

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Second Session
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ROADMAP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WIPO STANDARDS DEALING WITH XML

prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) agreed to prepare the new WIPO Standard ST.96 for the XML (eXtensible Markup Language) resources to be used for filing, processing, publication, and exchange of information regarding all life cycles of patents, trademarks and industrial designs (see CWS Task No. 41). A proposal for new WIPO Standard ST.96 is presented for consideration and adoption by the CWS at its second session. (See document CWS/2/4.)
2. It is anticipated that the new WIPO Standard ST.96 will affect WIPO Standards ST.36, ST.66 and ST.86 (hereinafter referred to as “existing XML Standards”) and a new WIPO standard on the presentation of nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings using XML which is under preparation by the CWS SEQL Task Force.
3. Taking into account the impact of the new WIPO Standard ST.96 on other WIPO Standards dealing with XML, the International Bureau (IB) organized the Informal Consultation on WIPO XML Standards in December 2011 in order to discuss harmonization among WIPO Standards dealing with XML and the future development of those Standards as well as to prepare the final draft of WIPO Standard ST.96. The members of CWS XML Task Forces, i.e., ST.36, ST.66, ST.86 and XML4IP Task Forces, were invited to the Informal Consultation. The agenda and minutes of the meeting are available on the XML4IP Task Force’s website at: <http://www.wipo.int/cws/en/taskforce/xml4ip/background.htm>.
4. The International Bureau prepared an initial draft for a roadmap for the development of WIPO Standards dealing with XML for consideration by the CWS XML Task Forces. Based on the initial draft for the roadmap, the Task Forces prepared a final proposal for a roadmap for the development of WIPO Standards dealing with XML, which is reproduced as Annex to this document, and agreed to present it for consideration and approval by the CWS.

5. The CWS is invited to consider and approve the roadmap for the development of WIPO Standards dealing with XML, which is reproduced in Annex to this document, as referred to in paragraph 4.

[Annex follows]

ROADMAP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WIPO STANDARDS DEALING WITH XML

*Proposal presented by the CWS XML Task Forces for consideration
and approval at the CWS/2*

INTRODUCTION

1. Currently WIPO Standards ST.36, ST.66 and ST.86 (hereinafter referred to as "existing XML Standards") provide recommendations for processing information using XML. There are two new WIPO standards under preparation for consideration and adoption by the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), namely WIPO Standards ST.96 (XML for patents, trademarks and industrial designs) and ST.26 (XML for Sequence Listings, although the ST number is not officially approved yet).

2. WIPO Standard ST.96 will affect the existing XML Standards (ST.36, ST.66 and ST.86) and the new standard ST.26. Therefore, when a final proposal of WIPO Standard ST.96 is submitted for consideration and adoption by the CWS, a roadmap for all WIPO Standards using XML should also be presented for consideration by the CWS.

ROADMAP FOR WIPO XML STANDARDS

Co-existence and compatibility

3. In view of past and future investment in the existing XML Standards by some IPOs; and the need of a new standard providing harmonization among all types of IP information and modern technology for other IPOs, the co-existence of ST.96 with the existing XML Standards likely fits the needs of most IPOs. Therefore, the co-existence should be taken into account in the development and revision of WIPO Standard ST.96 and the existing XML Standards.

4. Considering the co-existence in the future and in light of a clear need for compatibility between WIPO Standard ST.96 and the existing XML Standards, the following strategy should be applied:

- Development of WIPO Standards ST.66 and ST.86 should, as far as possible, use the ST.96 Design Rules and Conventions (DRCs) and Common Components in definition of new elements and attributes; and revision of existing ones;
- Development of WIPO Standard ST.36 should take into account the data structures of ST.96 Common Components and use a similar approach to that specified in ST.96 DRCs as far as possible in the definition of new elements and in the revision of existing ones;
- ST.96 Patent Components and corresponding elements or attributes in WIPO Standard ST.36 should be compatible; ST.96 Trademark Components and Design Components should conform to corresponding components in WIPO Standards ST.66 and ST.86 respectively; and
- Existing elements and attributes defined in WIPO Standards ST.36, ST.66 or ST.86 may remain usable.

5. Any new WIPO standard using XML should follow recommendations provided in WIPO Standard ST.96.

Data Conversion

6. For facilitation of data exchange and interoperability between an IPO using the existing XML Standards and an IPO using WIPO Standard ST.96, bi-directional conversion should be ensured instead of one directional conversion from the instance of WIPO Standards ST.36, ST.66 or ST.86 to the instance of WIPO Standard ST.96. However, it is not realistic to require the perfect bi-directional conversion between instances conforming to WIPO Standard ST.96 and instances conforming to the existing XML Standards considering improvements in ST.96 of data structures defined in the existing XML Standards. Therefore, it should be aimed to seek the necessary degree of compatibility and convertibility between WIPO Standard ST.96 and the existing XML Standards to ensure that data can be processed satisfactorily for the business needs of IPOs and IP information suppliers instead of seeking perfect bi-directional conversion. The bi-directional conversion should be determined on a case-by-case basis.

7. From the viewpoint of developing standards to be widely supported, the work of identifying business needs in more detail should also provide standards experts with useful guidance in identifying (i) what degree of compatibility is necessary for conversion; and (ii) what elements and attributes should be considered for conversion to seek pragmatic solutions to meet the business needs of IPOs.

8. With regard to conversions for patent document instances, the data structures defined in xx-patent-document.dtd (Annex I of WIPO Standard ST.36) should be referred to. If necessary, PCT Annex F DTDs (Document Type Definitions) can be also referred to.

9. In order to support the data conversion between XML instances of WIPO Standard ST.96 and instances conforming to the existing XML Standard DTDs/Schemas, model mapping tables and corresponding codes of XSLT (eXtensible Stylesheet Language Transformations) will be necessary. The model mapping tables and corresponding XSLT codes for data conversion should be provided only in WIPO Standard ST.96, and not in the existing WIPO XML Standard to avoid duplication and workload. However, in view of amount of work which will be involved in the development of tools, further discussion and clarification on work sharing are necessary with the CWS Members.

MAINTENANCE OF WIPO XML STANDARDS

10. Revisions of the existing XML Standards should be prepared by the corresponding Task Forces, i.e., ST.36, ST.66 and ST.86 Task Forces, within the context of existing CWS Task No. 38, No. 39 and No. 42, respectively, taking into account the strategy regarding the co-existence and compatibility stated above in paragraph 4.

[End of Annex and of document]