

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Twelfth Session **Geneva, September 16 to 19, 2024**

SUMMARY BY THE CHAIR

Document prepared by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Twelfth Session

1. The twelfth session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) was opened by the elected Chair, Mr. Michael Cristiano. Mr. Ken-Ichiro Natsume, Assistant Director General, Infrastructure and Platforms Sector of WIPO, welcomed the participants. Mr. Young-woo Yun, Head, Standards Section, acted as Secretary.

Agenda Item 2: Election of the two Vice-Chairs

2. The CWS unanimously elected, for two consecutive sessions, twelfth and thirteenth sessions, Mr. Ali Alharbi (Saudi Arabia) and Mr. Alexandre Ciancio (Brazil) as the Vice-Chairs, whose terms will begin immediately.

DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the agenda

3. The CWS unanimously adopted the agenda as proposed in document CWS/12/1 PROV.3 with the editorial amendments. The adopted agenda is published as document CWS/12/1 on the meeting page.

Agenda Item 4: CWS Work Program

Agenda Item 4(a): Work Program and Task List of the CWS

4. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/2. The Secretariat stepped through each of the Task Descriptions of the Work Program and the CWS noted the content of the document.

5. The CWS considered its Task List as presented in the Annex to document CWS/12/2 and approved the Secretariat to incorporate the agreements reached at this session in the CWS Work Program and publish them on the WIPO website.

6. During this agenda item, the Secretariat provided their analysis of the resources required for each of the Tasks, in terms of complexity and estimated activity level, and will publish on the meeting page the results of their analysis for the benefit of the CWS. As several delegations noted that the analysis information is useful for their consideration, the CWS noted that the Secretariat will prepare its analysis of complexity and estimated activity level for each of the Tasks in the consultation with Task Forces Leaders and include the information in the Task List for consideration at the thirteenth session of the CWS.

Agenda Item 4(b): Questionnaire on the prioritization of CWS Tasks

7. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/3. The CWS noted the content of the document.

8. The CWS considered that the results of the informal survey conducted in July 2024 was sufficient to meet the aims set out in its tenth and eleventh sessions. In this regard, the CWS agreed not to conduct a formal survey on the Task prioritization, but instead the CWS will review the priority of each Task when it considers its program. Several delegations expressed their concerns regarding the volume of work expected by Task Forces. Upon request, the Secretariat will propose which CWS Tasks should be held in abeyance for consideration by the CWS.

Agenda Item 5: Progress reports on Tasks

9. The CWS noted that the Secretariat has updated the list of membership of the CWS Task Forces, which is available on WIPO website at:
<https://www.wipo.int/cws/en/taskforce/members.html>.

Agenda Item 5(a): Report on Task No. 41 by the XML4IP Task Force

10. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/4. The CWS noted the content of the document. The CWS also noted the work plan including the release of WIPO ST.96 version 8.0 in October 2024, and the future work plan of the XML4IP Task Force.

Agenda Item 5(b): Report on Task No. 44 by the Sequence Listings Task Force

11. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/5. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular, the work plan and challenges of the Task Force. The CWS also noted that there will be no proposed revision to WIPO Standard ST.26 to be considered this year as the Sequence Listings Task Force is instead considering two substantive revisions suggested by the European Patent Office and the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Several Delegations expressed their concern that changes are substantive, and implementation should be handled with care and in consultation with examiners and users.

Agenda Item 5(c): Report on Task No. 47 by the Legal Status Task Force

12. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/6. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular, the work plan and challenges of the Task Force. Several delegations expressed concern regarding recategorization of existing legal status events but confirmed that they would support the addition of new events.

Agenda Item 5(d): Report on Task No. 50 by the Part 7 Task Force

13. Discussions were based on an oral report on Task No. 50 delivered by the International Bureau as the Leader of the Part 7 Task Force. The CWS noted the work plan and challenges of the Task Force.

14. The CWS approved to conduct a survey to update WIPO Handbook Part 7.2.6 and Part 7.2.7 in 2025. The CWS also noted that the Part 7 Task Force will report the survey results to its thirteenth session.

15. One delegation asked if WIPO Handbook Part 7.3.2 can be updated in the case where new document types are produced by an Office. The CWS noted that the Part 7 Task Force will discuss whether updates to Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook should be made upon the request by an Office in order to reflect its new practice or the updates should be made with the results of a relevant survey in which all Offices will be invited to respond according to the current practice. The Part 7 Task Force will present a proposal for consideration at the next session of the CWS.

Agenda Item 5(e): Report on Task No. 52 by the Public Access to Patent Information (PAPI) Task Force

16. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/7. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular, the work plan and challenges of the Task Force.

Agenda Item 5(f): Report on Task No. 55 by the Name Standardization Task Force

17. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/8. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular, the progress made in preparing the final draft of recommendations for the data cleaning of names.

