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**Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

**Sixth Session**

**Geneva, October 15 to 19, 2018**

Recommendations from the Meeting on ICT Strategy and Artificial Intelligence

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

## INTRODUCTION

The Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Mr. Francis Gurry, raised the need for WIPO to commence to engage in the rapidly developing area of big data, the Internet of Things and artificial intelligence (AI) at the Fifty-Seventh Session of the Assemblies Meetings held in 2017. He mentioned that one focus of attention could be the increasing use of AI and big data in intellectual property (IP) administration in his speech at the Meetings, which is available on the WIPO website at: <http://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/dgo/speeches/a_57_dg_speech.html>.

In the global innovation economy, demand for IP titles – patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright – is rapidly increasing and becoming more complex. Disruptive technologies such as AI, big data analytics and blockchain, can be used to address the growing challenges facing IPOs.

As a first step, the International Bureau issued Circular C. 8706, inviting Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs) to provide their input regarding business solutions, which use AI and big data; specific AI systems in use; and experiences and other useful information to share with other IPOs.

In order to facilitate discussion among Member States of WIPO and other interested parties, the International Bureau also organized the Meeting of IPOs on ICT Strategies and Artificial Intelligence for IP Administration (ICTAI meeting), which took place at WIPO headquarters in Geneva from May 23 to 25, 2018. The ICTAI meeting was opened by the Director General who highlighted the requirement for leveraging advanced information technologies to deal with the increased complexity and volume of IP applications, as well as the increased need for collaboration between IP offices. Delegations welcomed WIPO’s initiative to convene the meeting, which was timely and useful for the exchange of views and experience in the area of ICT and business management, for effective IPO administration.

## RELEVANT RECOMMENDATIONS TO STANDADIZATION

The meeting was composed of three themes; (a) ICT Strategy of IPOs for efficient IPO administration; (b) International ICT Strategy for Global IP protection; and (c) Applications of AI and other advanced technologies to IPO Administration. The discussions were summarized in document WIPO/IP/ITAI/GE/18/5, which is available at: <http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=407578>.

Discussions were based on document WIPO/IP/ITAI/GE/18/3, which is available at: <http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=46586>, containing 40 Recommendations, which was prepared by the International Bureau to facilitate discussions at the meeting.

The Recommendations were reviewed and generally accepted by the delegations, while certain recommendations need time for implementation or further consideration. The delegations also noted that some recommendations should be followed up with specific actions. Furthermore, the delegations noted that the relevant CWS Task Forces may wish to consider a wider range of issues with regard to the following recommendations: R10, R12, R16, R17, R19, R21, R23, R32 and R33. (See paragraphs 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 15 of document WIPO/IP/ITAI/GE/18/5.)

As a follow-up to the ICTAI meeting, the International Bureau established a dedicated web page, <http://www.wipo.int/about-ip/en/artificial_intelligence/>. The International Bureau also established an electronic forum for the discussion of ICT strategies and AI for IP Administration, which is available here: [https://www3.wipo.int/confluence/display/ictai](https://www3.wipo.int/confluence/display/ictai/ICT+strategy+and+AI+Home). The forum is restricted to the experts nominated by IPOs.

## PROPOSALS

The Secretariat of this Committee further analyzed the 40 Recommendations and the possible actions, which were suggested by the ICTAI meeting in view of the CWS activities. The Secretariat considers that the 40 Recommendations could be categorized into three Groups:

1. Group 1: Recommendations are related to the exiting CWS Tasks or new Tasks that are proposed to be established at this session of the Committee;
2. Group 2: Recommendations are not directly related to the any of current and the proposed CWS Tasks, but seem to be relevant to potential future activity of the Committee; and
3. Group 3: Recommendations seem to be not relevant to the CWS activity now and in the near future.

The outcome of the analysis is annexed to the present document for consideration by the CWS. The Secretariat proposes the CWS to request the CWS Task Forces to consider relevant aspects of the Recommendations in Group 1, and to report their further actions required for their respective Task(s), including a proposal for amendment to the description(s) of the respective Task(s), if needed.

Taking into account the discussions at the ICTAI meeting and IPOs’ ICT strategy to use disruptive technologies in their administration, the International Bureau proposes to create a new Task:

* to review the Recommendations in Group 2 and Group 3 indicated in the Annex of document CWS/6/3;
* to explore the impact of disruptive technologies on IP administration and IP data in view of harmonization and collaboration; and
* to prepare a proposal for a roadmap of future development and enhancement of WIPO Standards in view of more effective producing, sharing, managing and utilizing IP information and data by IPOs and other interested parties using the disruptive technologies.

The International Bureau also proposes the following text for the description of the new Task: “Prepare a proposal for a roadmap of future development and enhancement of WIPO Standards in view of more effective producing, sharing and utilizing IP information and data by IPOs and other interested parties using the disruptive technologies”.

The International Bureau also proposes to establish a corresponding task force to carry out the new task, and offers to lead the Task Force if established. The progress on the Task should be reported to the next session of the CWS.

*The CWS is invited to:*

*(a) note the content of the present document;*

*(b) consider the outcome of the Secretariat’s analysis, as referred to in paragraph 8 above and as reproduced in the Annex to the present document;*

*(c) consider and approve the proposal as indicated in paragraph 10, above;*

*(d) consider and approve the proposal to create a new Task and the proposed description of the new Task, as referred to in paragraphs 11 and 12, above; and*

*(e) consider and approve the establishment of the new Task Force, with its corresponding Task Force Leader and request the established Task Force to report its progress on the new task at its next session, as referred to in paragraph 13, above.*

[Annex follows]