

ANNEX

REPORT OF THE WIPO STANDARD ST.10/C TASK 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/C Task Force (ST.10/C Task Force) began discussions regarding WIPO Standard ST.10/C in July 2002.

2. At the second session of the SCIT/SDWG meeting, held in December 2002 (SCIT/SDWG/2), in accordance with the proposal made by the ST.10/C Task Force, the SDWG agreed on a two-phase process:

- (i) the first phase consisting of a moderate and pragmatic solution, and
- (ii) a second phase with a standardized format solution.

3. At the fourth session of the SCIT/SDWG meeting (SCIT/SDWG/4), in January 2004, the Task Force invited the SDWG to consider and approve, at the first phase, the proposals concerning the revision of the recommendation set out in the Standard and the insertion of a cover page containing an “Editorial Note” by the International Bureau (IB). The SDWG approved the text of WIPO Standard ST.10/C as reproduced in Annex IV to document SCIT/SDWG/4/14, as well as the proposal for the cover page.

4. At the fifth session of the SCIT/SDWG meeting (SCIT/SDWG/5), in November 2004, the ST.10/C Task Force made two further proposals. First, it proposed changes to the description of Task No. 30 in order to include the task relating to the revision of WIPO Standard ST.13 in the ST.10/C Task Force. The SDWG approved the changes as reproduced in Appendix 2 to the Annex to document SCIT/SDWG/5/4.

5. Second, the Task Force presented proposals on the revision of WIPO Standard ST.10/C outlined in SCIT/SDWG/5/4 in conjunction with several additional proposals. In the course of discussion, several changes as to the editorial note, paragraph 3 (font types in the classification examples), and paragraph 12(a) were suggested by members. The SDWG approved the proposals made by the Task Force, as well as the above-mentioned changes suggested by the members. The revised WIPO Standard ST.10/C that was adopted is reproduced in Annex IV to SCIT/SDWG/5/13. This marked the completion of the first phase activities of the ST.10/C Task Force.

6. At the same fifth session, the SDWG also agreed to a survey to be undertaken by the IB to determine the compliance by offices with the provisions of paragraph 12(a) of WIPO Standard ST.10/C, concerning priority document numbers, as shown in paragraph 101 (Task No. 30) of SCIT/SDWG/5/13. Consequently, the IB issued the circular C. SCIT 2619, dated January 31, 2006.

7. Since the SCIT/SDWG/5 meeting, the Task Force has been focusing on the second phase. The Task Force prepared a draft proposal for application number formats and presented it at the SCIT/SDWG/6 meeting, held in September 2005. The SDWG, at that session, unanimously approved the proposal concerning further steps to explore an ideal format.

Task Force Activities

8. Since the sixth session of the SCIT/SDWG meeting (SCIT/SDWG/6), the ST.10/C Task Force has been pursuing its work based on the following steps approved by the SDWG:

Step 3 (from SCIT/SDWG/6 to December 15, 2005):

Invite preliminary comments on Task Force proposals and collect updated information on application number formats of industrial property offices (IPOs) from SDWG members by December 15, 2005. Encourage members to make consultation with user groups and reflect their views in the comments.

Step 4 (from early January 2006 to the seventh session of SCIT/SDWG meeting (SCIT/SDWG/7)):

Based on comments and information from SDWG members and further analysis of related WIPO standards and other presentation systems of application numbers (e.g., presentation systems of application numbers in commercial databases), further examine ideal format aiming to submit a proposal at the SCIT/SDWG/7 meeting to be held later in 2006.

9. During the SCIT/SDWG/6 meeting, the ST.10/C Task Force met on September 21, 2005, to discuss the first draft proposal for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.13. Regarding the presentation of type of industrial property rights, the numeric character is preferred by all attending members in order to make a clear distinction from the country code which is represented in alphabetic character in accordance with WIPO Standard ST. 3. As to the place of filing, the adoption of the country subdivision code as defined in International Standard ISO 3166-2 was proposed. With respect to control characters, most members preferred the numeric character; however, one member pointed out that his office uses "X" instead of "10" and would like to continue this practice.

10. In compliance with an invitation from the SDWG, four members submitted the latest information on their application number formats and the IB accordingly issued the revised version of the Appendix to WIPO Standard ST.10/C. Comments on the draft proposal was submitted by one member.

11. As a part of Step 4 shown above, the Task Force further analyzed the following materials:

- WIPO Standard ST.6 “Recommendation for the Numbering of Published Patent Documents”.
- WIPO Standard ST.16 “Recommended Standard Code for the Identification of Different Kinds of Patent Documents”.
- International Standard ISO 3166-2.

12. A detailed analysis of these materials is given as Appendix 2 to this report.

13. The Task Force took into consideration of discussions at the SDWG/6 meeting and the Task Force meetings, updated information on application number formats, written comments from a SDWG member and analysis of additional materials, and drafted the revised version of a draft proposal as reproduced as Appendix 1 to this report.

Current Results and Further Work

14. The ST.10/C Task Force has completed a further study on a format of application numbers and prepared the revised paper on the revision of WIPO Standard ST.13 as reproduced as the Appendix 1 to this report.

15. In order to move steadily forward, the ST.10/C Task Force would like to propose the following timeline as further steps:

Step 1 (at SCIT/SDWG/7 in May/June 2006):

SDWG: Discuss the draft proposal on the format for application numbers, especially “items to be agreed first” and reach agreement on the majority of the items in the draft proposal.

Step 2 (from SCIT/SDWG/7 to the eighth session of the SCIT/SDWG meeting (SCIT/SDWG/8)):

Task Force: Further examine an ideal format for application numbers, especially the remaining items in the draft proposal, and submit a revised proposal at the SCIT/SDWG/8 meeting to be held in 2007.

SDWG: Discuss the revised proposal and reach substantial agreement on the contents of new WIPO Standard ST.13.

Step 3 (from SCIT/SDWG/8 to the ninth session of the SCIT/SDWG meeting (SCIT/SDWG/9) and further):

Task Force: Add modifications as required to the draft proposal, format it to WIPO-standard type text and submit it at the SCIT/SDWG/9 meeting and, if needed, further meetings.

SDWG: Discuss the formatted draft and adopt the new WIPO Standard ST.13.

16. The ST.10/C Task Force invites the SDWG to consider and approve the “items to be agreed first” in the draft proposal on the format for application numbers. The SDWG is also invited to consider and approve the remaining action items (i.e., Steps 2 and 3) and time frame set forth above. The Task Force will work on the task presented in the discussion paper upon approval by the SDWG.

[Appendices follow]