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Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Fourteenth Session
Geneva, November 23 to 27, 2026

SUMMARY BY THE CHAIR

Document prepared by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Fourteenth Session

1. The fourteenth session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) was opened by the Chair, Mr. Sudeep Acharya (Canada). Mr. Ken-Ichiro Natsume, Assistant Director General, Infrastructure and Platforms Sector of WIPO, welcomed the participants. Mr. Young-woo Yun, Head, Standards Section, acted as Secretary.

DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

2. The CWS unanimously adopted the agenda as proposed in document CWS/14/1 Prov. 2.

Agenda Item 3: Sequence Listings

Agenda Item 3(a): Report on Task No. 44 by the Sequence Listings Task Force

3. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/2.

4. The CWS noted the contents of the document, including the progress made and the work plan of the Sequence Listings Task Force. One delegation requested that training sessions be held for WIPO Standard ST.26 version 2.0, to support the transition from the current version.

Agenda Item 3(b): Improvement of WIPO Sequence Suite

5. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/3 Corr.

6. The CWS noted the content of the report on the improvement of WIPO Sequence Suite conducted in 2026 and encouraged its Members and Observers to provide an Office contact point. The CWS was also invited to register for the subscriber mailing list for those interested in updates for WIPO Sequence or register for the WIPO Sequence Insiders group for those interested in testing beta releases of WIPO Sequence.

7. There were varying views regarding the release date for version 3.2.0 of WIPO Sequence by different delegations. As consensus could not be reached on the originally proposed release date of June 30, 2027, the European Patent Organization (EPO), as the Task Force Leader, proposed that the decision on the release date would be made by the International Bureau, in consultation with the Sequence Listings Task Force. The CWS approved this proposal by the EPO and the decision paragraph was updated accordingly.

8. One delegation proposed that there be additional documentation made available by the International Bureau, detailing the errors and warnings generated by the WIPO Sequence Validator, as well as recommended resolutions. The International Bureau confirmed that a complete list of errors and warnings is internally available and it would publish this documentation on the WIPO Sequence Validator wiki space. The delegation also requested that this documentation be made available in advance of the transition to the new version of WIPO Standard ST.26, version 2.0. The International Bureau noted this request.

Agenda Item 3(c): Implementation of WIPO Standard ST.26 by Offices

9. The CWS noted the presentations by the Delegations of Republic of Korea, the Republic of Serbia and the United States of America and the Representative of the European Patent Organization on the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.26. Common themes across these presentations included determining necessary regulatory changes, performing internal training for staff and the need to conduct promotional campaigns for their applicants.

Agenda Item 4: Digitalization of Intellectual Property Documentation

Agenda Item 4(a): Report on Tasks No. 62, No. 63 and No. 65 by the Digital Transformation Task Force

10. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/4.

11. The CWS noted the content of the document, including the progress made under Tasks No. 62, No. 63 and No. 65 and the work plan of the Digital Transformation Task Force.

Agenda Item 4(b): Implementation of WIPO Standard ST.92 by Offices

12. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/5.

13. The CWS noted the International Bureau’s proposal to support the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.92 version 2.0, including the transition approach for WIPO Digital Access Service (DAS), the Offices readiness analysis, the implementation work plan and the proposed follow-up for Offices exchanging priority documents outside WIPO DAS. The CWS noted the newly proposed end date of June 30, 2027 for Wave 1, and the newly proposed start date of July 1, 2027 for Wave 2. The CWS requested the WIPO DAS participating Offices to confirm their preferred migration wave.

14. The CWS requested its Members that exchange priority documents through bilateral or other arrangements outside WIPO DAS to inform the International Bureau, by March 2027, on the existence and technical characteristics of those arrangements and to assess their compatibility with WIPO Standard ST.92 by June 2027. The CWS encouraged Members exchanging priority documents outside WIPO DAS to consider migration to WIPO DAS, where feasible, and to contact the International Bureau if technical assistance is required.

15. The CWS noted the presentation by the International Bureau wherein it provided the plan to migrate WIPO DAS to REST API version 2.0 and to support the participating Offices in transitioning to WIPO Standard ST.92. The CWS also noted the presentation by the representative of the Eurasian Patent Organization and the oral statement by the Delegation of the United States of America on their plan to implement WIPO Standard ST.92.

