# REPORT ON THE RECOMMENDATION FOR AN AUTHORITY FILE OF PATENT DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY A NATIONAL or regional patent office to enable other patent offices and other interested parties to assess the completeness of their collections of published patent documents

## BACKGROUND

1. The Authority File Task Force was created by the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), at its reconvened fourth session (CWS/4BIS) in March 2016 to handle the Task No. 51 (see paragraph 122 (e) of document CWS/4BIS/16 ):

“Prepare a recommendation for an authority file of patent documents issued by a national or regional patent office to enable other patent offices and other interested parties to assess the completeness of their collections of published patent documents.”

1. The Task Force was also requested:

“To present a proposal for a new WIPO standard or the revision of existing WIPO Standard(s) for consideration and approval by the CWS at its next session to be held in 2017”

1. The European Patent Office (EPO) was assigned the role of Task Force Leader. The Secretariat set up a Wiki space to facilitate the Task Force discussion (AFTF Wiki).

## PROGRESS REPORT

1. The Task Force started operating in June 2016. The discussion was based on a draft prepared by the EPO. Many Offices participated in the process and posted useful comments.
2. The Task Force established the objectives and scope of the new recommendation for an authority file; it held a meeting in person in September 2016 in Geneva, had several WebEx and completed two discussion rounds in the AFTF Wiki.
3. The structure of the proposed recommendation is the following:

* Main body;
* Annex I – Example of a definition file;
* Annex II – Text File (TXT);
* Annex III – XML schema (XSD); and
* Annex IV – Data Type Definition (DTD).

1. The Task Force completed and submitted to the CWS/5 for approval a proposed new WIPO Standard for an authority file of published patent documents (main body) along with its Annexes I and II.
2. Annex III and Annex IV define an XML Schema Definition (XSD) and a Data Type Definition (DTD) formats, respectively. As Annex II defines the text (TXT) format for data exchange of authority files, which is currently the most used among industrial property offices (IPOs), the Task Force considered that the proposed Standard meets the minimum requirements for adoption by the CWS.

## ROADMAP

1. The Task Force continues its work on two additional data format representations for an authority file: an XML Schema (XSD) and a Data Type Definition (DTD) to extend the number of formats recommended for of an authority file in the proposed Standard. It is planned to present them for consideration by the CWS at its next session to be held in 2018. Once approved, these documents will be incorporated in the recommendation for an authority file as Annexes III and IV.

[Annex II follows]