

# WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
GENEVA

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

### PLENARY Seventh Session Geneva, June 10 to 14, 2002

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING STANDARDS

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

#### INTRODUCTION

1. At its last session, held in January 2001, the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) had divided the tasks within the SCIT Work Program between its two working groups on Standards and Documentation and Information Technology Projects. The Working Groups were instructed to review their individual tasks, taking into account the suggestions made during the SCIT Plenary meeting and to relay the outcome of their respective discussions to the next session of the SCIT.
2. The Standards and Documentation Working Group has, on its Work Program, a number of tasks related to the support and maintenance of electronic data processing and exchange standards. These tasks highlight the expanding role and importance of information technology in intellectual property offices of Member States. As a result, a number of Task Forces were established to carry out those Tasks.

## ISSUE FOR CONSIDERATION

3. The use of task forces in developing and maintaining these standards enhances participation of Member States in the tasks while reducing the time required to accomplish specific tasks. A proliferation of task forces should be avoided as this may lead to a duplication of effort and may result in a lack of consistency between standards. The establishment of a single task force to evaluate and maintain the broad group of WIPO electronic data processing and exchange standards, existing and future, would result in increased efficiency in the standards maintenance process and better overall consistency in the standards themselves.

## RECOMMENDATION

4. The International Bureau would therefore recommend that:

(a) the existing task force for Tasks Nos. 17 and 19 have its mandate broadened to deal with all matters related to all current and future WIPO electronic data processing and exchange standards, in particular Tasks Nos. 13, 17, 18 and 19;

(b) the International Bureau serve as the task force leader;

(c) the task force be referred to as the "Electronic data processing and exchange standards" task force.

*5. The SCIT Plenary is invited to comment on the content of this document and approve the recommendations contained in paragraph 4, above.*

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