

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

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REPORT BY THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU ON THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL
ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING TO INDUSTRIAL
PROPERTY OFFICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE MANDATE OF THE CWS

Document prepared by the International Bureau

INTRODUCTION

1. This report aims to implement the decision taken by the General Assembly in 2011 relating to the mandate of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) and to provide regular written reports on the details of activities undertaken during the year 2022, in which the Secretariat or the International Bureau of WIPO “endeavor[ed] to provide technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IP Offices (IPOs) by undertaking projects regarding *dissemination of IP Standards information*” (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19). A complete list of such activities is available under the Technical Assistance Database (www.wipo.int/tad).

2. As WIPO Standards are implemented in various systems and WIPO software tools such as the WIPO Sequence Suite and IP Office Business Solutions, the following activities also implicitly cover dissemination of relevant IP Standards information.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ADVICE ON THE USE OF WIPO STANDARDS

3. In 2022, the International Bureau provided technical advice to assist IPOs and users to utilize WIPO Standards through emails and online conferences.

4. The International Bureau received a series of requests for technical assistance and training in 2022, regarding the use of the WIPO Sequence Suite, in languages other than English. In response, the International Bureau hosted training in collaboration with expert speakers provided by IPOs in the remaining nine PCT publication languages. WIPO Sequence Validator training was also provided in Spanish in response to a specific request by the Dominican Republic Intellectual Property Office (ONAPI). Further information on training or webinars on the use of WIPO Standards is available on WIPO website at: <https://www.wipo.int/cws/en/trainings.html>.

5. To further support IPOs and applicants to implement WIPO Standard ST.26, the International Bureau continued to improve WIPO Sequence Suite software, in close collaboration with IPOs. The goal of the development project conducted in the first half of 2022 was to achieve the Minimum Viable Product (MVP) for the users at the "go-live" date of July 1, 2022. This was successfully delivered in mid-June 2022. Further information on the software, including the latest downloads and user manual, are available on the WIPO website at: <https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/sequence/index.html>.

6. The International Bureau also developed a knowledge base for the WIPO Sequence Suite and WIPO Standard ST.26, which contains questions posed by users of WIPO ST.26 and WIPO Sequence Suite, with standard answers provided. Bugs which have been reported for WIPO Sequence are also published on the knowledge base. Finally, the International Bureau also implemented a three-tier support model to manage requests for support and established a mailing list for users of WIPO Sequence through which important information regarding bugs and release dates is communicated.

7. The Secretariat continues to be committed to providing technical assistance and training regarding WIPO Standards on demand, depending on the availability of resources.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE IN IP INSTITUTIONS USING WIPO STANDARDS

8. WIPO's program of IP Office Business Solutions aims to enhance national and regional IPOs' business systems and technical infrastructure in order to help them provide more cost-effective and higher-quality services to their own stakeholders. The assistance provided is aligned with the Development Agenda recommendations aiming at strengthening institutional and technical infrastructure of IPOs and other institutions. The services include technical consultancy; business needs assessment; project scoping and planning; business process analysis; ongoing development and deployment of customized business systems solutions for the administration of IP rights and for the exchange of priority documents and of search and examination results; establishment of IP databases; assistance with digitization of IP records and preparation of data for online publications and electronic data exchange; training and knowledge transfer to staff of IP institutions and support for the systems provided by WIPO. The assistance takes into account WIPO Standards on IP data and information where appropriate. On-site or virtual training, mentoring and regional training workshops account for a significant portion of the activities and are critical in achieving the desired results.

9. At the end of 2021, 91 IPOs from developing countries in all regions were actively using WIPO's IP Office Business Solutions for the administration of their IP rights, in which WIPO Standards are integrated. Fifty-five IPOs were participating in one of the online exchange platforms offered by WIPO (the Centralized Access to Search and Examination and the Digital Access Service). A key focus is to upgrade the service level of IPOs by assisting them to move to online services for filing and for IP information dissemination. More information is available on the website of WIPO's technical assistance program for IPOs at: https://www.wipo.int/global_ip/en/activities/ip_office_business_solutions/

10. Under WIPO's program of Global Databases, the International Bureau ran a project jointly with the European Patent Office (EPO) to assist IPOs in producing searchable full text for their front file patent publication in WIPO ST.36 XML format with embedded TIFF images. The International Bureau configured its OCR solution to each Office's specific requirements such as language, layout and bookmarks. Thirty-five IPOs have received the software and been trained to use it in the last five years, with thirteen of them having managed to launch it in production. As a result, the produced full text documents are included and made searchable in WIPO's PATENTSCOPE. A pilot online training took place with three Offices having been already trained in the past but that had not been able to start the project in production due to shortage of resources. Training to use an advanced user interface remotely with many special cases due to the source data has been a challenge and only one of these three IPOs managed to produce a small number of full text documents that were loaded in PATENTSCOPE. In addition, in 2022, supported by the Japan Fund-in-Trust program, the International Bureau ran a project to transform into full-text XML, 22,000 published patent documents from the Philippines IPO that are now searchable in PATENTSCOPE.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF IP OFFICERS AND EXAMINERS FOR THE UTILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL TOOLS

11. On July 1, 2022, WIPO Standard ST.26 came into force around the world. The successful transition of both patent applicants and IPOs to the use of this new Standard ST.26 was the result of a close collaboration with Offices which are members of the CWS Sequence Listings Task Force.

12. Following requests, the International Bureau provided an advanced training seminar organized on November 19, 2021, by WIPO Academy via an online platform on patent search and examination in the fields of pharmaceutical and biotechnology by using the International Patent Classification (IPC) for officials and examiners at the Indian IPO, which was not reported last year in document CWS/10/20. The training program included how to use the relevant WIPO Standards.

13. Following requests, the International Bureau provided virtual training courses and seminars in 2022 on the use of International Classifications for trademarks and industrial designs for officials and examiners of IPOs. In this context, the relevance of related WIPO Standards was explained.

- Training on the Vienna Classification for trademark examiners, Mozambique IPO, on November 14, 2022; and
- Training on the Nice Classification for trademark examiners, Brunei Darussalam IPO, from November 28 to 30, 2022.

BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WIPO STANDARDS

14. In order to increase awareness of WIPO Standards in developing countries and to facilitate the physical participation by more developing countries in the preparation of new or revised WIPO Standard(s), following the decision of the General Assembly in October 2011, the participation at the tenth session of the CWS of eighth developing countries or least developed countries (LDCs) was funded by the International Bureau.

IP DATA EXCHANGE

15. The International Bureau has been working together with many IPOs, particularly in certain groups of developing countries, to promote the exchange of IP data with a view to providing users in those countries with greater access to IP information originating from those IPOs. The exchange of IP data was organized, when possible, in accordance with relevant WIPO Standards. The trademark collections of the following countries have been included in Global Brand Database during the year 2022 in chronological order: Bulgaria, Indonesia, Montenegro; the patent collections of the following countries have been included in PATENTSCOPE during the year 2022: Switzerland. The industrial design collections of Bulgaria, Israel and Philippines have also been added in WIPO's Global Design Database in 2022.

16. The CWS is invited to take note of the 2022 activities of the International Bureau, related to providing technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IPOs, regarding dissemination of IP standards information. This document will serve as a basis of the relevant report to be presented to the WIPO General Assembly to be held in 2024, as requested at its 40th session held in October 2011 (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19).

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