

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

**Reconvened Fourth Session
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QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE USE OF WIPO STANDARDS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. WIPO Standards are addressed to three main groups of users: industrial property offices (IPOs), industrial property (IP) information users and applicants. IPOs implement WIPO Standards in their practices to facilitate international exchange and dissemination of IP information. WIPO Standards reflect best practices at the time of their approval and can be useful for IPOs that establish or modernize their information and publication systems. Knowledge of WIPO Standards helps IP information users and applicants better understand technological and legal information contained in published documents and announcements issued by IPOs.
2. Knowing only the recommendations provided in WIPO Standards may not be sufficient for performing a deeper analysis of best IPO practices or the content of a certain IP document. Since WIPO Standards are not binding, an IPO can decide to implement any of them completely, partially or not follow the recommendations at all; in some cases, WIPO Standards provide for the flexibility to be implemented in different IPOs in a different manner. Therefore, when analyzing IPO practices or working with an IP document issued by a certain IPO, it may be crucial to know whether the Office follows the recommendations provided in WIPO Standards and, if so, how exactly they are implemented by this IPO.
3. To meet this need, the International Bureau proposes to conduct a survey on the use of WIPO Standards by IPOs. The survey will help to ascertain the level of implementation of WIPO Standards in IPOs and better understand the needs for future development of standardization of IP information. It will also increase the use and appreciation of

WIPO Standards by IP information users, who have repeatedly stated that the information on the implementation of WIPO Standards in different IPOs would be extremely valuable for their work.

NEW SURVEY

4. In order to streamline the standardization efforts and provide clear information on which WIPO Standards are used by IPOs, the International Bureau has prepared the draft questionnaire on the use of WIPO Standards and presents it for consideration and approval by the CWS. The draft questionnaire is attached as the Annex to the present document.

5. Considering the significant number of WIPO Standards in force (53), it is proposed to limit the survey to general information on whether a given Standard is implemented in the IPO's practice or not, and plans for its implementation. If an IPO is willing to share more details about the implementation of a particular WIPO Standard or provide comments or proposals regarding further standardization of a particular area, it can do so using the field "Comments".

6. The survey results will be published in Part 7 of the *WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation* (WIPO Handbook). In order to provide up-to-date information on the use of WIPO Standards by IPOs, it is proposed to regularly update the survey.

7. If the CWS agrees to conduct the survey on the use of WIPO Standards on the basis of the questionnaire reproduced in the Annex to the present document, the International Bureau should be requested to carry out the following actions:

- prepare and issue a circular inviting IPOs to complete the questionnaire;
- prepare a survey report; and
- present the results of the survey for consideration by the CWS at its next session, in order to approve its publication in Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook and take the other relevant actions, if necessary.

8. *The CWS is invited to:*

(a) note the content of the present document;

(b) consider and approve the questionnaire "Survey on the use of WIPO Standards by industrial property offices", as reproduced in the Annex to the present document; and

(c) consider and approve the actions to be undertaken by the Secretariat, as specified in paragraph 7, above.

[Annex follows]

DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRE

**SURVEY ON THE USE OF WIPO STANDARDS BY INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY
OFFICES**

These four questions will be asked about every WIPO Standard in force.

WIPO Standard ST.XX

1. Is the Standard implemented in your Office's/Organization's practice?

- Completely
- Partly
- Not Implemented

2. If the answer was "Partly", please explain your Office's/Organization's practice briefly

3. If the answer was "Not implemented", does your Office/Organization plan to implement the Standard?

- Yes. If so, when?

- No. If not, why?

4. Comments (optional)

[End of Annex and of document]