

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Fourteenth Session
Geneva, November 23 to 27, 2026

REPORT ON TASK NO. 47 BY THE LEGAL STATUS TASK FORCE

Document prepared by the Legal Status Task Force Leader

SUMMARY

1. The Legal Status Task Force, responsible for Task No. 47, reports its activities conducted since the last session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS). This report outlines the Task Force's progress related to the of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87, implementation of those Standards by intellectual property (IP) offices and the mapping tables which are published in Part 7.13 of the WIPO Handbook on Intellectual Property Information and Documentation.

BACKGROUND

2. At its third session in 2013, the CWS created Task No. 47, the description of which reads as follows:

“Prepare a proposal to establish a new WIPO standard for the exchange of patent legal status data by industrial property offices. Once this task is completed, the corresponding proposal should be extended to trademarks and industrial designs.”

The CWS also established the Legal Status Task Force and designated the International Bureau as the Task Force Leader (see paragraphs 50 to 54 of document CWS/3/14).

3. At its fifth session in 2017, the CWS adopted WIPO Standard ST.27, “Recommendation for the exchange of patent legal status data” (see paragraphs 50 and 51 of document CWS/5/22). At its sixth session in 2018, the CWS adopted WIPO Standard ST.87, “Recommendation for the exchange of industrial design legal status data” (see paragraphs 102 to 105 of document CWS/6/34).

4. At its eighth session in 2020, the CWS adopted WIPO Standard ST.61, "Recommendation for the exchange of trademark legal status data" (see paragraphs 26 to 28 of document CWS/8/24). At the same session, the CWS revised Task No. 47, with the updated description reading as follows:

"Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.87, and ST.61; prepare supporting materials to assist the use of those Standards in IP community; analyze the potential of merging the three standards ST.27, ST.87, and ST.61; and support the XML4IP Task Force to develop XML components for legal status event data."

(See paragraphs 114 to 117 of document CWS/8/24.)

5. At its ninth session in 2021, the CWS approved a revision to WIPO Standard ST.27 to add "event indicators". The CWS also requested the Legal Status Task Force to study how to adapt the event indicators and "procedure indicators" for WIPO Standards ST.61 and ST.87 (see paragraphs 45 to 53 of document CWS/9/25).

6. At its tenth session in 2022, the CWS noted the suggestion by the Legal Status Task Force to discontinue the merger work and approved the revision of Task No. 47, with the updated description reading as follows:

"Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.87, and ST.61; prepare supporting materials to assist the use of those Standards in the IP community; and support the XML4IP Task Force to develop XML components for legal status event data."

(See paragraphs 75 and 76 of document CWS/10/22.)

7. At its eleventh session in 2023, the CWS approved the proposed revision to Annex II of WIPO Standard ST.61. The CWS was invited to provide specific feedback on whether the balance of the number of detailed and key events is appropriate (see paragraphs 122 and 146 of document CWS/11/28). At that same session, the Legal Status Task Force encouraged IP offices to provide their mapping table or update their mapping tables which are published in [Part 7.13 of the WIPO Handbook](#).

8. At its twelfth session in 2024, the CWS approved the proposed revision of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87, which were related to legal status events (see paragraph 102 of document CWS/12/29). The revision to WIPO Standard ST.87 expanded the supplementary data that is captured in Annex II to the Standard. The other revisions were intended to ensure that the three Standards remain aligned.

9. At its thirteenth session in 2025, the CWS revised Task No. 47, with the updated description reading as follows:

"Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.87, and ST.61; prepare supporting materials to assist the use of those Standards in the IP community; and support the XML4IP and API Task Forces to improve existing XML components and to develop JSON components respectively for legal statuses, where necessary."

(See paragraph 28 of document CWS/13/33.)

PROGRESS REPORT ON TASK NO. 47

Objectives

10. The following objectives were set out by the Task Force for its activities in 2026:

- Improve WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.87 and ST.61 as necessary;

- Encourage and support IP offices in the implementation of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.87, and ST.61;
- Collaborate with IP offices in maintaining up-to-date mapping tables of legal status events aligned with the events defined in WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61, and ST.87;
- Monitor IP offices' needs for the addition of event indicators to WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61, and ST.87; and
- Consider outstanding proposals within the Task Force concerning legal status event and category revisions in WIPO Standard ST.27.

Potential challenges or dependencies

11. The Task Force has identified the following challenges and dependencies that may affect the successful execution of its work:

- The Task Force's progress depends on the active participation and substantive contributions of IP offices in the development and improvement of legal status-related WIPO Standards;
- Prioritization by IP offices of the implementation of legal status-related WIPO Standards; and
- Successful revision and implementation of these WIPO Standards also depend on feedback from IP information users, including official observers of the CWS. IP offices consider this feedback important when deciding which standards to prioritize for implementation.

PROGRESS EVALUATION

12. Since the last session of the CWS, the Legal Status Task Force convened an online meeting on April 23, 2026, to discuss the implementation of, and potential revisions to, WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61, and ST.87.

13. The Task Force noted that the revisions to these WIPO Standards, approved at the twelfth session of the Committee, have been incorporated into version 10.0 of the WIPO Standard ST.96, released on April 1, 2026. Given that WIPO Standard ST.97, version 2.0, was based on WIPO Standard ST.96, version 10.0, the same revisions are equally reflected in WIPO Standard ST.97, version 2.0, released on July 15, 2026.

