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Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Fourth Session
Geneva, May 12 to 16, 2014

STATUS REPORT ON THE PREPARATION OF ANNEXES V AND VI, AND THE REVISION OF WIPO STANDARD ST.96

Document prepared by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1.   The Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), at its second session in 2012, adopted WIPO Standard ST.96 along with Annexes I to IV. The CWS noted that drafts of other Annexes, Annex V (Implementation Rules and Guidelines) and Annex VI (Transformation Rules and Guidelines), which were presented at the session, needed to be further elaborated for adoption as part of ST.96.

2.   At the third session of the CWS in 2013, the XML4IP Task Force reported the progress in the development of Annexes V and VI and the revision of ST.96. The CWS noted that the pending Annexes would be prepared on the basis of the next official version of ST.96 XML Schema instead of the current version 1.0. The finalization of the two Annexes will, therefore, depend on the completion of the next version of XML Schema (see document CWS/3/5).

3.   Since the progress report was presented at the third session of the CWS, the XML4IP Task Force has continued its discussions, through its Wiki e-forum and two meetings, in Geneva, Switzerland, and in Alexandria, United States of America, in order to carry out Task No. 41: "prepare a proposal for Annexes V and VI of ST.96 for adoption by the CWS; and ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.96".

PREPARATION OF ANNEXES V AND VI

4.   Following the update of ST.96 XML Schema, the XML4IP Task Force agreed to revise the drafts of Annexes V and VI because they depend on XML Schema. In this regard, the Task Force revised these two Annexes several times and, at the moment of writing this

document, is working on the eleventh draft of Annex V and the eighth draft of Annex VI, which are based on the version 1.0 Draft 6 of XML Schema.

5.   It should be advised that final drafts of the two Annexes will be prepared on the basis of the XML Schema version 2.0 because the Task Force agreed that the next official version of XML Schema will be versioned as "version 2.0" due to major changes to XML Schema. It should be noted that the release of version 2.0 will depend on inputs from the Task Force members. Furthermore, the finalization of the said two Annexes will be largely dependent on available resources in the Task Force Member Offices and the International Bureau, as well as the progress on the development of the XML Schema version 2.0.

6.   As to the preparation of Annex VI, the International Bureau appreciates the kind collaboration by the United States of America to assist in the development of tools for bi-directional transformation between ST.96 and ST.36, ST.66 and ST.86. As agreed at the third session of the CWS, the International Bureau would like to ask the CWS to review the arrangement for assistance in developing the tools (see paragraph 43 of document CWS/3/14). The International Bureau would also like to invite other offices and organizations to participate in the development of the said tools.

REVISION OF WIPO STANDARD ST.96

Update of XML Schema

7.   Since the last report presented at the third session of the CWS, the XML4IP Task Force has updated ST.96 XML Schema two times to fulfill various practices of offices and deal with technical constraints that offices found in the implementation of ST.96. At the time of preparing this report, the Task Force members are reviewing version 1.0 Draft 6, which consists of 1,936 schema components.

8.   A number of schema components have been added and modified in version 1.0 Draft 6. The main changes are related to:

- image, payment, paragraph and figure reference in common area;

- patent classification, bibliographic data, patent transaction, patent publication and patent republication in patent area;

- mark category, collective mark and goods service classification in trademark area; and

- Locarno classification, view angle category in design area.

9.   In addition, one of the big changes made to version 1.0 Draft 6 was to remove special characters in the enumeration values because they cause automatic Java code generation tool to fail. This change required to revise Annex I (XML Design Rules and Conventions). The Task Force also discussed whether the new XML version, XML 1.1, should be introduced in ST.96. The Task Force investigated advantages and disadvantages of using XML 1.1 instead of XML 1.0. Finally, the Task Force agreed to keep XML 1.0 in ST.96, but continue to monitor the evolution of XML technology and the implementation of XML 1.1 in industry.

Proposal For Revisions

10.   In order to support the changes to ST.96 XML Schema referred to in paragraphs 7 to 9, above, the XML4IP Task Force agreed that recommendations provided in the Main Body of ST.96 and Annex I should be revised. The International Bureau, therefore, submitted the following two Proposal For Revisions (PFR) for consideration and approval by the Task Force:

- PFR ST.96/2013/001: Modification to ST.96 Main Body; and

- PFR ST.96/2013/002: Modification to ST.96 Annex I.

11.   As to PFR ST.96/2013/001, changes were proposed mainly to:

- transfer detailed recommendations on XML schema namespace and IP Data Dictionary to Annex I and Annex II respectively from the main body of ST.96; and

- add a new image format, Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG), for both patent and industrial design documents.

12.   With regard to PFR ST.96/2013/002, it aims to modify:

- rules to limit special characters in enumeration values due to technical constraints;

- namespace declaration to support changes to the folder structure of XML Schema components; and

- rules to introduce new ways to identify reference.

13.   At the time of writing this document, the XML4IP Task Force members are conducting the second round discussions on the two PFRs.

OFFICES' ACTIVITIES ON WIPO STANDARD ST.96

14.   At the meeting of the XML4IP Task Force held in November 2013, activities on ST.96 were reported by the representatives of the following offices and organizations: Australia (AU), Republic of Korea (KR), Russian Federation (RU), United Kingdom (GB), United States of America (US), Office for the Harmonization in the Internal Market (Trade Marks and Designs) (EM) and the International Bureau (Madrid System).

15.   The AU Delegation presented its plan to use ST.96 for internal and external systems and implement ST.96 in the area of industrial designs in 2014. The KR Delegation made a presentation on its development activities and plan for dissemination data using ST.96. The RU Delegation presented its ST.96 implementation plan, as well as current development activities, and announced that its Office would start development of official publication using ST.96 in 2014. The GB Delegation reported that its Office would implement ST.96 for patent business first and extend it to design and trademark. The US Delegation reported its progress of ST.96 implementation in patent and trademark business. The EM Delegation showed its efforts and services to map ST.96 and ST.66 schemas. The Delegation of the Madrid System stated that it did not use ST.96 yet, but would be ready to accommodate communications of Madrid System data by its members in ST.96 format.

WORK PLAN

16.   The XML4IP Task Force plans to complete the development of XML Schema version 2.0 in 2014. On the basis of the new version, the Task Force will finalize the preparation of Annexes V and VI.

17.   In order to discuss the XML Schema version 2.0 and to prepare final drafts of proposals for Annexes V and VI, the XML4IP Task Force plans to organize its meeting in the fourth quarter of 2014. The United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office offered to host the meeting in London.

18.   *The CWS is invited to:*

(a)   note the results of the work of the XML4IP Task Force and the report of the Task Force leader, as set out in this document;

(b)   review the arrangement for assistance in the preparation of Annex VI, as referred to in paragraph 6, above; and

(c)   note the work plan of the XML4IP Task Force referred to in paragraphs 16 and 17, above.

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