

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Fourteenth Session
Geneva, November 23 to 27, 2026

REPORT ON TASK NO. 59 BY THE BLOCKCHAIN TASK FORCE

Document prepared by the Blockchain Task Force Leader

SUMMARY

1. The Blockchain Task Force, responsible for Task No. 59, reports its activities conducted since the last session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS). The Task Force has continued to develop its exploratory working paper and practical descriptions of three blockchain use cases relating to IP rights registration, transfers of rights and licenses, and digital identification.

BACKGROUND

2. At the eighth session of the CWS, held in November 2020, the Task Force presented a progress report of its activities (see document CWS/8/15). At the same session, the CWS also encouraged the Intellectual Property (IP) offices to participate in the discussions of the Blockchain Task Force and noted the benefits of working in collaboration with the private sector, universities and non-governmental organizations (see paragraphs 96 to 99 of document CWS/8/24).

3. The Task Force continued to work under Task No. 59, which was last amended at the seventh session of the CWS, and whose description reads as follows:

“Explore the possibility of using blockchain technology in the processes of providing Intellectual Property rights (IPRs) protection, processing information about IP objects and their use; collect information about IPO developments in use of and experience with blockchain, assess current Industry Standards on blockchain and consider merit and applicability to IPOs; develop reference models of using blockchain technology in the IP field, including guiding principles, common practice and use of terminology as a framework supporting collaboration,

joint projects, and proofs of concept; and prepare a proposal for a new WIPO Standard supporting the potential application of blockchain technology within the IP ecosystems.”

(See paragraph 67 of document CWS/7/29.)

PROGRESS REPORT ON TASK NO. 59

Objective

4. The main objective of Task No. 59 is to collect and analyze information relating to blockchain technologies and their application to the IP ecosystem as well as to develop a set of recommendations on blockchain technology for IP ecosystems.

Progress evaluation

5. Since the previous session of the CWS, the Blockchain Task Force Leader has continued to refine the exploratory working paper on the basis of further research.

6. The Blockchain Task Force held a virtual meeting on June 16, 2026, at which the Task Force Leader presented the ongoing work on the development of practical use case descriptions.

7. In accordance with the approach agreed by the Blockchain Task Force, the Task Force Leader is developing descriptions of the following three use cases:

- A distributed ledger for IP rights registration;
- A platform for the registration of transfers of rights and licenses; and
- Digital identification.

8. The draft description of the first use case, presented at the meeting, concerns a distributed ledger for IP rights, based on a system deployed in the Russian Federation and described as a permissioned blockchain network using Hyperledger Fabric. The prepared working document sets out the definitions, objectives, and types of transactions supported by the network, including creation of new IP objects, guarantee and rights creation, examinations, valuation, dispute resolution, and asset transfers. Minimum hardware, software, and technical staff qualification requirements are also outlined. The Task Force Leader continues to work on the descriptions of the two other use cases.

9. At the meeting, the Blockchain Task Force agreed to focus on enriching the current work with practical examples, particularly the three use cases presented by the Task Force Leader, while continuing to study the possibility of developing a future WIPO standard.

10. The three use case descriptions are intended to be incorporated into the draft standard as practical annexes, providing real-world grounding for the high-level recommendations already contained in the main body of the document. An important direction for the future work of the Task Force will be the identification of commonalities across the use cases and assessing whether these can form the basis for a future agreed standard.

11. During the meeting mentioned, Task Force members provided updates on its current status and future considerations regarding blockchain technology, with some noting the absence of active projects, while others indicated that they are monitoring progress and potentially considering future use.

Challenges

12. The Blockchain Task Force faced the following critical challenge: lack of involvement from the Task Force members due to a lack of experience in implementing blockchain technologies in their Offices.

13. At its thirteenth session, the CWS, at the request of the Blockchain Task Force, encouraged IP offices implementing or planning to implement blockchain technology to join the Task Force and share their experience. The Blockchain Task Force Leader reiterated this invitation at the fourteenth session of the CWS.

WORK PLAN

14. The Blockchain Task Force informs the CWS of its work plan for 2026 and 2027 as follows:

Item	Description	Time frame
CWS/14	Task Force report at CWS/14	November 23 to 27, 2026
Improvement of the draft standard	Finalize the descriptions for the practical use cases and incorporate them into the main body of the recommendations	2026-2027
Task Force meeting	Organize a Task Force virtual meeting to discuss the current progress	2027
Preparation for the CWS/15	Draft working documents for the next CWS session	2027
CWS/15	Task Force report at CWS/15	2027

15. *The CWS is invited to:*

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

(b) note the proposed work plan for the Blockchain Task Force, as indicated in paragraph 14 above.

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