Agenda Item 4(c): Conversion of IP Documentation into XML Format

16. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/6.

17. The CWS noted the content of the document, including the information concerning existing Microsoft Word Open XML Document (DOCX) to eXtensible Markup Language (XML) (DOCX2XML) converters, Office conversion practices and the rationale for developing harmonized conversion outputs and reviewed the working draft of the DOCX2XML Converter Functional Specification Document.

18. The CWS noted the information provided by the Delegations of Brazil, France and Russian Federation on their practices, tools and the challenges encountered in converting patent documents from DOCX to XML. The CWS also noted the presentation by the International Bureau on the PCT DOCX Converter tool and its functionalities.

19. The CWS requested the Digital Transformation Task Force and the Secretariat to consult interested Offices on their use cases, technical requirements and available test data. The CWS invited its Members to participate in the consultation by sharing their conversion workflows, functional requirements, implementation experience, test cases and expected outputs. Where feasible, CWS members are also encouraged to share information on existing tools that could be reused or adapted by other Offices. The CWS also requested the Task Force to present an updated draft functional specification and the outcome of the consultation for consideration at the fifteenth session of the CWS.

Agenda Item 4(d): Analysis of Survey Results on Digitization of IP Documentation

20. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/7.

21. The CWS noted the content of the document and approved the analysis of the survey results on digitization of IP documents and its publication in Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook on Intellectual Property Information and Documentation. The CWS also encouraged its Members to contact the International Bureau for technical assistance if interested in implementing structured output as part of their digitization activities.

22. One delegation highlighted challenges with the extraction of complex content such as chemical structures and mathematical formulas from patent documents. The delegation offered to share their many years of experience with other Offices.

Agenda Item 4(e): Report on Digitization Guidelines and Related Workshop

23. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/8.

24. The CWS noted the outcome of the Workshop on IP Documentation Digitization Guidelines and the proposal to revise WIPO Standard ST.22 to provide guidance on how to prepare documents prior to conducting Optical Character Recognition (OCR). The CWS also noted the presentation by the International Bureau on the recent improvements to the WIPO OCR Solution and the update provided by the Representative of the Eurasian Patent Organization on the production of its own OCR tool.

25. Several delegations indicated that they continue to experience ongoing challenges implementing OCR solutions, mostly relating to extraction of complex content from patent documents. Following this feedback, the International Bureau proposed to organize a knowledge sharing session in 2027, should a sufficient number of CWS members express interest.

Agenda Item 5: Structuring IP Data for Machine-Readable Processing and Dissemination

Agenda Item 5(a): Report on Task No. 41 by the XML4IP Task Force

26. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/9 Corr.

27. The CWS noted the content of the document, including the publication of WIPO Standard ST.96 version 10.0, the closure of both the centralized repository pilot and the entry into abeyance of the copyright orphan work metadata project. Following the success of the WIPO Standard ST.96 Implementation workshop held in June 2026, the CWS also encouraged its Members to continue to provide feedback on their experience in the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.96.

Agenda Item 5(b): Report on Tasks No. 56 and No. 64 by the API Task Force

28. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/10.

29. The CWS noted the content of the document, including the release of version 2.0 of WIPO Standard ST.97 on July 15, 2026, the independent development of WIPO Standard ST.97 from WIPO Standard ST.96, the availability of the API Catalog for Intellectual Property and the work plan of the API Task Force.

30. One delegation expressed concern regarding the use of the fast-track procedure to approve major revisions to WIPO Standard ST.97, including its independent development from ST.96 and the introduction of a release that was not backward compatible. The delegation proposed reviewing the fast-track procedure to ensure revisions of that magnitude are considered at the CWS plenary for consensus in the future. The delegation clarified that it supported the technical rationale for the changes. The Secretariat explained that the revisions were intended to provide a more JSON-native structure while retaining the underlying IP data content. The Secretariat further indicated that the API Task Force would consider the delegation’s proposal at its meeting scheduled for November 26, 2026, and report the outcome to the CWS.

31. The CWS encouraged its Members and Observers to implement WIPO Standards ST.90 and ST.97, share their implementation experiences, test the upgraded XSD2JSON Transformation Tool, and participate in the API Catalog for Intellectual Property.

