

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Twelfth Session
Geneva, September 16 to 19, 2024

RECOMMENDATIONS ON ICT AND IP ADMINISTRATION

Document prepared by the International Bureau

SUMMARY

1. The ICT Strategy Task Force presents a set of revised draft recommendations on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Intellectual Property (IP) administration for consideration and adoption by the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS). These recommendations should be considered for implementation by Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs).

BACKGROUND

2. At its sixth session in 2018, the CWS noted the “40 Recommendations” prepared at the Meeting of Intellectual Property Offices on ICT Strategies and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for IP Administration, which the International Bureau convened to support the exchange of views and experiences in ICT and business management for effective IPO administration. The CWS noted the analysis of 40 Recommendations by the Secretariat and their relevancy to the activities of the CWS with three groups of Recommendations (see paragraphs 17 to 27 of document CWS/6/34).

3. The ICT Strategy Task Force worked on the analysis of the relevancy of those 40 Recommendations to the CWS activities and their priority considering the results of the two surveys conducted firstly by Task Force and then also by Members of the CWS (see document CWS/11/21).

4. Furthermore, the Task Force agreed to regrouping the 40 Recommendations in light of the CWS mandate, which was adopted in 2022, and in conjunction with the survey results. In addition, to improve the original 40 Recommendations, the Task Force agreed on the following points:

- add new Recommendations
- some were no longer valid;
- generalize some Recommendations;
- make some Recommendations more explicit or clearer;
- consider some Recommendations such as R17, R23, R32, and R33 achieved or conducted; and
- reduce the number of the Recommendations, so that the IPOs could focus on their implementations in a suggested timeframe.

5. For consideration at the eleventh session of the CWS, the ICT Strategy Task Force prepared and presented a new set of 10 Recommendations on ICT and IP administration with corresponding Actions (see the Annex of document CWS/11/18).

6. At its eleventh session, the CWS requested the Secretariat to issue a circular inviting its Members to comment on the 10 newly proposed Recommendations. The CWS also requested the ICT Strategy Task Force to report the results of responses to this circular at its twelfth session (See paragraphs 158 and 159 document CWS/11/28).

PROPOSAL FOR REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS

7. In response to the Circular C.CWS 180, the following Member States responded: Australia, Germany, Lithuania, Mexico, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Norway.

8. Considering the substantive feedback received in response to the Circular as well as the feedback at the eleventh session of the CWS, the Task Force prepared a final proposal for a set of recommendations on ICT and IP administration and presents it, which is reproduced in the Annex to the present document, for consideration and adoption.

9. A summary of the changes made to the 10 draft Recommendations since the last session includes:

- Reordering of recommendations for improved flow;
- Removal of duplicative wording between Recommendation and Recommended Actions.
- Minor editorial changes to provide clarity and ensure consistency;
- Changes to Recommendation 1's Action to review procedures relevant to different IP rights and where possible, aligns them;
- Changes to Recommendation 2 to expand the scope of the forum to include ICT issues of common interest; and
- Changes to make Recommendation 10 more high-level and general to distinguish between Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence as different disciplines with different use case opportunities and scope.

10. The Task Force proposes that these recommendations should be considered for implementation by IPOs. In this regard, it is suggested that those recommendations should be reported to WIPO General Assembly in 2025 once the CWS adopts them. Furthermore, it is also suggested that IPOs should be encouraged to implement the set of recommendations and share their plan or experience in implementing those recommendations.

11. *The CWS is invited to:*

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

(b) consider and adopt the set of recommendations, which is reproduced in the Annex to the present document;

(c) agree to report the set of recommendations to WIPO General Assembly in 2025 as proposed in paragraph 10 above; and

(d) encourage its Members to implement the set of recommendations and request its Members share their plan or experience in implementing those recommendations at the next session of the CWS as referred to in paragraph 10 above.

[Annex follows]

