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REPORT ON TASK NO. 41 BY THE XML4IP TASK FORCE

Document prepared by the International Bureau

SUMMARY

1.   The XML4IP Task Force is responsible for developing and maintaining eXtensible Markup Language (XML) components that comprise WIPO Standard ST.96. The Task Force meets monthly to discuss among other things, potential revisions to WIPO ST.96. The focus of development work since the last session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) was to develop trademark and industrial design legal status XML schemas. Version 8.0 is planned for release on October 1, 2024, and is planned to include the final draft versions of these schemas.

BACKGROUND

2.   At its eleventh session, held in 2023, the CWS noted a progress report of the activities of the XML4IP Task Force regarding conducting of the Task No. 41 (see document CWS/11/2), the description of which reads:

“*Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.96*”.

3.   The XML4IP Task Force meets virtually monthly to discuss proposals for revision to WIPO Standard ST.96. During the February meeting, the Task Force confirmed the following development priorities for the calendar year of 2024 (in no particular order):

–   Publish version 8.0, which incorporates new legal status schemas (trademark and design components) on October 1, 2024;
–   Finalize patent record/transaction schemas for inclusion in the next version;
–   Finalize industrial design legal status XML schemas;
–   Support the transition of Lisbon System to ST.96; and
–   Support where relevant development of Madrid Office API.

PROGRESS REPORT ON TASK NO. 41

Revision and implementation of WIPO Standard ST.96

4.   The XML4IP Task Force agreed to release a single revised version of WIPO Standard ST.96 in October in 2024. As such, there has been no new version of WIPO ST.96 published since the last session of the CWS which was held in December 2023. The next version of WIPO Standard ST.96 that is planned for publication is version 8.0. As a reminder, the XML4IP Task Force has "fast track" approval for revisions to WIPO Standard ST.96.

5.   Significant progress was made on removing older entries from the XML4IP Issue Register, where revisions to WIPO Standard ST.96 are proposed by the Task Force for their consideration. Old entries are set in abeyance if feedback is not received for a period longer than 6 months. The list of entries on the register that are in abeyance has been reduced significantly in 2024. This is due to a concerted effort by the International Bureau to highlight these issues on the register during the monthly meetings.

6.   As is indicated above in paragraph 3, the two major focus of development for the Task Force for 2024 were the development of legal status XML schemas and the finalization of the patent record components. Development status of these schemas is elaborated on below.

Patent record schemas

7.   In the February and March monthly meetings, the Task Force discussed the necessary updates to finalize the patent record XML schemas. One of the outstanding items that needs to be resolved is whether WIPO Standard ST.27 should be used as part of the patent record components. Progress on the finalization of these schemas will be blocked until the Task Force can agree on how this problem can be resolved.

Trademark and Industrial Design Legal Status Schemas

8.   In order to develop both the trademark and industrial design legal status schemas, a review of Annex II of WIPO Standard ST.61 and ST.87 was conducted by nominated business area experts. Any missing supplementary data for each of the categories was considered by the group and the necessary revisions to the Annexes were undertaken. At the eleventh session of the CWS, the revised Annex II of WIPO ST.61 was approved by the CWS (see paragraph 122 of CWS/11/28).

9.   This year, revisions are being proposed for WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87 and further details can be found in document CWS/12/19. After the proposed revision to WIPO ST.87, a mapping was conducted between the supplementary data defined in Annex II and WIPO ST.96. Certain components in WIPO ST.96 were moved from the *tmk* namespace to *com* for reuse and any new components were created. The industrial design legal status XML schemas are planned for inclusion in version 8.0 along with the agreed trademark legal status XML schemas, if agreement by the Task Force can be made in time.

Copyright Orphan Work Metadata

10.   The International Bureau hosted a workshop in May regarding the proposed copyright orphan work metadata improvements for WIPO ST.96. After the workshop, two options for next steps were proposed: include the latest version of the codes for the right holders and creative work categories in version 8.0 of WIPO ST.96 or alternatively freeze any work on developing these categories until there is an Office prepared to implement them. The International Bureau proposed to include the new copyright orphan works category codes in version 8.0 and this proposal is under the consideration by the Task Force at the time of preparation of this document. Further information on the status of this work is available in document CWS/12/21.

CHALLENGES

11.   As is the case for many of the CWS Task Forces, there is a lot of work to be undertaken and members have limited time available. Holding monthly meetings does assist in progressing the work but little progress is made achieving the elements of the workplan proposed at the beginning of each year. Specifically, these problems include:

- Lack of feedback received for individual revisions;
- Lack of feedback received for new discussion rounds for schemas under development;
- Large number of topics to manage, some of which have been under discussion for many years; and
- Primarily developed countries are those participating in the discussions.

FUTURE WORK

12.   The XML4IP Task Force will continue to work on developing new XML schemas and improving the existing ones, based on requests made by Task Force members. Outstanding items from the 2024 workplan will be carried across to the 2025 workplan.

13.   *The CWS is invited to:*

(a)   note the contents of the present document;

(b)   note the planned release of version 8.0 on October 1, 2024; and

(c)   note the challenges and work plan of the XML4IP Task Force as indicated in paragraphs 11 and 12 above.