# ANNEX I

## PROPOSAL FOR CENTRALIZED REPOSITORY FOR OFFICE-SPECIFIC ST.96 COMPONENTS

 In order for IP Offices (IPOs) to exchange ST.96 data, conformance at the instance and schema level is essential. A conformant XML instance is one that validates against the ST.96 schema.

 However, IPOs have found it necessary to adapt the ST.96 published schema, for their business needs. According to implementation rules set out in Annex V of WIPO ST.96, IPOs should provide these new or extended elements in their own namespace, for example uspat, and propagate these changes up to the root element. These national implementations of ST.96 are no longer conformant but compliant.

 As a solution to this problem, at the Task Force Meeting held in Moscow May 2018, the Rospatent proposed that the International Bureau host these national implementations on a centralized repository or platform. This was further discussed in the Meeting in Geneva in October of the same year. The members of the XML4IP Task Force supported this proposal and this document outlines the next steps for implementation that the International Bureau proposes for implementation. Both Rospatent, the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office have collaborated on producing examples of national implementations, created in their own namespace.

 In order to develop this repository, the International Bureau has identified three outstanding issues, which will be discussed further below:

1. the technology platform for versioning and hosting the data;
2. the method for collecting and updating office specific schemas; and
3. permissions surrounding access to these schemas.

 Part of the WIPO Common Toolkit, is Subversion (SVN)[[1]](#footnote-1), which is an Open Source centralized version control system that is typically used for managing source code development. In this way, it is well suited to hosting office-specific adaptions to the ST.96 schemas.

 In terms of use of SVN for this purpose, the International Bureau would provide access to individual folders for each of the IPOs, which would allow Offices to upload this data. This means of establishing data transfer places the onus on IPOs to provide this data but also provides them with greater control over their own data.

 In terms of access to the schemas, it is proposed that the International Bureau, as managers of the SVN repository, will have both read and write access to all of these folders while IPOs will be only be able to write their own schemas to their specific Office folder and download (read) folders of other IP Offices they wish to communicate with. There is also the added advantage that using SVN as the repository platform can be provided with a negligible cost. IPOs should not provide their IPOs schemas until they are considered to be a final version. In other words, this repository should not be considered a ‘sandbox’.

 One major advantage of this approach is that once IPOs have committed to providing their data to this centralized repository, this will allow the International Bureau to perform a comparison to identify new changes, which have been drafted in parallel by Offices, and determine if there are any new components in common. Once these have been identified, these common elements could be presented to the Task Force as future updates to the published (formal) ST.96 schema.

 SVN includes, as version control system, includes within it a comparison tool, diff[[2]](#footnote-2), which allows comparisons to be performed between various revisions. It even provides for a differentiation between two folders, which is suited to our purpose. This way we can quickly identify those components which differ between national implementations or between differ between the ST.96 implementation and a specific IPO.

 Before the International Bureau can move forward with this proposal, we must encourage the participation of IPOs. Unless Offices provide us with this data, there is no purpose to us moving to the next stage of implementation.

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1. Apache Subversion home-page <https://subversion.apache.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. SVN diff reference guide <http://svnbook.red-bean.com/en/1.8/svn.ref.svn.c.diff.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)