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REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON WIPO STANDARDS (CWS)

prepared by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. During the period under consideration, the Committee on WIPO Standards (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”, or “the CWS”) held its ninth session from November 1 to 5, 2021, chaired by Ms. Åsa Viken (Sweden).
2. The session continued the exchange of views on the development of WIPO Standards, implementation of Standards by the Intellectual Property (IP) community, and other matters relating to IP data. The CWS considered emerging technologies, such as Blockchain, in its work and projects.
3. The adopted report of the ninth session is available on the WIPO website¹.

DEVELOPMENT OF WIPO STANDARDS

4. The CWS considered proposals for a new WIPO Standard and revisions of existing Standards to cope with new demands from IP Offices (IPOs), IP users, and other stakeholders. While working in a hybrid format for the second straight year, the Committee adopted one new WIPO Standard and approved revisions to four existing Standards.

¹ https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=558197

Adopted New WIPO Standards

5. The CWS adopted a new WIPO Standard ST.91 on digital three-dimensional (3D) models and 3D images. The new WIPO Standard ST.91 provides recommendations for IPOs and others to manage, store, process, exchange or disseminate IP data containing 3D digital objects. It aims to help establish common 3D formats to facilitate filings at multiple IPOs, reduce processing time, facilitate data exchange between IPOs, harmonize filing requirements, and create guidelines for publishing IP data with digital 3D objects. WIPO Standard ST.91 is publically and freely available on the WIPO website².

Revised WIPO Standards

6. Revisions to the following four Standards were approved:

- WIPO Standard ST.26 – Presentation of nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings using XML;
- WIPO Standard ST.27 – Exchange of patent legal status data;
- WIPO Standard ST.37 – Authority file of published patent documents; and
- WIPO Standard ST.88 – Electronic representation of industrial designs.

7. The CWS noted that the version 5.0 of WIPO Standard ST.96 was approved by the XML4IP Task Force and published in October 2021, according to the CWS special arrangement that the XML4IP Task Force is temporarily authorized to approve revisions of WIPO Standard ST.96 to expedite the process. Of particular note in this release are improved tools for validating and flattening ST.96 schemas.

Working papers

8. The CWS considered the following two draft papers submitted by the International Bureau:

- Proposals for improvement of copyright orphan work metadata in WIPO Standard ST.96 (see document CWS/9/4); and
- Report on the Blockchain Whitepaper for IP ecosystem (see document CWS/9/8).

9. With regard to the copyright orphan work metadata management, the CWS noted that the draft paper includes proposals for standardization on rights holders' roles and creative work categories and invited its members, including copyright Offices, to further comment on the proposals. In relation to the Blockchain white paper, the CWS noted the content and invited IPOs to consider the information in the white paper when developing their blockchain strategies and practices. The CWS also noted that the International Bureau would publish the white paper on the WIPO website, which is now available at: <https://www.wipo.int/cws/en/blockchain-and-ip.html>.

² https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/part_03_standards.html

IMPLEMENTATION OF WIPO STANDARDS AND IPO PRACTICES

10. Three surveys were conducted in 2021 to gather information on the implementation of WIPO Standards by IPOs and the related practices of IPOs. The CWS approved publication of the survey results on Public access to patent information, part 2 on the WIPO website, which have been added to Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook³. The CWS also noted the results of the survey on priority of 40 ICT strategy recommendations and requested the ICT Strategy Task Force to take into account the results when the Task Force prepares the strategic roadmap guideline for Offices.

11. The CWS noted the IPOs' implementation of ST.61 as described in document CWS/9/10. Fourteen IPOs provided implementation plans and 11 IPOs provided mapping tables. Three IPOs plan to start implementation by 2023, while the timeline for other IPOs is uncertain. The mapping table is published in Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook. The CWS approved a new survey questionnaire on the IPOs' practices for Digital Transformation, which would be conducted in 2022.

