

# WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
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## STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES STANDARDS AND DOCUMENTATION WORKING GROUP

Third Session  
Geneva, May 5 to 8, 2003

REVISION OF WIPO STANDARD ST. 10/C

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. On February 20, 2003, the Japan Patent Office (JPO), as the Leader of the WIPO Standard ST.10/C Task Force, submitted a report of the Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG) of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT). This report, which is reproduced as an Annex, contained information regarding the work carried out by the Task Force, the issues that have been addressed and remaining work to be completed.

### Status of the Revision of WIPO Standard ST.10/C

2. An oral progress report of the work carried out by the Task Force since submitting the report referred to in paragraph 1, above, will be presented at the third session of the SDWG in order to inform the Working Group on the status of the revision of WIPO Standard ST.10/C.

3. *The SDWG is invited to note the contents of this document and the oral progress report by the WIPO Standard ST.10/C Task Force.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

REPORT OF THE WIPO STANDARD ST.10/CTASK FORCE

Introduction

1. In order to improve the quality of patent family data and to avoid confusion in the presentation of priority application numbers, the WIPO Standard ST.10/CTask Force began its discussions after finalizing the specific description of the Task, in July 2002.
2. At its second session, the SDWG noted the report of the WIPO Standard ST.10/CTask Force as reproduced in document SCIT/SDWG/2/6. The Delegation of Japan, as Task Force Leader, gave an oral progress report on the work carried out, the issues addressed and the agreements reached since the submission of the report contained in the said document.
3. In the progress report, the Task Force Leader highlighted the importance of revising, completing and updating the information provided in the Appendix to WIPO Standard ST.10/C in order to cover all the members of the Paris Convention and to include the presentation of both patents and utility models in the examples, as well as the application numbers assigned by receiving regional offices of a particular country in those cases where there is no uniform system established for assigning application numbers among the different receiving regional offices.
4. In accordance with the proposal made by the Task Force regarding the revision of WIPO Standard ST.10/C to improve the quality of patent family data and to avoid confusion in the presentation of priority application numbers, the SDWG agreed on a two phase process (see paragraphs 31 to 38 of document SCIT/SDWG/2/14):
  - (i) the first phase consisting of a moderate and pragmatic solution; and
  - (ii) a second phase with a standardized format solution.
5. During the first phase, the Task Force will prepare a questionnaire on the revision and update of the Appendix to WIPO Standard ST.10/C that will be forwarded to the Secretariat for its distribution to the industrial property offices for its completion.
6. The Task Force will also complete a proposal concerning the recommendations set out in this Standard along the lines suggested in Appendix 3 to document SCIT/SDWG/2/6.
7. In a second phase, the Task Force will present a proposal on a unified format for priority application numbers.

### Task Force Activities

8. Following agreement reached at the second meeting of the SDWG, the Task Force decided to urgently discuss the preparation of the Questionnaire. The Task Force reached the following conclusions:

- The title of the Questionnaire should be "Maintenance of the Tables in the Appendix to WIPO Standard ST.10/C."
- The targeted intellectual property offices (IPOs), members of the Paris Convention, could be divided into two groups. One group is composed of IPOs that are already represented in the Tables of the Appendix to WIPO Standard ST.10/C. The other group is composed of IPOs that are members of the Paris Union but are not included in any of the two Tables.
- For these different groups, two different Questionnaires should be prepared.
- To help IPOs recognize the current status of the entry, a copy of WIPO Standard ST.10/C should be attached to the Questionnaire.
- The purpose of the revision and the project brief should clearly be shown to the IPOs.
- The information on utility model numbering systems, "Recommended Presentation in Abbreviated Form as a Priority Application Number" and regional offices' numbering systems is regarded as highly important and the importance should be emphasized in the Questionnaire.
- Even if no revision or update is necessary, the Questionnaire should be sent back to the Secretariat and forwarded to the Task Force.
- It is preferred that the answers be collected by the end of March 2003.

9. It was agreed that the Task Force would prepare two different letters (each with an appropriate Questionnaire), to be sent separately by the Secretariat to each respective group. This decision was made to simplify the request and any possible confusion by the responding IPOs.

### Current Results and Further Work

- (a) Revise and update the Appendix to WIPO Standard ST.10/C

10. On January 29, 2003, two different letters and Questionnaires entitled "Maintenance of the Tables in the Appendix to WIPO Standard ST.10/C (Task No.30)" were completed and forwarded to the Secretariat for their distribution to industrial property offices for completion. These are available at <http://www.wipo.int/scit:Administration/Circulars>.

(b) Revise the recommendations set out in WIPO Standard ST.10/C

11. Since the Task Force has focused its efforts on preparing the Questionnaires, this task has been temporarily suspended. However, the Task Force has a strong wish to complete a proposal concerning the recommendations set out in this Standard along the lines suggested in Appendix 3 to document SCIT/SDWG/2/6 and will soon resume its discussion thereof. The Task Force Leader will make an oral progress report (and a proposal if possible) on this issue at the SCIT/SDWG/3, in May 2003.

(c) The second phase with a standardized format solution

12. In the second phase, the Task Force will present a proposal on a unified format for priority application numbers. However, at the second session of the SDWG, it was agreed that this issue should be discussed only after concluding the details of the first phase. Therefore, the second phase is suspended for the time being.

[End of Annex and of document]