP INSTITUTIONS USING WIPO STANDARDS

11. WIPO's program of IP Office Business Solutions aims to enhance national and regional Offices' business systems and technical infrastructure in order to help them provide more cost-effective and higher-quality services to their own stakeholders. The assistance provided is aligned with the Development Agenda recommendations aiming at strengthening institutional and technical infrastructure of Offices and other institutions. The services include technical consultancy, business needs assessment, project scoping and planning, and business process analysis. They also include the ongoing development and deployment of customized business systems for administering IP rights and exchanging priority documents and search and examination results; the establishment of IP databases; assistance with digitizing IP records and preparing data for online publication and electronic exchange training, knowledge transfer for staff of IP institutions and support for the systems provided by WIPO. Where appropriate, the assistance takes into account WIPO Standards on IP data and information. On-site and virtual training, mentoring, and regional workshops account for a significant share of these activities and are essential to achieving the intended results.

12. At the end of 2026, 98 Offices from developing countries in all regions were actively using WIPO's IP Office Business Solutions for the administration of their IP rights, in which WIPO Standards are integrated. Sixty-eight Offices were participating in one of the online exchange platforms offered by WIPO (the Centralized Access to Search and Examination and the Digital Access Service). A key focus is to upgrade the service level of Offices by assisting them to move to online services for filing and for IP information dissemination. More information is available on the website of WIPO's technical assistance program for Offices at: https://www.wipo.int/global_ip/en/activities/ip_office_business_solutions/.

13. Under WIPO's program of Global Databases, the International Bureau has continued to be supported by the Japan Fund-in-Trust program, to assist Member States in creating high-quality full text for their patent publications. For the Japan Fiscal year of 2025, 18,879 patent documents (totalling 1,409,126 description and claims pages) from the Mexican Institute of Industrial Property (IMPI) were Optical Character Recognition (OCR)ed, proofread, transformed into Extensible Markup Language (XML) before being loaded into PATENTSCOPE.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF IP OFFICERS AND EXAMINERS FOR THE UTILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL TOOLS

14. Following requests, the International Bureau provided several training activities on the use of the International Patent Classification (IPC) in 2025. These included a training seminar for patent examiners, jointly organized by the Brunei Intellectual Property Office (BruiPO) and WIPO on March 4 and 5; a workshop on the Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) Network in Botswana, held from March 11 to 14, which included training on the use of the IPC; and the WIPO–RGNIIPM Advanced Certificate Training Program for Patent Examiners, jointly organized on May 5 and 6 with the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Intellectual Property Management (RGNIIPM) and the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM) of India. Further activities included a workshop on patent, trademark and design search tools in Lesotho TISC, on August 27, which also covered the use of the IPC, and a similar workshop in Monrovia, Liberia, jointly organized by WIPO, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) with the Liberia Industrial Property Office (LIPO) on October 15 and 16. In this context, the relevance of related WIPO Standards was also explained.

BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WIPO STANDARDS

15. In order to increase awareness of WIPO Standards in developing countries and to facilitate the physical participation by more developing countries in the preparation of new or revised WIPO Standard(s), following the decision of the General Assembly in October 2011, the participation at the thirteenth session of the CWS of ten developing or least developed countries (LDCs) was funded by the International Bureau.

IP DATA EXCHANGE

16. The International Bureau has been working together with many Offices, particularly in certain groups of developing countries, to promote the exchange of IP data with a view to providing users in those countries with greater access to their IP information. The exchange of IP data was organized, when possible, in accordance with relevant WIPO Standards. In 2025, the trademark collections of Croatia, Grenada, Norway and Sri Lanka were added to the Global Brand Database, while Croatia's design collection was added to the Global Design Database. In the same year, the patent collection of San Marino and Croatia were incorporated into PATENTSCOPE, and the collections of Argentina, Mexico and Switzerland were enriched with full-text data.

17. The CWS is invited to take note of the 2025 activities of the International Bureau, related to providing technical advice and assistance for capacity building to Offices, regarding dissemination of IP standards information. This document will serve as a basis of the relevant report to be presented to the WIPO General Assembly to be held in 2027, as requested at its fortieth session held in October 2011 (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19).

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