12. At its fifty-fourth session held in 2021, the WIPO General Assembly took note of "WO/GA/54/14, Matters Concerning the Implementation Date of WIPO Standard ST.26" and approved the new big-bang implementation date of WIPO Standard ST.26 as July 1, 2022, at national, regional and international levels (see paragraph 183 of WO/GA/54/15). To support the transition from WIPO Standard ST.25 to ST.26, the International Bureau has been developing the software tools, WIPO Sequence suite, for patent applicants and IPOs around the world to author and validate WIPO ST.26-compliant sequence listings and the next official version of the tool is planned to be released in April 2022. The International Bureau has provided a series of webinars on WIPO Standard ST.26 and WIPO Sequence suite in various languages. Recorded videos of webinars, slides, and other training materials are available on the WIPO website⁴. Additionally, frequently asked questions (FAQs) on ST.26 implementation have been published on the WIPO website in all 10 PCT languages.

Technical Advice and Assistance for Capacity Building

13. Concerning the provision of technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IPOs in relation to WIPO Standards, the CWS took note of the report (see annexed document CWS/9/22) on activities of the International Bureau undertaken during 2020, as requested by the WIPO General Assembly at its fortieth session held in October 2011.

³ https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/part_07.html

⁴ <https://www.wipo.int/cws/en/trainings.html>

WORK PROGRAM AND OTHER OUTSTANDING ACTIVITIES

CWS Tasks

14. Twenty-five Tasks and 17 Task Forces are currently established under the Committee. The CWS Work Program was amended as follows:

(a) Two Tasks were discontinued as they are considered completed: Task No. 23 (monitor information about national / regional phase entry of PCT applications, obsolete as the data is now available in PATENTSCOPE) and Task No. 53 (revisions and updates to WIPO Standard ST.37, now covered by Task No. 33 as needed); and

(b) The mandate of two Tasks was revised to address work that has been completed. The agreed new descriptions are as follows:

- Task No. 52: Prepare recommendations for systems for providing access to publicly available patent information of industrial property offices.
- Task No. 61: Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.91, including methods of search for 3D models and 3D images.

15. The CWS also agreed to continue work on the following eight Tasks:

- Task No. 24: Collect and publish Annual Technical Reports (ATRs) on Patent, Trademark and Industrial Design Information Activities of the CWS Members (ATR/PI, ATR/TM, ATR/ID).
- Task No. 44: Support the International Bureau by providing users' requirements and feedback on the ST.26 authoring and validation software tool; support the International Bureau in the consequential revision of the PCT Administrative Instructions; and prepare necessary revisions of WIPO Standard ST.26.
- Task No. 55: Envisaging developing a WIPO standard assisting Industrial Property Offices (IPOs) in providing better "quality at source" in relation to applicant names, prepare a proposal for future actions aimed at the standardization of applicant names in IP documents and present it for consideration by the CWS.
- Task No. 58: Prepare a proposal for a roadmap of future development and enhancement of WIPO standards, including policy recommendations, in view of more effective production, sharing, and utilization of data by IP offices and other interested parties, taking the following activities:
 - i. to review the Recommendations in Group 1 indicated in the Annex of document CWS/6/3, in collaboration with other relevant CWS Task Forces;
 - ii. to review the Recommendations in Group 2 and Group 3 indicated in the Annex of document CWS/6/3;
 - iii. to prioritize Recommendations and suggest a timeline; and
 - iv. to explore the impact of disruptive technologies on IP administration and IP data in view of harmonization and collaboration. Collect information about the requirements from IP offices and customers; and prepare recommendations for electronic visual representations of designs.

- Task No. 59: Explore the possibility of using blockchain technology in the processes of providing IP rights protection, processing information about IP objects and their use;

Collect information about IPO developments in use of and experience with blockchain, assess current Industry Standards on blockchain and consider merit and applicability to IPOs;

Develop reference models of using blockchain technology in the IP field, including guiding principles, common practice and use of terminology as a framework supporting collaboration, joint projects and proofs of concept; and

Prepare a proposal for a new WIPO standard supporting the potential application of blockchain technology within the IP ecosystem.
- Task No. 60: Prepare a proposal for the numbering of INID codes regarding word marks and figurative marks, on splitting INID code (551), and a potential INID code for combined marks.
- Task No. 63: Develop visual representation(s) of XML data, based on WIPO XML Standards, for electronic publication.
- Task No. 64: Prepare a proposal for recommendations for JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) resources compatible with WIPO Standard ST.96 to be used for filing, processing, publication and/or exchange intellectual property information.