Agenda Item 5(c): Implementation of WIPO Standard ST.97 by Offices

32. The CWS noted the presentations by the Delegations of Denmark and Norway on their plans, experiences and challenges in implementing WIPO Standard ST.97.

Agenda Item 5(d): Implementation of WIPO Standard ST.90 and the API Catalog for Intellectual Property

33. The CWS noted the presentations by the Delegations of China and Denmark and the Representative of the Eurasian Patent Organization on their experiences and challenges in implementing WIPO Standard ST.90 and their web Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). The CWS also noted the presentation by the International Bureau regarding the API Catalog for Intellectual Property.

Agenda Item 6: IP Data Exchange

Agenda Item 6(a): Report on Task No. 67 by the IP Data Exchange Task Force

34. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/11.

35. The CWS noted the content of the document, including the IP Data Exchange Task Force's confirmation of the project brief, and approved the Task Force's work plan.

Agenda Item 6(b): Analysis of Survey Results on IP Data Exchange

36. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/12.

37. The CWS noted the content of the document, considered the survey analysis and approved its publication in Part 7.20 of the WIPO Handbook. The CWS also noted the proposed next steps and requested the IP Data Exchange Task Force to incorporate the agreed activities into its work plan.

Agenda Item 6(c): Proposal for a New WIPO Standard on IP Data Exchange

38. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/13 and CWS/14/13 Rev.

39. Several suggestions for improvement were proposed by delegations, which were incorporated into document CWS/14/13 and published as CWS/14/13 Rev. The CWS adopted the new WIPO Standard ST.94, entitled “Recommendations for the Exchange of Intellectual Property Data and its Use”, as reproduced in the Annex to document CWS/14/13 Rev.

40. One delegation proposed including a provision in the proposed Standard to avoid unnecessary duplication of existing global IP data repositories, search platforms and dissemination services where IP information is already effectively accessible. Following discussions, the CWS agreed that the matter would be addressed as part of the IP Data Exchange Task Force’s work plan rather than incorporated into the Standard.

41. The CWS approved the following revised description of Task No. 67:

“Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.94 and explore feasible technical solutions to improve global IP data exchange, including the sharing experience and information on data quality assurance and the possible development of a global IP data exchange platform.”

Agenda Item 7: Patent Authority File

Agenda Item 7(a): Report on Task No. 66 by the Authority File Task Force

42. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/14.

43. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the progress, challenges and work plan of the Authority File Task Force including the work of the Task Force on preparing the proposals for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.37 and for the improvement of the Authority File Guidelines.

44. Following the resignation of the Delegation of the United Kingdom from its role as Task Force Leader, the CWS designated the Delegation of Brazil as the new Leader of the Authority File Task Force.

45. One delegation noted that, in its future work, the Task Force should take into account the varying capacity of Offices when considering the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.37.

Agenda Item 7(b): Proposal for the Revision of WIPO Standard ST.37

46. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/15 and CWS/14/15 Rev.

47. Several delegations proposed improvements, which were incorporated into document CWS/14/15 and subsequently published as document CWS/14/15 Rev. One delegation also emphasized the importance of ensuring that the Standard continues to evolve to remain relevant and responsive to technological developments and the changing needs of IP offices. The CWS approved the proposed revision contained in the Annexes to document CWS/14/15 Rev. as version 3.1 of WIPO Standard ST.37.

Agenda Item 8: Recommendations on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Offices

Agenda Item 8(a): Report on Task No. 58 by the ICT Strategy Task Force

48. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/16.

49. The CWS noted the contents of the document and approved the completion of Task No. 58 and the closure of the ICT Strategy Task Force. The CWS further agreed that future revisions to the 10 ICT Recommendations would be managed under Task No. 33 and noted that the description of Task No. 33 would be updated accordingly.

Agenda Item 8(b): Implementation of ICT Recommendations for Offices

50. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/17.

51. The CWS noted the outcomes of the Workshop on ICT Recommendations for IP Offices, held on September 1, 2026, and the proposed approach for assessing the digital maturity of IP offices. Several delegations emphasized that the Digital Maturity Index (DMI) should serve as a self-assessment and improvement tool rather than a mechanism for ranking IP offices. The CWS encouraged its Members to assess their digital maturity using the DMI once it becomes available.