18. As the CWS did not adopt the proposed draft for WIPO Standard ST.93, the current description of Task No. 55 remains unchanged.

Agenda Item 5(g): Report on Task No. 56 and No. 64 by the API Task Force

19. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/9 Rev. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular, the release of the API Catalog for Intellectual Property and the request to test the XML2JSON transformation tool. The CWS encouraged its Members and Observers to participate in the API Catalog by responding to Circular C.CWS 185. Several delegations indicated their support for the production of the API Catalog as it allows them to improve their own offerings after seeing those provided by other Offices. One delegation asked if it was possible to track the number of visits to the API Catalog for IP and its usage. The Secretariat confirmed that the number of visits to the website of the API Catalog for IP is tracked. It cannot determine how visitors are using it because it is not a gateway.

20. The CWS approved the revised description of the Task No. 56, which reads:

“Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.90; support the International Bureau in promoting and implementing WIPO Standard ST.90; and promote the API Catalog for Intellectual Property (IP) and facilitate the further participation of IP institutions in the API Catalog.”

Agenda Item 5(h): Report on Task No. 58 by the ICT Strategy Task Force

21. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/10.

22. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular, the progress made on the updated 10 Recommendations by the Task Force. One delegation asked that in light of the fact that these recommendations are generic in nature, that potentially they will not require an update and that Task No. 58 could be proposed to be closed by the Task Force at the next session of the CWS. Another delegation indicated their belief that Recommendations 2, 8 and 9 were duplicative and asked that the Task Force consider simplifying these in order to minimize the total number of Recommendations in due course.

23. The CWS approved the revised description of the Task No. 58, which reads:

“Facilitate the implementation of the ICT related Recommendations by IP offices and the International Bureau; and evaluate and update these Recommendations as needed to maintain their relevance.”

Agenda Item 5(i): Report on Task No. 59 by the Blockchain Task Force

24. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/11. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular, the work plan and challenges of the Task Force.

Agenda Item 5(j): Report on Task No. 61 by the 3D Task Force

25. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/12. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular, the work plan and challenges of the Task Force.

Agenda Item 5(k): Report on Task No. 62, No. 63 and No. 65 by the Digital Transformation Task Force

26. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/13.

27. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular, their progress in providing a final draft of the patent priority document exchange package standard for consideration and adoption at this session.

28. The CWS noted that the Digital Transformation Task Force encourages Offices that are currently using DOCX2XML converters to share information on the functionalities of their converter. This will enable the Task Force to have a broader view on what converters are available and be better placed to provide a draft for the common requirements specification.

Agenda Item 5(l): Report on Task No. 66 by the International Bureau

29. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/14.

30. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular, the work plan and challenges of the Task Force. One delegation indicated that it has been working to improve their existing WIPO ST.37-compliant authority file in order to meet the new PCT Minimum Documentation Task Force requirements and appreciate the offer of clinics made by the International Bureau.

Agenda Item 6: Development of WIPO Standards

Agenda Item 6(a): Proposal for a new WIPO Standard on the data package format for the electronic exchange of priority documents

31. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/15 Rev.

32. The CWS considered the updated draft standard presented by the Digital Transformation Task Force for adoption. Several delegations explicitly endorsed the proposal and the CWS adopted the new Standard, formally known as WIPO Standard ST.92, as proposed.

33. With regard to the implementation plan for the adopted Standard, there were some concerns expressed regarding the deadline specified for the conclusion of the “sunset period” by July 1, 2027. The Secretariat proposed that this deadline be “tentative”. The Delegation of China suggested to conduct a survey to know whether the sunset period is feasible to all Offices. The CWS agreed that the Digital Transformation Task Force prepare a survey questionnaire, and the Secretariat issue a circular inviting all Offices to respond the survey. The CWS noted that the Digital Transformation Task Force would report the results of the survey for consideration at its thirteenth session. The CWS agreed that at this stage this tentative deadline applies only to the adopted Standard, i.e., patent priority documents, and the discussion should continue once the new Standard is revised to incorporate recommendations for trademark and industrial design priority documents.

34. The CWS noted that the International Bureau plans to update the WIPO Digital Access Service (DAS), to accept and provide priority documents compliant with the new Standard. The WIPO DAS update should be discussed with WIPO DAS Offices. The CWS also noted that the International Bureau would organize meetings where WIPO DAS Offices and the Digital Transformation Task Force would be invited.

35. The CWS approved the proposal for the revised description of Task No. 65 which reads:

“Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.92 and support IP offices for their implementation of the Standard before July 1, 2027.”

Agenda Item 6(b): Proposal for a new WIPO Standard supporting the data cleaning of names

36. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/16 Rev.