14. At the Task Force meeting held in April, several Task Force Offices shared updates on the implementation status of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87, reflecting varying degrees of progress. The Task Force noted that several Task Force Offices have successfully implemented WIPO Standard ST.27 for patent legal status data, with mapping tables reviewed and updated recently in Part 7.13 of the WIPO Handbook, whereas implementation of WIPO Standards ST.61 (trademarks) and ST.87 (industrial designs) remains at an earlier stage across most Offices, often linked to ongoing IT system modernization projects. Some Offices reported technical challenges in implementing these WIPO Standards, including difficulties in mapping certain events not currently covered by the Standards and difficulties in correctly applying category codes, while others noted that resource constraints have delayed prioritization of implementation.

15. Some other Task Force Offices, which are at more advanced stages of the implementation of legal-status related WIPO Standards, highlighted the benefits of integrating those WIPO Standards directly into their core IT systems, enabling real-time data generation and consistent use for both internal processing and external data dissemination. Several Offices also indicated their plans to submit updated mapping tables or proposals to refine those Standards in the coming year, demonstrating continued efforts to address implementation gaps.

16. Overall, the discussions indicated progress in the implementation of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87, while highlighting the need for continued technical clarification, knowledge and experience sharing, and coordination among Offices. The Legal Status Task Force agreed that priority should be given to promoting and supporting the widespread and consistent implementation of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61, and ST.87. The Legal Status Task Force further agreed that any proposal for new event codes should first be discussed within the Task Force and assessed against existing codes, including the possibility of revising an existing description rather than creating a new code, so as not to disrupt Offices' implementations currently under way.

17. In connection with the status mapping tables published in Part 7.13 of the WIPO Handbook, the Task Force considered a proposal presented by the Secretariat, to add a new information on the last update [Month, Year] to each individual Office entry, given that the existing publication date does not accurately reflect when each Office last revised its own mapping.

18. Under the proposed procedure, a baseline date of May 2026 would be applied to all current entries in the mapping excel file, followed by a verification round in which Offices would be invited to review and, where necessary, update their entries, with the field thereafter maintained to reflect each subsequent revision. IP offices were invited to review their respective entries and provide feedback. Following this round of revision, the Secretariat applied the "Last updated: [Month, Year]" indication and published the revised [Part 7.13 of the WIPO Handbook](#) accordingly.

19. At the time of preparing this document, Part 7.13 of the WIPO Handbook contains legal status mapping tables from IP offices against the relevant WIPO Standards, as follows:

- Patents (WIPO Standard ST.27): 13 IP offices from the following 11 Member States: Canada (CA), China (CN), Czech Republic (CZ), France (FR), Germany (DE), Japan (JP), Republic of Korea (KR), Russian Federation (RU), Ukraine (UA), United Kingdom (GB), United States of America (US); and two regional Organizations: the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) and the European Patent Organization (EPO). Detailed information is available at: [Part 7.13.1: Mapping tables of national/regional patent legal status events to the events of WIPO Standard ST.27](#).
- Industrial Designs (WIPO Standard ST.87): 10 IP offices from the following Member States: China (CN), Colombia (CO), Germany (DE), Hungary (HU), Italy (IT), Republic of Korea (KR), Republic of Moldova (MD), Russian Federation (RU), Ukraine (UA) and United Kingdom (GB). Detailed information is available at: [Part 7.13.2: Mapping tables of national/regional industrial design legal status events to the events of WIPO Standard ST.87](#).
- Trademarks (WIPO Standard ST.61): 12 IP offices from the following 11 Member States: Australia (AU), Canada (CA), France (FR), Germany (DE), Hungary (HU), Israel (IL), Japan (JP), Kyrgyzstan (KG), Poland (PL), United Kingdom (GB) and United States of America (US); and one regional Organization: the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). Detailed information is available at: [Part 7.13.3: Mapping tables of national/regional trademark legal status events to the events of WIPO Standard ST.61](#).

20. IP offices are encouraged to provide the Secretariat with new or updated legal status mapping tables for publication in Part 7.13 of the WIPO Handbook.

21. In parallel with its ongoing efforts to collect implementation experiences and best practices, the Task Force notes that the International Bureau has adopted a flexible approach to providing technical support. This includes arranging bilateral meetings or group sessions to facilitate the implementation of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87, or to conduct related mapping exercises. IP offices requiring such assistance are invited to contact the International Bureau.

WORK PLAN

22. The Legal Status Task Force considers the following activities which should be considered for development in 2027, including but not limited to:

- Prepare necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.87 and ST.61;
- Continue to work together with the XML4IP Task Force and API Task Force, if necessary, to develop or improve XML and JSON Schemas for legal status events based on WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87;
- Continue to encourage IP offices to provide their mapping tables or update existing mapping tables published in [Part 7.13 of the WIPO Handbook](#);
- Continue to monitor IP offices needs for the addition of event indicators within WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61, and ST.87; and
- Continue to share the best practices for implementation of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61, and ST.87.

23. *The CWS is invited to:*

(a) *note the content of this document, in particular the work plan as referred to in paragraph 22 above;*

(b) *note the addition of a "Last updated: [Month, Year]" indication to each Office's entry in Part 7.13 of the WIPO Handbook;*

(c) *encourage its Members and Observers to provide feedback on WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61, and ST.87 on potential need for revision; and*

(d) *encourage its Members to provide their mapping tables or update existing mapping tables published in Part 7.13 of the WIPO Handbook.*

[End of document]