52. The CWS also noted the presentations by the Delegations of Canada and the United Kingdom and the Representative of the Eurasian Patent Organization on their experiences in implementing the ICT Recommendations.

Agenda Item 9: Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook on Intellectual Property Information and Documentation

Agenda Item 9(a): Report on Task No. 50 by the Part 7 Task Force

53. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/18.

54. The CWS noted the contents of the document and its Annex.

55. The CWS approved the templates for updating Parts 7.1, 7.2.6 and 7.2.7 of the WIPO Handbook and the publication of Part 7.1 as a searchable table and encouraged its Members to report any necessary changes or corrections to the templates.

56. The CWS requested the Part 7 Task Force to analyze the possibility of applying the hybrid approach to updating Parts 7.4 and 7.11 of the WIPO Handbook. Under this approach, Offices may provide updates both in response to circulars issued by the Secretariat and on an ad-hoc basis. The CWS also approved the proposed 2027 work plan of the Task Force.

Agenda Item 9(b): Analysis of Survey Results on Examples and Kinds of Patent Documents

57. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/19 Corr.

58. The CWS noted the survey results and analysis and approved the merger of Parts 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 of the WIPO Handbook into a consolidated resource titled “Part 7.3: Inventory and Examples of Kinds of Patent Documents”, as well as its proposed format.

59. The CWS requested its Members to verify and confirm the information concerning their Offices and to submit any corrections or updates to the Secretariat by December 11, 2026, and requested the Secretariat to publish the updated Part 7.3 after the deadline.

60. The CWS approved the proposed revision of paragraph 12 of WIPO Standard ST.16 as presented, and requested the Secretariat to update and publish the revised WIPO Standard ST.16 in Part 3 of the WIPO Handbook.

Agenda Item 9(c): Analysis of Survey Results on Citation Practices Relating to Patent Information

61. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/20.

62. The CWS noted the content of the document and its Annex and approved the survey analysis and its publication in the WIPO Handbook.

63. The CWS approved the creation of Task No. 68, with the following description:

“Ensure the necessary revisions and updates to WIPO Standard ST.14, and support the implementation of this Standard.”

64. The CWS approved the reactivation of the ST.14 Task Force, designated the International Bureau as the Task Force Leader and assigned Task No. 68 to the Task Force.

65. The CWS requested the Secretariat to issue a circular inviting Members and Observers to nominate subject-matter experts to participate in the ST.14 Task Force. Several delegations expressed their commitment to joining the Task Force during the session.

Agenda Item 10: Processing and Representation of 3D Models and Images

Agenda Item 10(a): Report on Task No. 61 by the 3D Task Force

66. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/21.

67. The CWS noted the content of the document, including the progress made, the challenges and the work plan of the 3D Task Force.

Agenda Item 10(b): Proposal for the Revision of WIPO Standard ST.91

68. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/22 and CWS/14/22 Rev.

69. Several delegations proposed improvements, which were incorporated into document CWS/14/22 and subsequently published as document CWS/14/22 Rev. The CWS approved the proposed revision to WIPO Standard ST.91, as reproduced within Annex II of document CWS/14/22 Rev.

70. The CWS approved the revised description of Task No. 61, which reads:

“Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.91 and support the implementation of this Standard.”

Agenda Item 10(c): Implementation of WIPO Standard ST.91 by Offices

71. The CWS noted that no delegation had volunteered to make a presentation under this agenda item in response to the Secretariat’s invitation.

Agenda Item 11: Name Standardization

Agenda Item 11(a): Report on Task No. 55 by the Name Standardization Task Force

72. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/23.

73. The CWS noted the content of the document, including the progress made by the Name Standardization Task Force in finalizing the draft recommendations on the data cleaning of names.

74. The CWS approved the proposal to conduct a post-adoption survey and requested the Name Standardization Task Force to prepare its scope, timing and draft questionnaire for consideration at the fifteenth session of the CWS.

Agenda Item 11(b): Proposal for a New WIPO Standard Supporting the Data Cleaning of Names

75. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/24.

76. The CWS approved the inclusion of an editorial note in the proposed new WIPO standard, which reads as follows:

"Implementation of this Standard is voluntary and non-binding. Each Office may determine, according to its circumstances, whether and when to implement it, either fully or partially, or not at all."