37. The CWS noted the improved draft recommendations for the improved data cleaning of names. Several delegations expressed concerns regarding the necessity to implement the new Standard but the Secretariat confirmed that implementation of the Standard would be optional.

38. The CWS did not approve the new proposed draft for WIPO Standard ST.93. Instead the CWS requested that the Name Standardization Task Force continue to improve the draft Standard. The CWS also requested that the International Bureau organize a workshop on data cleaning of names where all interested parties may attend. Finally the CWS encouraged Member States and Observers to nominate experts to join its Name Standardization Task Force.

39. Regarding the publication of transliteration tables in Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook, delegations supported this idea. The Delegation of Ukraine proposed that the draft Standard explicitly reference the Unicode Standard, recognizing that Cyrillic should not be represented as a single national script. The CWS supported the proposal and updated the draft to include this reference, for later consideration by the Task Force.

Agenda Item 6(c): Proposal for the revision of WIPO Standards ST.3, ST.9 and ST.80

40. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/18 Corr.

41. The CWS considered the revisions to the three WIPO Standards originally proposed by the Hague registry. The Secretariat confirmed that the new version of each legal status Standard will come into force on their publication date in Part 3 of the WIPO Handbook. The International Bureau confirmed that Hague amendments will only need to comply with these Standards after the publication date. The Delegation of China requested that information regarding the updated WIPO Standards be communicated to Offices via a circular.

42. The CWS approved the revisions to these three WIPO Standards. The Secretariat will publish the revised version of the three WIPO Standards in the WIPO Handbook and communicate the publication via a circular to all CWS Members.

Agenda Item 6(d): Proposals for the revision of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87

43. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/19 Rev.

44. The CWS considered the revisions to the three WIPO Standards as proposed by the Legal Status Task Force. The Delegation of Republic of Korea proposed to remove the “WIPO DAS access code” added to event category A as it is not relevant to the legal status event of an application. Several other delegations supported the proposal. The CWS agreed that this should be removed. After a question from another delegation, the Secretariat proposed the

removal of the “Not in force date” from event category B as it is the same as the “Effective date” defined in these Standards for this particular category.

45. The CWS approved the revisions to the three WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87, including the amendments to category A and B mentioned above and several other editorial corrections. The document detailing the approved revisions is available on the meeting page (see [CWS/12/19 Rev.](#))

46. The Secretariat will publish the revised version of the three WIPO Standards in the WIPO Handbook and communicate the publication via circular to Member States.

Agenda Item 6(e): Proposal for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.91

47. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/20.

48. The CWS approved the revision to WIPO ST.91 as proposed. The Secretariat will publish the revised version in Part 3 of the WIPO Handbook and communicate the publication via a circular to the CWS Members.

Agenda Item 6(f): Proposal for improvement of copyright orphan work metadata in WIPO Standard ST.96

49. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/21.

50. The CWS approved that the XML4IP Task Force should continue its discussion to improve the copyright orphan work components in WIPO Standard ST.96 on the basis of the proposals which were reproduced in Annex to document CWS/10/7. The CWS noted that it was premature to incorporate the amendments to the two components in the next version of WIPO Standard ST.96, version 8.0.

51. The CWS encouraged its Members and Observers to nominate their subject matter experts to the XML4IP Task Force to improve the relevant ST.96 XML components in the future. One delegation expressed concern that its Office does not have the appropriate experts. The Secretariat responded that it would be seeking nominations from all IP offices in Member States, including copyright offices to put forward appropriate experts in copyright orphan works.

Agenda Item 6(g): Analysis of survey results on the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.91

52. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/26.

53. The CWS noted the analysis by the 3D Task Force on the responses received for the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.91 survey. The Secretariat confirmed that the individual responses and the collated responses have been published in Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook and the analysis of the survey results will be published after the session.

54. The CWS supported the organization of an information session on 3D models and 3D images by the Task Force, where all interested parties will be invited.

Agenda Item 7: Implementation of WIPO Standards by Offices

Agenda Item 7(a): WIPO Standard ST.26

55. The CWS noted presentations by the International Bureau and the Representative of the European Patent Office after an introduction regarding WIPO Standard ST.26 made by the Secretariat. The Delegations of the United Kingdom and United States of America also orally shared their implementation experiences.

Agenda Item 7(b): WIPO Standard ST.37

56. The CWS noted presentations by the Delegations of Australia and Austria after an introduction regarding WIPO Standard ST.37 made by the Secretariat. The Delegations of the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the Representative of the European Patent Office also orally shared their implementation experience.

Agenda Item 7(c): WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87

57. The CWS noted a presentation by the Delegation of the Republic of Korea after an introduction regarding the WIPO legal status Standards by the International Bureau. The Delegations of China, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, as well as the Representative of the Eurasian Patent Office also orally shared their implementation experiences.

