

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Twelfth Session
Geneva, September 16 to 19, 2024

REPORT ON TASK NO. 66 BY THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

Document prepared by the International Bureau

SUMMARY

1. The International Bureau presents a progress report on Task No. 66, including its efforts to produce a series of clinics to support Intellectual Property (IP) offices, at various stages of authoring their WIPO ST.37-compliant authority file.

BACKGROUND

2. At its eleventh session, the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) considered a proposal for a new Task to support IP offices in the production of their WIPO ST.37-compliant authority files, particularly in light of the agreements reached by the bodies of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) regarding PCT Minimum Documentation (see paragraph 6 of document CWS/11/15). The CWS approved the new Task No. 66, with the following description:

“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.”

3. At its same session, the CWS designated the International Bureau as the Task leader and noted this Task can be considered complete once all of the IP offices who contribute to both the PCT Minimum Documentation inventory and PATENTSCOPE database have provided a WIPO ST.37-compliant authority file to the International Bureau. In order to be able to commence the work of the new Task, the CWS requested IP offices to communicate with the International Bureau the type of support that would be required for the production of WIPO Standard ST.37-compliant authority files. (See paragraphs 30 and 32 of document CWS/11/28.)

PROGRESS REPORT ON TASK NO. 66

Objectives

4. The objectives of the International Bureau would like to achieve under the framework of Task No. 66 are as follows:
- Increase the number of WIPO ST.37 compliant authority files which are available on the [WIPO Authority File portal](#); and
 - Support the activities of the PCT Minimum Documentation Task Force.

Progress

5. Since the eleventh session of the CWS, the Secretariat sent out the circular [C.CWS 177](#) inviting IP offices to provide their annual updates to currently published authority files as well as any requests for support that they may have. As no feedback was received from Offices in response to the circular regarding the support required, it is difficult to determine exactly what the International Bureau should do to support these Offices.

6. The PCT Minimum Documentation Task Force held its seventh session in April 2024. At this meeting, updates to the PCT Administrative Instructions were agreed, including an update to Annex H. The Task Force Offices were also requested to provide updates on the status of their preparations for the new PCT Minimum Documentation requirements that start from January 1, 2026, and the European Patent Office (EPO), as the Task Force Leader, prepared a series of checklists to support this activity.

7. During this Task Force meeting, the International Bureau offered to provide a series of clinics for IP offices pitched at different levels to support them regardless of their stage on implementation of the new patent documentation requirements, specified in paragraph 6 above. Participation in these clinics would be voluntary and typically conducted bilaterally. As a first step, the International Bureau produced a self-assessment checklist to determine which type of clinic would be the best match for an Office. The criteria to assess an Office readiness were published on the PCT Minimum Documentation Task Force wiki space and indicated as follows:

- (a) Capability to produce text-searchable, machine-readable full text of abstract, description and claims for documents belonging to the PCT Minimum Documentation published on or after January 1, 2026;
- (b) Inventory of published data on or after January 1, 1991, available in machine-readable format;
- (c) Capability to format the patent data in WIPO Standards ST.36 or ST.96, plain text or any combination thereof;
- (d) Capability to produce authority file in WIPO ST.37 containing inventory as of January 1, 1991;
- (e) Capability to produce authority file in WIPO ST.37 including information about availability of full text as of January 1, 2026;
- (f) Secure repository to store patent data belonging to PCT Minimum Documentation;
- (g) Processes/Procedures to make data available preferably within one month but no later than two months from publication; and
- (h) Definition file with exception codes available.

8. After the Task Force meeting, several Offices have reached out to the EPO and International Bureau for assistance in producing their authority file including Brazil, Singapore and Ukraine. Support was provided to these Offices via email and through online meetings.

Challenges

9. The following challenges have been experienced by the International Bureau in its attempt to encourage more Offices to produce an authority file compliant with WIPO Standard ST.37:

- (a) Without more patent Office feedback, it is difficult for the International Bureau to plan to resource undertaking this Task. It is a different set of skills required to support the digitization of patent gazettes versus production of an authority file; and
- (b) There is a limited period of time remaining for PCT Minimum Documentation Task Force members to satisfy the new patent documentation requirements, with the deadline for the front file being digitally accessible being January 1, 2026.

Future Work

10. The International Bureau is currently coordinating with interested Offices to schedule bilateral clinics which should be held for Offices with the biggest need for support before the end of 2024. After this, targeted clinics for those Offices who are closer to achieving the patent documentation requirements will be held but these are yet unscheduled.

11. *The CWS is invited to:*

(a) note the content of the present document, in particular the challenges outlined in paragraph 9; and

(a) encourage IP offices to participate in the clinics being held by the International Bureau after performing the self-assessment, as indicated in paragraph 10 above.

[End of the document]