

CWs/9/17

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# Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

**Ninth Session**

**Geneva, November 1 to 5, 2021**

PROPOSAL FOR SURVEY ON OFFICE PRACTICEs for DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

*Document prepared by the International Bureau*

## BACKGROUND

 At its sixth session in 2018, the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) approved new Task No. 62, the description of which reads: “Review WIPO Standards: ST.6, ST.8, ST.10, ST.11, ST.15, ST.17, ST.18, ST.63 and ST.81 in view of electronic publication of IP documentation; and propose revisions of those Standards if needed” (see paragraphs 143 to 151 of document CWS/6/34). The CWS established a corresponding Task Force named “Digital Transformation Task Force” and designated the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) as the Task Force Leader (see paragraphs 145 to 153 of document CWS/6/34). At the seventh session of the CWS, the Task Force presented a plan to discuss existing practices, establish criteria for reviewing Standards, and prioritize Standards for review (see paragraphs 102 to 104 of document CWS/7/29).

## SURVEY PROPOSAL

 The Digital Transformation Task Force discussed its work plan, which was prepared by the Task Force Leader. The work plan focused on:

* reviewing WIPO Standards in view of electronic publication of IP documentation;
* reviewing publication practices to improve digital dissemination of information that the Offices generate; and
* proposing revisions to those Standards as needed to accommodate current technologies and business processes.

 During discussion on the work plan, the Task Force realized that more information on current Intellectual Property Office (IPO) practices was needed. To better understand IPO practices for intake and publication, the Task Force prepared a draft questionnaire, which is presented in the Annex of this document. The intent of the questionnaire is to gather information on handling and processing (intake, processing, and publication) of IP documents, including patent applications, in full-text and other machine readable text formats, which are currently being utilized by IPOs.

 The Task Force considers that the survey results will help to better understand IPO practices for digitalization and current business needs. This information can be leveraged by the Task Force to assist with revisions and modifications to existing WIPO Standards listed in Task No. 62.

 The Task Force proposes that the Secretariat issue a circular inviting Offices to take the survey after CWS/9, publish the responses on the WIPO website, and present analysis of the survey for approval at the tenth session of the CWS, if the proposed questionnaire is approved at this session. As proposed in document CWS/9/20, this suggested approach is more efficient than the traditional approach of presenting both the survey analysis and unedited responses to the CWS before publication. The basic responses to the survey are available to interested parties sooner, and the amount of material for the CWS to consider at its session will be reduced.

 *The CWS is invited to:*

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

 *(b) approve the questionnaire reproduced in the Annex of the present document;*

 *(c) request the Secretariat to conduct the survey and publish the responses on the WIPO website as soon as they are available as indicated in paragraph 5 above; and*

 *(d) request the Task Force to present an analysis of the survey results for approval for their publication at the tenth session of the CWS as indicated in paragraph 5 above.*

[Annex follows]