

# WIPO



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## STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES STANDARDS AND DOCUMENTATION WORKING GROUP

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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE REVISION OF WIPO STANDARD ST.36

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

### Introduction

1. Since the ninth session of the Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG) of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT), held in February 2008, the ST.36 Task Force has reviewed the pending issues outlined in paragraphs 9 to 11 of document SCIT/SDWG/9/5, and also considered new proposals to revise WIPO Standard ST.36. In particular, the ST.36 Task Force has discussed the revision of Annex A (Model DTD: xx-patent-document.dtd) and Annex C (ICEs: International Common Elements) to WIPO Standard ST.36 (see paragraphs 7 to 15, below). Following the discussions, the ST.36 Task Force adopted a new version, 2.0, of the said Annexes on September 15, 2008.

2. The ST.36 Task Force held one informal meeting during the week of the ninth session of the SDWG. The agenda, list of participants, minutes and copies of presentations given at the meeting can be found on the ST.36 Task Force's website at:  
<http://www.wipo.int/scit/en/taskfrce/st36/background.htm>.

### New form for proposing revisions of WIPO Standard ST.36

3. To make it convenient to prepare a proposal for revisions of WIPO Standard ST.36 and also to facilitate discussions regarding the proposal among its members, the ST.36 Task Force agreed on a new form for submitting a proposal, i.e., Proposal For Revision (PFR) of WIPO Standard ST.36. PFR files should be sent by e-mail to the International Bureau ([scit.mail@wipo.int](mailto:scit.mail@wipo.int)) using the electronic form that is available on the ST.36 Task Force's website at: <http://www.wipo.int/scit/en/taskforce/st36/pfr-intro.html>.

4. In addition, the ST.36 Task Force agreed that when the PFR files were submitted for consideration by the Task Force, they would be published on the ST.36 Task Force's website at: <http://www.wipo.int/scit/en/taskforce/st36/pfr-files.html>.

5. Subsequently, the ST.36 Task Force would consider each specific PFR. Once the Task Force decided to revise WIPO Standard ST.36 to reflect the results of the discussions on PFRs, the International Bureau would publish the agreements reached by the Task Force with regard to the said PFRs, along with the corresponding initial PFRs and any other materials agreed on by the Task Force, on the website containing PFRs that were already adopted at: <http://www.wipo.int/scit/en/taskforce/st36/pfr-already-adopted.html>.

6. Revised versions of WIPO Standard ST.36 (main part and/or Annexes) resulting from the PFRs will be available, as usual, on the WIPO Standards website at: [http://www.wipo.int/standards/en/part\\_03\\_standards.html](http://www.wipo.int/standards/en/part_03_standards.html).

### Revision of WIPO Standard ST.36

7. To carry out its initial mandate received from the SDWG (see paragraph 61 of document SCIT/SDWG/8/14), the ST.36 Task Force revised Annexes A and C to align WIPO Standard ST.36 with the changes made to Annex F of the PCT Administrative Instructions via the Annex F Proposals For Change (PFCs) process from 2005 to 2007. Annexes A and C were also revised to reflect the PFRs that were adopted by the ST.36 Task Force from March to August 2008. The new version, 2.0, of Annexes A and C to WIPO Standard ST.36 was published on September 30, 2008, on WIPO's website at: [http://www.wipo.int/standards/en/xml\\_material/st36/](http://www.wipo.int/standards/en/xml_material/st36/).

8. With reference to the changes made to the above-mentioned Annex F, the ST.36 Task Force investigated all PFC files processed from the years 2005 to 2007. Those PFC files that were processed in 2008 and that could impact on the revision of WIPO Standard ST.36 have been submitted as PFR files to the ST.36 Task Force for consideration by the Task Force (see paragraph 9, below). Further information on PFCs is available at: [http://www.wipo.int/efiling\\_standard/en/pfc\\_intro.htm](http://www.wipo.int/efiling_standard/en/pfc_intro.htm).

9. The following eight PFRs were considered by the ST.36 Task Force from March to August 2008:

- PFR ST.36/2008/001 regarding "previously filed application";
- PFR ST.36/2008/002 regarding "second last name";
- PFR ST.36/2008/003 regarding "correction information";
- PFR ST.36/2008/004 regarding "power of attorney" related to PCT/EF/PFC\_08/001;

PFR ST.36/2008/005 regarding “earlier search request” related to PCT/EF/PFC\_08/003; PFR ST.36/2008/006 regarding “package data” related to PCT/EF/PFC\_08/004; PFR ST.36/2008/007 regarding “e-mail” related to PCT/EF/PFC\_08/006; and PFR ST.36/2008/008 regarding “Common Application Format (CAF)” related to PCT/EF/PFC\_08/008.

