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**Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

**Tenth Session**

**Geneva, November 21 to 25, 2022**

# Report by the Legal Status Task Force

*Document prepared by the Legal Status Task Force Leader*

## BACKGROUND

At its ninth session in 2021, the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) noted the progress of the Legal Status Task Force on studying a potential merger of legal status standards ST.27, ST.87, and ST.61. As the Task Force did not reach agreement on how to proceed further with merger work, the CWS requested the Task Force to consider whether to continue work on a merger and make a recommendation at the tenth session, including updates to Task No. 47, if needed. The CWS approved a revision to ST.27 for event indicators. The CWS also approved publication of Intellectual Property Office (IPO) mapping tables for ST.61 (See paragraphs 45 to 56 of document CWS/9/25.).

## REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

In March 2022, the Secretariat published ST.61 mapping tables from 11 IPOs in Part 7.13.3 of the WIPO Handbook. In July 2022, the Secretariat added a 12th mapping table submitted by European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

In developing the 2022 work plan for the Task Force, the Task Force Leader consulted Task Force members about their implementation plans and intentions. Several members remarked that they would like more time to progress with their implementations of ST.27, ST.87, or ST.61 before continuing work on the open issues before the Task Force. These members felt that a better understanding of how to implement the legal status Standards within their own systems would better prepare them to consider the various alternatives before the Task Force. This includes questions of whether to add event indicators adopted for patent legal status, i.e., ST.27, to the trademark and industrial design Standards, i.e., ST.61 and ST.87 respectively, and the pending proposals in the Task Force for event and category revisions in ST.27.

Based on this feedback, the Task Force Leader decided to prioritize work on training materials for legal status Standards to assist IPOs with their implementation efforts. The Secretariat’s experiences and feedback working with IPOs to develop webinars and materials for the ST.26 big bang implementation date in July 2022 have been valuable for planning how to proceed with legal status training materials. The Secretariat intends to share plans for training materials with the Legal Status Task Force for their consideration after the tenth session.

## REVISION TO ST.87

The Task Force also prepared a revision to ST.87 Annex II on supplementary data, presented in the Annex to the present document. This revision is intended to align ST.87 with ST.27 and ST.61, which were updated more recently. The main changes to the proposed revision of ST.87 Annex II include:

* Separating and expanding common data elements which apply to all categories;
* Combining personal data fields to reflect the approach to common components in ST.96;
* Adding a few new explanatory items such as Reason Not in Force; and
* Replacing some patent-specific language from the previous version.

## PROPOSED AMENDEMENT TO TASK NO. 47

In light of the CWS and the Task Force not finding a way to proceed with work on a potential merger of the three legal status Standards, the Task Force suggests discontinuing the merger work. Consequently the Task Force proposes to update the description of Task No. 47 as follows:

Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.87, and ST.61; prepare supporting materials to assist the use of those Standards in IP community; ~~analyze the potential of merging the three standards ST.27, ST.87, and ST.61;~~ and support the XML4IP Task Force to develop XML components for legal status event data.

*The CWS is invited to:*

1. *note the content of this document;*
2. *consider and approve the proposed revision to ST.87 in the Annex of the present document; and*
3. *approve the revision of the description of Task No. 47 as described in paragraph 6 above.*

[Annex follows]