Task Forces and other activities

16. The CWS received progress reports from 13 Task Forces: ICT Strategy for Standards, XML4IP, Blockchain, Name Standardization, 3D, Sequence Listings, Authority File, Part 7, Digital Transformation, Legal Status, Design Representation, API, and Trademark Standardization.

17. The Committee requested the following actions be taken:

- (a) CWS members to comment on the draft paper for copyright orphan work metadata, as presented in the Annex to document CWS/9/4, and to liaise with their copyright Office for comments;
- (b) the Secretariat to conduct the survey on digital transformation practices by issuing a circular to IPOs;
- (c) the Secretariat to simplify the ATR process by collecting links to information on IPO websites instead of collecting text, and to review the new practice after three years;
- (d) the Part 7 Task Force to carry out the survey updates scheduled in its revised work plan, including an update in 2022 on representation of calendar dates;
- (e) the XML4IP Task Force to present a final proposal for a JSON standard at the next session of the CWS;
- (f) the Legal Status Task Force to study how to adapt ST.27's 'event indicators' and 'procedure indicators' for ST.61 and ST.87, with the goal of presenting a proposal for consideration at the tenth session of the CWS;

(g) the Name Standardization Task Force to prepare proposed recommendations for quality of applicant data to support name standardization at the next session of the CWS; and

(h) the Secretariat to issue a circular inviting IPOs to update their authority file information in March 2022.

CONCLUSIONS

18. The ninth session made significant progress by adopting or revising five WIPO Standards which support dissemination of IP data in harmonized manners and by intensifying the Secretariat's efforts to raise awareness of WIPO Standards and provide technical assistance for IPOs upon request subject to available resources. The session also considered potential disruptions and implications caused by new digital technologies.

19. The WIPO General Assembly is invited to take note of the "Report on the Committee on WIPO Standards" (document WO/GA/55/7).

[Document CWS/9/22 follows]

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Ninth Session
Geneva, November 1 to 5, 2021

REPORT BY THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU ON THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL
ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING TO INDUSTRIAL
PROPERTY OFFICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE MANDATE OF THE CWS

Document prepared by the International Bureau

INTRODUCTION

1. This report aims to implement the decision taken by the General Assembly in 2011 relating to the mandate of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) and to provide regular written reports on the details of activities undertaken during the year 2020, in which the Secretariat or the International Bureau of WIPO “endeavor[ed] to provide technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IP Offices (IPOs) by undertaking projects regarding dissemination of IP Standards information” (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19). A complete list of such activities is available under the Technical Assistance Database (www.wipo.int/tad).

2. As WIPO Standards are implemented in various systems and tools of WIPO such as WIPO Sequence and WIPO Business Solutions, the following activities also implicitly cover dissemination of relevant IP Standards information.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ADVICE ON THE USE OF WIPO STANDARDS

3. In 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Bureau provided technical advice to assist IPOs and users to utilize WIPO Standards through emails and online conferences.

4. The Secretariat did not receive a request for technical assistance and training in 2020 in person regarding WIPO Standards since the eighth session of the CWS held in 2020. The Secretariat will provide technical assistance and training regarding WIPO Standards on demand and depending on the availability of resources and the pandemic situation.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE IN IP INSTITUTIONS USING WIPO STANDARDS

5. WIPO's program of IP Office Business Solutions aims to enhance national and regional IPOs' business systems and technical infrastructure in order to help them provide more cost-effective and higher-quality services to their own stakeholders. The assistance provided is aligned with the Development Agenda recommendations aiming at strengthening institutional and technical infrastructure of IPOs and other institutions. The services include technical consultancy; business needs assessment; project scoping and planning; business process analysis; ongoing development and deployment of customized business systems solutions for the administration of IP rights and for the exchange of priority documents and of search and examination results; establishment of IP databases; assistance with digitization of IP records and preparation of data for online publications and electronic data exchange; training and knowledge transfer to staff of IP institutions and support for the systems provided by WIPO. The assistance takes into account WIPO Standards on IP data and information where appropriate. On-site or virtual training, mentoring and regional training workshops account for a significant portion of the activities and are critical in achieving the desired results.

