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**Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

**Eleventh Session**

**Geneva, December 4 to 8, 2023**

Report by the PART 7 Task Force (Task No. 50)

*Document prepared by the Part 7 Task Force Leader*

## SUMMARY

The Part 7 Task Force works under the framework of Task No. 50 and reports its activities since the last session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) noting some issues which were experienced. Investigation into whether the two surveys scheduled for distribution this year resulted in the citation practices survey being revised and likely conducted in 2024 and the bibliographic information in patent gazettes survey only being revised if the CWS wishes to revise either WIPO Standard ST.11 or ST.19.

## BACKGROUND

At its ninth session in 2021, the CWS approved the revised work plan for updating Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook, including a survey on calendar dates in 2022. The CWS approved a simplified process for updating Part 7 where results will be collected and published without presenting the questionnaire or the results to the CWS for approval. The CWS requested the Task Force to schedule an update to Part 7.9 on citation practices (see paragraphs 110 to 114 of document CWS/9/25)

At its tenth session in 2022, the CWS was informed that the Secretariat issued circular C.CWS 162 inviting Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs) to take the survey on representation of calendar dates. They further noted the analysis of responses received which were provided in document CWS/10/18.

At the same session in 2022, the CWS also considered and approved the updated work plan of the Part 7 Task Force, which is reproduced in the table below.

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| **Section** | **Topic** | **Last**  **Published** | **Status** |
| Part 7.9 | Citation practices | 2008 | update 2023 |
| Part 7.6 | Bibliographic information in patent gazettes | 1990 | update 2023 |
| Part 7.2.6 &  Part 7.2.7 | Application numbering – current practices & former practices | 2017 | update 2024 |
| Part 7.3 | Examples and kinds of patent documents | 2016 | update 2025 |

The CWS noted that the two planned surveys to update Part 7.6 and Part 7.9 would be conducted with the simplified process approved at its ninth session: collecting and publishing results without presenting the questionnaire or the results to the CWS for approval, but instead presenting the analysis of conducted surveys for consideration and approval by the CWS (see paragraph 114 of document CWS/9/25). The CWS will be notified of published results at the following session.

## Progress report on Task No. 50

### Objectives

According to its description, the objective of Task No. 50 is to ensure the necessary maintenance and update of surveys published in Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation.

### Relevant actions for 2023

The Secretariat updated Part 7.1 of the WIPO Handbook with the survey results on representation of calendar dates, which was reported to the tenth session of the CWS in January 2023.

The Task Force discussed how to conduct the two surveys which were planned to be conducted in 2023 but identified some issues. In relation to the survey to update the WIPO Handbook Part 7.6 “Bibliographic information in patent gazettes”, the following survey was last conducted through the Permanent Committee on Industrial Property Information (PCIPI) Circular 1246/08.2 on August 18, 1989:

“*Survey of bibliographic information contained in patent gazettes and in current indexes inserted in patent gazettes or published separately in association with patent gazettes*”

After further analyzing the history of this 1989 survey, the International Bureau notes that the main objective of the survey was to revise Standards ST.11 and ST.19, as requested by the former PCIPI Working Group, which have not been revised since 1990. Therefore, the Task Force requests the CWS to consider and decide whether those Standards should be revised before conducing the survey. If the CWS decides to update these two Standards, the survey should be launched in 2024.

With regard to the survey to update the WIPO Handbook Part 7.9 “Citation practices”, the Task Force reviewed the survey questionnaire which was last sent in 2008 (see the Annex to the present document) and discussed whether the content is still valid to gather feedback from IPOs on their current citation practice. The Task Force agreed that the survey questionnaire should be updated before starting a new survey in light of the new types of citation including referencing videos, and new data format and platform for citations, among other reasons. The International Bureau, as the Task Force Leader, has been working on to prepare a revised questionnaire for consideration at this session of the CWS, in collaboration with Task Force members, but it requires more time to complete the updated questionnaire. Once the CWS approves the Part 7 Task Force will prepare the updated questionnaire on citation practice and present it to the next session of the CWS in 2024 for consideration and approval.

One Task Force Office also suggested that the specific purpose for the survey and intended use of the information collected should be clarified before conducting this survey, especially taking into account that significant staff resources are required to complete a survey. As a result, the Part 7 Task Force will make clear who these consumers or end users of the survey information are to enable the maximum benefit and return from the survey input.

### Potential Challenges or Dependencies

The Task Force identified several challenges or dependencies in conducting their work:

* The International Bureau is leading several CWS Tasks and CWS Task Forces, and it is experiencing staff resourcing issues to support and lead activities conducted under Task No. 50; and
* There is not active participation in this Task as it may not be a high priority to some IPOs.

The identified issues should be first discussed and guided by the CWS before conducting the two surveys.

### Progress evaluation

Noting the challenges and dependencies indicated above, the Task Force has not made substantive progress since the last session of the CWS. The results of surveys published under the Part 7 of WIPO Handbook are useful to understand IPOs’ practices, but the Task Force is currently busy so unable to make significant progress.

The International Bureau proposes to replace the word “industrial" with “intellectual” in the description of Task No. 50 as the title of WIPO Handbook was amended. The revised description reads “Ensure the necessary maintenance and update of surveys published in Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook on Intellectual Property Information and Documentation.”

## WORK PLAN

The proposed work plan, incorporating the consideration and decision points above, is as follows:

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| **Section** | **Topic** | **Last**  **Published** | **Status** |
| Part 7.9 | Citation practices | 2008 | Prepare a survey questionnaire in 2024 and update in 2025 upon the decision by the CWS at its eleventh session |
| Part 7.6 | Bibliographic information in patent gazettes | 1990 | 2024 upon the decision by the CWS at its eleventh session |
| Part 7.2.6 &  Part 7.2.7 | Application numbering – current practices & former practices | 2017 | update it in 2025 |
| Part 7.3 | Examples and kinds of patent documents | 2016 | update it in 2026 |

*The CWS is invited to:*

*(a) note the content of this document and the Annex to the present document; and*

*(b) consider and decide the need of revision of WIPO Standards ST.11 and ST.19, and consequently the survey to update the WIPO Handbook Part 7.6 “Bibliographic information in patent gazettes », as referred to in paragraphs 8 and 9 above;*

*(c) comment on a specific purpose for the survey on the citation practice and the intended use of the information collected as well as identifying the consumers of the survey information as referred to in paragraph 11 above;*

*(d) decide that the survey questionnaire on the citation practice should be updated and request the Part 7 Task Force to present a new survey questionnaire at its twelfth session as referred to in paragraph 10 above;*

*(e) approve the amendment to the description of Task No. 50 as referred to paragraph 14 above; and*

*(f) consider an approve the updated work plan as indicated in paragraph 15 above.*

[Annex follows]