77. The CWS adopted the new WIPO Standard ST.93 entitled "Recommendations on the data cleaning of names" and requested the Secretariat to publish it in Part 3 of the WIPO Handbook.

78. The CWS approved the revised description of Task No. 55, which reads:

"Share practices for cleaning customer name data, including the algorithms used and the purposes for which cleaned or standardized data are applied; develop practical guidance for IP offices; and maintain and update WIPO Standard ST.93, as necessary."

79. The CWS requested the Secretariat to issue a circular inviting Offices to provide information on their transliteration schemes for publication in Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook.

Agenda Item 12: 2025 Annual Technical Reports

80. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/25.

81. The CWS noted the content of the document, including the analysis of the 2025 Annual Technical Reports (ATRs) and the information on the implementation of WIPO Standards by Offices.

82. The CWS encouraged its Members to submit their ATRs and, as appropriate, seek support or technical assistance from the International Bureau.

83. The CWS approved the annual updating of Part 7.12 of the WIPO Handbook and requested the Secretariat to carry out these updates annually, using information on the implementation of WIPO Standards collected through the ATRs.

84. The CWS approved the proposal for the Secretariat to revise Section VII of the ATR templates, as appropriate, to reflect newly adopted WIPO Standards and revisions to existing Standards.

85. One delegation suggested that, prior to the publication of the updated Part 7.12 of the WIPO Handbook, Offices that had not submitted ATRs be given an opportunity to provide information on their implementation of WIPO Standards. The CWS noted that the existing information should be retained in Part 7.12 until the Offices have an opportunity to submit their updates. The CWS also noted that the Secretariat would make Section VII of the ATRs available separately to enable those Offices to provide the relevant information.

Agenda Item 13: 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

86. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/26.

87. The CWS noted the content of the document, including the activities taken place in 2025 by the International Bureau related to providing technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IP offices regarding dissemination of IP standards information.

88. The CWS noted that this document would serve as the 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).

Agenda Item 14: Update on the Global Intellectual Property Assignment Platform

89. The CWS noted the update provided by the International Bureau regarding the Global Intellectual Property Assignment Platform.

Agenda Item 15: CWS Work Program and Tasks

Agenda Item 15(a): Report on Task No. 47 by the Legal Status Task Force

90. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/27 Corr.

91. The CWS noted the content of the document, including the work plan of the Legal Status Task Force and the introduction of a “Last updated” indication for each Office entry published in Part 7.13 of the WIPO Handbook.

92. The CWS encouraged its Members to provide feedback on any need to revise WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87 and to provide updated mapping tables, where appropriate.

93. The CWS noted the presentation by the Delegation of Canada on implementation experiences and plans relating to WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87.

Agenda Item 15(b): Report on Task No. 59 by the Blockchain Task Force

94. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/28.

95. The CWS noted the content of the document, including the continued development of the exploratory working paper and the blockchain use cases concerning IP rights registration, transfers of rights and licenses, and digital identification.

96. The CWS approved the proposed work plan of the Blockchain Task Force.

Agenda Item 15(c): Work Program and Task List of the CWS

97. Discussions were based on document CWS/14/29.

98. The CWS noted the document and considered the updated Task List. The CWS also noted that a new Task No. 68 was added to its Work Program; the descriptions of the following four Tasks No. 33, No. 55, No. 61 and No. 67 have been revised; and Task No. 58 has been discontinued as completed.

99. The CWS approved the incorporation of the agreements reached at the fourteenth session into the CWS Work Program and the CWS Work Program Overview and requested their publication on the WIPO website.

100. The CWS encouraged greater participation by Members and Observers in the CWS Task Forces and requested the International Bureau to issue a circular inviting Offices and Organizations to nominate subject-matter experts.

MEETINGS OF THE CWS TASK FORCES

101. During this session, the following CWS Task Forces held meetings: IP Data Exchange Task Force, API Task Force, XML4IP Task Force and Digital Transformation Task Force, where interested participants and Members of the relevant Task Force were invited. The CWS noted the results of Task Force meetings.

102. The Chair closed the fourteenth session of the CWS on November 27, 2026.

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