6. At the end of 2020, 90 IPOs from developing countries in all regions were actively using WIPO Business Solutions for the administration of their IP rights, in which WIPO Standards are integrated. Fifty-one IPOs were participating in one of the online exchange platforms offered by WIPO (the Centralized Access to Search and Examination and the Digital Access Service). A key focus is to upgrade the service level of IPOs by assisting them to move to online services for filing and for IP information dissemination. More information is available on the website of WIPO's technical assistance program for IPOs at:
https://www.wipo.int/global_ip/en/activities/ip_office_business_solutions/

7. In addition, under the WIPO's program of Global Databases, the International Bureau ran a project jointly with the European Patent Office (EPO) to assist IPOs in producing searchable full text for their front file patent publication in WIPO ST.36 XML format with embedded TIFF images. The International Bureau configured its OCR solution to each office's specific requirements such as language, layout and bookmarks. Thirty-five IPOs have received the software and been trained to use it (except Panama for which a training will be arranged in due course) in the last four years, with 12 of them having managed to launch it in production. As a result, the produced full text documents are included and made searchable both in WIPO's PATENTSCOPE and EPO's Espacenet.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF IP OFFICERS AND EXAMINERS FOR THE UTILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL TOOLS

8. In collaboration with the Offices of the CWS Sequence Listings Task Force, the International Bureau has been improving the WIPO Sequence suite, a free common software tool, which will enable patent applicants around the world to prepare a nucleotide and amino acid sequence listing following WIPO Standard ST.26 and to support IPOs to validate the sequence listings to ensure that they are compliant with WIPO ST.26. The WIPO Sequence tool (Beta release) is available on WIPO website at:
<https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/sequence/index.html>

9. Following a request, the International Bureau provided a training seminar via an online platform on the International Patent Classification (IPC) for officials and examiners at Intellectual Property Department Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Oman on

September 15 and 16, 2020. The training program included how to use the relevant WIPO Standards.

10. Following requests, the following training courses and seminars were virtually conducted in 2020 on the use of International Classifications for trademarks and industrial designs for officials and examiners of IPOs. In this context, the relevance of related WIPO Standards was explained.

- Training on the Nice Classification for trademark examiners, Bahrain IP Office, February 24 to 27, 2020;
- Training on the Nice, Locarno and Vienna Classifications for trademark and design examiners, Saudi Arabian IP Office, July 20 to 23, 2020;
- Training on the Nice and Vienna Classifications for trademark examiners, Indonesian IP Office, November 16 to 18, 2020; and
- Training on the Nice Classification for trademark examiners, Malaysian IP Office, December 8 to 10, 2020.

BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WIPO STANDARDS

11. In order to increase awareness of WIPO Standards in developing countries and to facilitate the physical participation by more developing countries in the preparation of new or revised WIPO Standard(s), following the decision of the General Assembly in October 2011, the participation at the seventh session of the CWS of seven developing countries or least developed countries (LDCs) was funded by the International Bureau.

IP DATA EXCHANGE

12. The International Bureau has been working together with many IPOs, particularly in certain groups of developing countries, to promote the exchange of IP data with a view to providing users in those countries with greater access to IP information originating from those IPOs. The exchange of IP data was organized in accordance with relevant WIPO Standards. The trademark collections of the following countries have been included in Global Brand Database during the year 2020 in chronological order: Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Ukraine, Albania, San Marino and India; the patent collections of the following countries have been included in PATENTSCOPE during the year 2020: Czech Republic, the former Czechoslovakia, Netherlands, Serbia, Slovakia and Sweden. The industrial design collections of the Republic of Korea, Albania, Ukraine, Thailand, Switzerland and India have also been added in WIPO's Global Design Database in 2020.

13. The CWS is invited to take note of the 2020 activities of the International Bureau, related to providing technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IPOs, regarding dissemination of IP standards information. This document will serve as a basis of the relevant report to be presented to the WIPO General Assembly to be held in 2022, as requested at its 40th session held in October 2011 (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19).

[End of document]