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**Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

**Fourth Session**

**Geneva, May 12 to 16, 2014**

New WIPO standard on the presentation of nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings using eXtensible Markup Language (XML)

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. The Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), at its first session held in October 2010, agreed to create Task No. 44 for the preparation of recommendations on the presentation of nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings based on eXtensible Markup Language (XML) for adoption as a WIPO standard. The CWS also decided to establish a task force to handle this Task (SEQL Task Force). The European Patent Office (EPO) was designated as the Task Force Leader. (See paragraphs 27 to 30 of document CWS/1/10, Task No. 44 in document CWS/3/12, the description of the Task is also provided in Annex I to the present document.)
2. Following the above decision by the CWS, representatives of 13 industrial property offices (IPO) and the International Bureau were nominated to participate in the Task Force. At its second and third sessions, the CWS noted the information that the EPO, in its capacity of the Task Force Leader, provided on the status of the SEQL Task Force discussion, including the work plan for preparation of the recommendations. (See documents CWS/2/5 and CWS/3/6.)
3. After the third session of the CWS, the SEQL Task Force continued its discussion in the Wiki forum. The report prepared by the Task Force Leader on the work carried out by the Task Force is reproduced in Annex I to the present document.
4. Following the above-mentioned request by the CWS, the SEQL Task Force has prepared a proposal of a new standard for consideration and approval by the CWS. The proposed name of the new standard is “WIPO Standard ST.26 – Recommended standard for the presentation of nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings using XML (eXtensible Markup Language)”. The draft new WIPO Standard ST.26, which contains the main body and five annexes, is reproduced in Annex II to the present document.
5. The SEQL Task Force was also requested by the CWS to liaise with the appropriate PCT body with regard to the possible impact of new Standard ST.26 on Annex C to the Administrative Instructions under the PCT (see paragraph 29(c) of document CWS/1/10). Provisions related to the transition from WIPO Standard ST.25 to the new WIPO Standard ST.26 are currently under discussion by the Task Force members. It is planned to present them for consideration by the CWS at its next session to be held in 2015 (see paragraph 10 “Roadmap” in Annex I to the present document).
6. IPOs are requested to postpone the preparations for implementation of the new WIPO Standard ST.26 until said provisions on the transition are approved by the CWS. Meanwhile, Standard ST.25 should continue to be used. Having this in mind, on the condition that the new standard is adopted at the present (fourth) session of the CWS, the Task Force proposes to include the following Editorial Note to the new standard:

“*Editorial Note by the International Bureau*

“The CWS agreed to ask industrial property offices to postpone the preparations for implementation of this new WIPO Standard ST.26 until the recommendations for the transition from WIPO Standard ST.25 to the new Standard ST.26 is agreed on by the CWS at its fifth session to be held in 2015. Meanwhile, Standard ST.25 should continue to be used.

“The Standard is published for information purposes of industrial property offices and other interested parties.

“The Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) adopted the present standard at [its fourth session on May 16, 2014].”

1. *The CWS is invited to:*

 *(a) note the status report on the work of SEQL Task Force provided in Annex I to the present document;*

 *(b) adopt “WIPO Standard ST.26 – Recommended standard for the presentation of nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings using XML (eXtensible Markup Language)” as the name of the proposed standard;*

 *(c) consider and adopt WIPO Standard ST.26, as reproduced in the Annex II to the present document;*

 *(d) consider and approve the Editorial Note to be included in WIPO Standard ST.26 (see paragraph 6, above); and*

 *(e) request the SEQL Task Force to prepare a proposal for the transition provisions, as referred to in paragraph 5, above, and present them for consideration and approval by the CWS at its fifth session.*

[Annexes follow]