Agenda Item 7(d): WIPO Standard ST.90

58. The CWS noted presentations by the Representatives of the European Union Intellectual Property Office and the Eurasian Patent Office after an introduction regarding WIPO Standard ST.90 by the International Bureau. The Delegations of Canada and the United States of America also orally shared their implementation experience.

Agenda Item 8: Policies and activities relating to intellectual property (IP) data, information system and information services

Agenda Item 8(a): Recommendations on Blockchain Applications in the United Nations system by the Joint Inspection Unit

59. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/27.

60. The CWS encouraged IPOs to implement Recommendation 6 of the Joint Inspection Unit's Recommendations on Blockchain Application in the United Nations system. The Delegation of the Russian Federation, as the leader of the Blockchain Task Force, encouraged Offices to participate in the work of the Task Force and raise any questions they may have there.

Agenda Item 8(b): Recommendations on ICT and IP administration

61. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/22.

62. The CWS considered and adopted the set of 10 recommendations with 15 relevant recommended actions presented by the ICT Strategy Task Force. The CWS agreed to report the set of adopted recommendations to WIPO General Assembly in 2025.

63. The CWS encouraged 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. The CWS also noted that the International Bureau would organize a meeting on ICT in early 2025 considering the Recommended Action (c) under Recommendation 2.

64. The CWS also noted presentations by the Delegations of China and Canada in relation to digital transformation strategies and ICT system modernization.

Agenda Item 8(c): Proposal for recommendations on data exchange framework and platform

65. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/23 Rev. The CWS noted the introduction by the International Bureau and the presentation by the Delegations of Japan and Saudi Arabia.

66. Several Delegations expressed their concerns regarding the proposed solutions contained within the project brief, detailed in Annex II. The Secretariat reassured the CWS that their concerns would be addressed during the initial Task Force discussions. In order to address these concerns, the CWS agreed to amend paragraph 14 of the working document by adding the following:

“The contents of Annex II will be discussed by the corresponding Task Force if established”

67. The CWS approved the creation of the new “IP Data Exchange Task Force” and the Delegations of Japan and Saudi Arabia, as well as the International Bureau, as Task Force Co-Leaders. They also approved the modified Task No. 67 which reads as follows:

“Analyze existing practices and challenges experienced by IP Offices with a view to explore solutions to improve global IP data exchange”

Agenda Item 8(d): Global Identifier for natural persons and legal entities

68. The CWS noted the presentation on Global Identifier project by the International Bureau, which includes the progress made since the eleventh session of the CWS. The CWS also noted that Phase 2 of the project plans to be launched in October 2025.

Agenda Item 8(e): Report on 2023 Annual Technical Reports (ATRs)

69. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/24.

70. The CWS approved the continuation of ATR collection and the inclusion of the proposed new topic in the simplified template that was piloted over the past three years. The new topic reads as follows:

“Activities of the implementation of WIPO Standards related to Patent (Trademark or Industrial Design) Information”.

Agenda Item 9: Technical assistance and collaboration on global information systems

Agenda Item 9(a): Report by the International Bureau on the provision of technical advice and assistance for capacity building to industrial property offices in connection with the mandate of the CWS

71. Discussions were based on document CWS/12/25.

72. The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the 2023 activities of the International Bureau related to providing technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IPOs regarding dissemination of IP standards information.

73. The CWS noted that this document would serve as the basis of the relevant report to be presented to the WIPO General Assembly to be held in 2025, as requested at its 40th session held in October 2011 (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19).

Agenda Item 9(b): WIPO Sequence Suite development

74. The CWS noted the progress made on the WIPO Sequence Suite Performance Improvement project, in particular the release of version 3.0.0 of the WIPO Sequence Validator planned for later this month.

Agenda Item 9(c): API Catalog for Intellectual Property (IP)

75. The CWS noted the launch of the API Catalog for IP in July this year and agreed to promote the use of the API Catalog to IP Offices.

Agenda Item 9(d): Authority File Portal

76. The CWS noted the updates made to the WIPO Authority File Portal since the last session of the CWS.

77. The CWS also noted the proposal by the Delegation of the United Kingdom to restart the Authority File Task Force, in light of the need for additional support to achieve the PCT Minimum Documentation requirement to author a WIPO ST.37-compliant authority file. Several Delegations expressed their support for this proposal.

78. The CWS approved the creation of the Authority File Task Force and designated the Delegation of the United Kingdom as Task Force Leader. The CWS also approved the reassigning of Task No. 66 to the Authority File Task Force with an updated Task description which now reads:

“Encourage IP offices to provide their patent authority file in compliance with WIPO Standard ST.37 by providing any technical support or training necessary, based on available resources; and undertake any necessary revisions and updates to WIPO Standard ST.37.”

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