10. The first three PFR files (see paragraph 9, above) are exclusively related to WIPO Standard ST.36 regardless of the changes to Annex F, and five other PFR files are based on PFC files that have been processed in 2008. The revisions requested in the five PFRs ST.36/2008/001, 003, 004, 006 and 008 have already been adopted. The three remaining PFRs ST.36/2008/002, 005 and 007 are still under discussion by the ST.36 Task Force. Further information on the adopted and ongoing PFRs is available on the ST.36 Task Force’s websites mentioned in paragraphs 4 and 5, above.

11. Annex A has been revised to reflect the agreements related to the four PFRs (PFR ST.36/2008/001, 003, 004 and 008) and one PFC (PFC 06/001).

12. With regard to the revision of Annex C, 37 new elements have been added to, 48 elements changed in, and nine elements deprecated from, ICEs to reflect the adopted PFRs and processed PFCs. Some new elements proposed in PFCs which were processed from the years 2005 to 2007 are not included in the revised ICEs because they are office-specific elements which are not allowed in ICEs.

13. The descriptions of some elements in the column *Description* of the ICEs’ table (Annex C) have been updated to provide further information regarding implementation guidelines of the corresponding elements (e.g., cardinality, attribute). The updating has been applied only to the description of the revised or newly added elements. The description of other elements will be updated whenever the elements are revised, if necessary.

14. In addition, the format of the ICEs’ table has been revised to add two new columns, namely, *Entry(E)/ Revision Date* and *Remarks*. The column *Entry(E)/Revision Date* is to provide the version information of individual elements by adoption date. The “Entry(E) Date” means the first adoption date of the corresponding element and the “Revision Date” indicates the adoption date(s) of revision(s) of the corresponding element. For example, if an element contains three dates, 2004-11-11(E), 2008-03-01 and 2010-09-01, in the column, this information means that the element was adopted as an item of ICEs on November 11, 2004, and revised two times on March 1, 2008 and September 1, 2010. The column *Remarks* is to provide further information regarding changes such as the deprecated date and relevant PFR number of the corresponding element.

15. Furthermore, the file name of ICEs has been renamed “st36-ices” from “epct-element-encyclopedia”. The versions of Annexes A and C are identified by version numbers, e.g., “xx-patent-document-v2-0.dtd”, “st36-ices-v2-0”.

16. A website has been recently developed to provide the revision history of the Annexes to WIPO Standard ST.36. The summary of the changes for the revised Annexes A and C (i.e., the release notes), including editorial changes that were agreed on by the ST.36 Task Force, as well as the previous versions and track changes files of the Annexes, are available on the revision history website of WIPO Standard ST.36 at:

[http://www.wipo.int/standards/en/xml\\_material/st36/revision-history/index.html](http://www.wipo.int/standards/en/xml_material/st36/revision-history/index.html).

17. The ST.36 Task Force agreed that revisions of Annexes A and C to WIPO Standard ST.36 be published twice per year, i.e., in March and September, if necessary. The next versions of these Annexes should be published in March 2009, if they will have already been adopted.

#### Other activities and ongoing discussions

18. At its ninth session, the SDWG requested that the ST.36 Task Force consider the possibility of revising WIPO Standard ST.36 in connection with the revision of WIPO Standard ST.13 and proposals made by the Citation Practices Task Force (see paragraph 20 and 35 of document SCIT/SDWG/9/12).

19. The ST.36 Task Force has considered whether WIPO Standard ST.36 should be updated as a consequence of the revision of WIPO Standard ST.13 and concluded that the revision does not impact on WIPO Standard ST.36.

20. The request by the SDWG concerning the recommendation by the Citation Practices Task Force, as well as the three PFRs ST.36/2008/002, 005 and 007, is under consideration by the ST.36 Task Force at the moment of preparing this working document.

21. With regard to new versions of industry standard DTDs such as mathml2.dtd (see paragraph 9 of document SCIT/SDWG/9/5), the ST.36 Task Force intends to investigate offices' practices regarding the use of industry standards DTDs and, subsequently, as a result of this investigation will discuss whether there is a need to introduce a new version of an industry standard DTD in WIPO Standard ST.36.

*22. The SDWG is invited to note the results of the work of the ST.36 Task Force and the report of the Task Leader, as set out in this document.*

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