

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Fourteenth Session
Geneva, November 23 to 27, 2026

IMPROVEMENT OF WIPO SEQUENCE SUITE

Document prepared by the International Bureau

SUMMARY

1. The International Bureau has conducted a series of development projects since 2018 to develop and improve WIPO Sequence Suite. This document provides a summary of the software development activities that have been conducted since the last session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS).

BACKGROUND

2. WIPO Sequence Suite is a set of two software products which were developed by the International Bureau to support the generation and validation of sequence listings filed as part of a patent application. Since the entry into force of WIPO Standard ST.26 in 2022, a sequence listing is a mandatory requirement when an applicant files a patent application that discloses nucleotide or amino acid information.

3. The WIPO Sequence Suite is comprised of:

- WIPO Sequence: A desktop application developed for applicant to support the generation of WIPO Standard ST.26-compliant sequence listings.
- WIPO Sequence Validator: A web Service developed for patent Offices to validate sequence listings received by their Office to ensure their compliance with WIPO Standard ST.26.

4. WIPO Sequence was first launched into production in June 2022, in advance of the entry into force of WIPO Standard ST.26. Since that time, there have been annual development projects implementing new improvements, in line with the International Bureau's commitment to improve the WIPO Sequence Suite, taking into account requests from Member States.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS 2026

5. In 2026, the development team worked on improving both WIPO Sequence and WIPO Sequence Validator by implementing new improvements and correcting any bugs reported. The development period was conducted from February to August 2026. Following this, the development team moved into a maintenance mode, supporting versions available in production.

6. The following improvements were implemented in 2026:

- Improvements necessary to implement version 2.0 of WIPO Standard ST.26;
- Warnings relating to 3-letter code notation for amino acids;
- Automatic conversion of 3-letter code to 1-letter code annotation for amino acids;
- Improvements relating to guidance for annotating hybrid sequences;
- Project archive and pagination of project home page;
- New web service to transform sequence listings into HTML format;
- Inclusion of language indicator in WIPO Sequence Validator verification report; and
- Export of custom applicant/inventor information.

7. On June 30, 2026, the International Bureau launched a new version of the WIPO Sequence Suite, version 3.1.2. This was the first official release of the new version of WIPO Sequence in 3 years. The release notes for this version are published at:

<https://confluence.wipo.int/confluence/spaces/WSSKB/pages/1745392256/Release+Notes+-+Version+3.1.2>

8. Following the release into production, one major bug was reported by users relating to the annotation of modified bases. A "hot-fix" patch for version 3.1.2, version 3.1.3, was released into production which provided a resolution for this bug, alongside resolutions for several other minor issues. The release notes for the latest version are published at:

<https://confluence.wipo.int/confluence/spaces/WSSKB/pages/1772814887/Release+Notes+-+Version+3.1.3>

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

9. The International Bureau has engaged with a number of external stakeholders in order to ensure that WIPO Sequence Suite continues to meet the needs of its users. There are several mechanisms by which it conducts this consultation:

- WIPO Sequence Insiders Group;
- Sequence Listings Task Force;
- WIPO Sequence subscription;
- WIPO Sequence Validator Offices; and
- WIPO Sequence and ST26 Knowledge Base.

10. Since 2025, the International Bureau has been working with WIPO Sequence Insiders Group, comprising approximately 150 self-nominated users to test beta releases of the WIPO Sequence desktop application. This has been part of a more cautious approach that the International Bureau has taken in publishing new releases of WIPO Sequence. When a new release is being considered, a beta release is provided only to the Insiders group and during a 3-month pilot period, they are invited to report any bugs they discover while conducting their normal patent drafting activities. Any reported bugs are resolved and merged into a new improved release which is then released to the general public after the conclusion of the pilot period. The International Bureau is grateful for the invaluable feedback provided by this Group.

11. In the last quarter of each year, the International Bureau hosted a stakeholder engagement meeting where previously proposed improvements have been discussed and prioritized for development in the following year. All members of the Sequence Listings Task Force were invited to this session. Any suggestions for improvement should be directed to wiposequence@wipo.int.

12. Following feedback from the Sequence Listings Task Force regarding its engagement in development activities, the International Bureau began hosting demonstrations of new improvements made during each sprint of WIPO Sequence Suite development. The development team demonstrated the new improvements using an improved version of the tool and participants indicated which elements do not meet their expectations or how the implementation could be improved. All members of the Sequence Listings Task Force were invited to this session.

13. Details regarding updates to WIPO Sequence Suite have been communicated to users via the WIPO Sequence subscribers. When users download WIPO Sequence from the website, they are prompted to join the subscriber list. Offices are also invited to join the mailing list if they are interested in following software development updates.

14. Finally, the International Bureau maintains the [WIPO Sequence and ST.26 Knowledge Base](#): a resource where popular questions and the International Bureau's response are published for the benefit of both users of WIPO Sequence and WIPO Standard ST.26. Existing bugs which have been reported and release notes for each of the official WIPO Sequence releases are also published here. This resource is open to the general public.

WORK PLAN IN 2027

15. As approved by the CWS at the last session in 2026, WIPO Standard ST.26, version 2.0, will come into force on July 1, 2027. After thorough consideration, the International Bureau proposes the following timeline for the release of version 3.2.0 in 2027:

- The new version of the WIPO Sequence Validator will be sent to Validator Offices' contact points in Q1, 2027;
- This new version of WIPO Sequence will be provided to the WIPO Sequence Insiders Group in March 2027, and they will have a three month period for feedback. The Insiders Group will be warned against using this version to draft their sequence listings, if they contain short sequences; and
- WIPO Sequence 3.2.0 will be officially released on June 30, 2027.

16. The International Bureau will continue to support the latest versions provided to ensure that they are "bug-free".

17. *The CWS is invited to:*

(a) *note the contents of this report;*

(b) *encourage Member States to actively participate in the future demonstrations of the improved WIPO Sequence Suite;*

(c) *encourage Member States to contact the International Bureau with an Office contact point if one has not yet been provided; and*

(d) *consider and approve the proposed date of June 30, 2027, to release version 3.2.0 of WIPO Sequence Suite, as indicated in paragraph 15.*

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