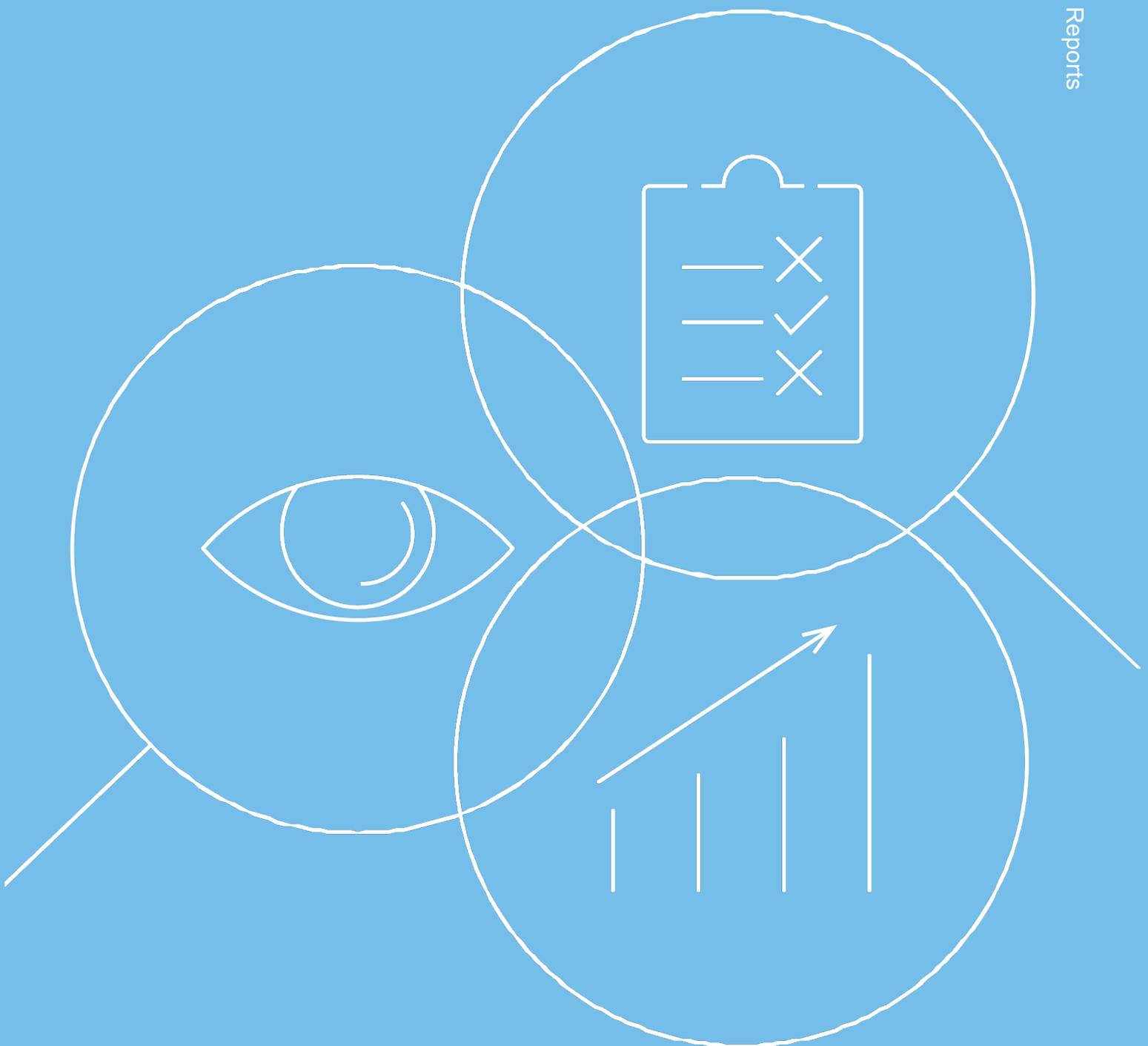


# Evaluation of WIPO Standing Committees

Internal Oversight Reports



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**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus disease 2019
<b>CWS</b>	Committee on WIPO Standards
<b>IAEA</b>	International Atomic Energy Agency
<b>IOD</b>	Internal Oversight Division
<b>IP</b>	Intellectual Property
<b>MTSP</b>	Medium -Term Strategic Plan
<b>SCCR</b>	Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights
<b>SCP</b>	Standing Committee on the Law of Patents
<b>SCT</b>	Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications
<b>TA</b>	Travel Authorization
<b>ToRs</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNEG</b>	United Nations Evaluation Group
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WIPO</b>	World Intellectual Property Organization
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. In 1998, the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) General Assembly established three Standing Committees: The Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR); the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP); the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT). A fourth Standing Committee, the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) was established in 2010.
2. The aim of this evaluation was to measure the effectiveness of WIPO in organizing and managing the Standing Committees; assess the extent to which the support and the resources available to the Secretariat are sufficient to achieve the expected results and have been used efficiently; and identify good practices and lessons learned for WIPO to manage the Standing Committees.
3. The major findings of the evaluation are as follows:
  - (a) Member States recognized that WIPO managers and their teams have successfully carried out their logistic and organizational activities in support of the Standing Committees;
  - (b) The Standing Committees have successfully contributed to relevant discussions, debate, coordination and guidance on International Property (IP) related matters although Member States reported limited progress in developing and finalizing international IP treaties;
  - (c) Good practices and lessons learned were identified within the Standing Committees and other United Nations (UN) organizations concerning the processes and approaches to progressing the normative agenda;
  - (d) Member States identified support activities of the WIPO Secretariat that could be further optimized to support the preparation, management and follow-up of the work of the Standing Committees;
  - (e) WIPO Secretariat used available Resources efficiently, which were largely sufficient to meet the needs of the Standing Committees. The workload created by the CWS Task Forces did put pressure on the staff resources of some Member States and of the supporting Secretariat team; and
  - (f) Challenges and factors identified influencing the work of the Standing Committees and within the responsibility of the WIPO Secretariat included: insufficient monitoring of progress; difficulties to ensure the timeliness of working documents; use of undocumented procedures and practices; challenges with the hybrid meeting format; and improvements needed in communications and knowledge management.
4. Based on the above findings, the evaluation recommends to:
  - (a) Reiterate the purpose of the Standing Committees;
  - (b) Compile, harmonize and clarify roles and procedures for the Standing Committees;
  - (c) Optimize the facilitator role of the WIPO Secretariat on key issues to foster cooperation and exchange before, during and after the Standing Committee sessions;

- (d) Strengthen synergies, coherence and consistency among Standing Committees by determining relevant common approaches and good practices for conducting business;
- (e) Improve communication and outreach with a more proactive communication approach with Member States and Observers to inform them about the progress of the Standing Committees and the preparatory steps for future meetings; and
- (f) Facilitate a conducive space for self-reflection and learning from change by introducing a common learning approach across the Standing Committees to promote the exchange of experiences and good practices.