

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Sixth Session
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REPORT ON THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING TO INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE MANDATE OF THE CWS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. This report aims to implement the decision taken by the General Assembly in 2011 relating to the mandate of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), and to provide regular written reports on the details of activities undertaken during the year 2017 in which the Secretariat or the International Bureau of WIPO “endeavored to provide technical advice and assistance for capacity building to Industrial Property Offices (IPOs) by undertaking projects regarding dissemination of IP standards information” (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19). A complete list of such activities is available under the Technical Assistance Database (www.wipo.int/tad).
2. At its fifth session, the CWS noted that the Secretariat would provide technical assistance and training regarding WIPO Standards on demand and depending on the availability of resources; the Secretariat would present a proposal regarding the online training courses on WIPO Standards for consideration by the CWS at its sixth session (see paragraph 112 of document CWS/5/22).
3. As WIPO Standards are implemented in various systems and tools of WIPO such as WIPO Business Solutions, the following activities also implicitly cover dissemination of relevant IP standards information.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ADVICE ON THE USE OF WIPO STANDARDS

4. In 2017, the International Bureau provided technical advice to assist several IPOs and users to utilize WIPO Standards through emails or online conferences or during face-to-face meetings.

5. The Secretariat has not received a request for technical assistance and training regarding WIPO Standards since the last session of the CWS. The Secretariat will provide technical assistance and training regarding WIPO Standards on demand and depending on the availability of resources.

6. Following the discussion on the online training courses on WIPO Standards held at the fifth session of the CWS, the Secretariat plans to organize two webinars, one in the second half of 2018 and the other one in the first half of 2019. The Secretariat is also exploring the feasibility of developing a distance learning course regarding WIPO Standards, in collaboration with the WIPO Academy, targeting IPO staff, IP information users and university students.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE IN IP INSTITUTIONS USING WIPO STANDARDS

7. Program 15 aims to enhance national and regional IPOs' business systems and technical infrastructure in order to help them provide more cost-effective and higher-quality services to their own stakeholders. The assistance provided is aligned with the Development Agenda recommendations aiming at strengthening institutional and technical infrastructure of IPOs and institutions. The Program's services include technical consultancy; business needs assessment; project scoping and planning; business process analysis; ongoing development and deployment of customized business systems solutions for the administration of IP rights and for the exchange of priority documents and of search and examination results; establishment of IP databases; assistance with digitization of IP records and preparation of data for online publications and electronic data exchange; training and knowledge transfer to staff of IP institutions; and support for the systems provided by WIPO. The assistance takes into account WIPO Standards on IP data and information where appropriate. On-site training, mentoring and regional training workshops account for a significant portion of the Program's work and are critical in achieving the desired results.

8. Within the framework of this program, activities were undertaken with 58 IPOs in 2017, including 14 regional or sub-regional training workshops. At the end of 2017, 84 IPOs from developing countries in all regions were actively using WIPO Business Solutions for the administration of their IP rights, in which WIPO Standards are integrated. A key focus of the Program for the current biennium is to upgrade the service level of IPOs by assisting them to move to online services for filing and for IP information dissemination. More information is available on the web site of WIPO's technical assistance program for IPOs http://www.wipo.int/global_ip/en/activities/technicalassistance/.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF IP OFFICERS AND EXAMINERS FOR THE UTILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL TOOLS

9. Upon request, the International Bureau is developing a common software tool which will enable patent applicants to prepare a nucleotide and amino acid sequence listing following WIPO Standard ST.26 and to support IP offices to process and examine the sequence listings. The software tool is planned to be deployed in the second half of 2019.

BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WIPO STANDARDS

10. In order to increase awareness of WIPO Standards in developing countries and to facilitate the physical participation by more developing countries in the preparation of new or revised WIPO Standard(s), following the decision of the General Assembly in October 2011, the participation at the fifth session of the CWS of seven developing countries or least developed countries (LDCs) was funded by the International Bureau.

IP DATA EXCHANGE

11. The International Bureau has been working together with many IPOs, particularly in certain groups of developing countries to promote the exchange of IP data with a view to providing users in those countries with greater access to IP information originating from those IPOs. The exchange of IP data was organized in accordance with relevant WIPO Standards. The trademark collections of the following countries have been included in Global Brand Database during the year 2017: Chile, France, Iceland, Thailand and Vietnam; the patent collections of the following countries have been included in PATENTSCOPE during the year 2017: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Denmark, France, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Saudi Arabia and Thailand.

12. The CWS is invited to take note of the 2017 activities of the International Bureau, related to providing technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IPOs, regarding dissemination of IP standards information. This document will serve as a basis of the relevant report to be presented to the WIPO General Assembly to be held in 2019, as requested at its 40th session held in October 2011 (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19).

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