

## **Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

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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

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

### INTRODUCTION

1. This report aims to implement the decision taken by the General Assembly in 2011 relating to the mandate of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) and to provide regular written reports on the details of activities undertaken during the year 2023, in which the Secretariat or the International Bureau of WIPO “endeavor[ed] to provide technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IP Offices (IPOs) by undertaking projects regarding dissemination of IP Standards information” (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19). A complete list of such activities is available under the Technical Assistance Database ([www.wipo.int/tad](http://www.wipo.int/tad)).

2. As WIPO Standards are implemented in various systems and WIPO software such as the WIPO Sequence Suite and IP Office Business Solutions, the following activities also implicitly cover dissemination of relevant IP Standards information.

### TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ADVICE ON THE USE OF WIPO STANDARDS

3. In 2023, the International Bureau provided technical advice to assist IPOs and users to utilize WIPO Standards through emails and online conferences, including the implementation of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87, which are related to legal status events on patents, trademarks and industrial designs respectively, and the production of authority files compliant with WIPO Standard ST.37.

4. The International Bureau launched a proof of concept (POC) for the technical public disclosure of plant variety sequence data in PATENTSCOPE. Sequencing data for a series of different tropical soybeans was provided by the Indonesian National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) as part of a training program with the WIPO and a decision was made to value-add to this sequence data before ingesting it into PATENTSCOPE. The POC concluded successfully with each of the 20 chromosomes for the tropical soybeans being translated into WIPO ST.26 format with associated technical abstracts and utility statements.
5. In response to feedback from both IP Offices and users, the International Bureau launched a new WIPO Sequence Suite development project focused on improving the performance of XML validation and generation. To achieve this goal, an updated technology stack was implemented for both WIPO Sequence and WIPO Sequence Validator. This complete overhaul of both components has required extensive testing to ensure that the implementation is functionally equivalent to version 2.3.0. The International Bureau hopes to launch the new version of the WIPO Sequence Validator, version 3.0.0, in the third quarter of 2024.
6. Regarding technical assistance in the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.26 and WIPO Sequence, the International Bureau was invited to present at two webinars on this topic. Based on Offices' feedback, it is clear that there is a need for the International Bureau to present a more advanced series of webinars now that users are more familiar with the basics of the Standard and the desktop tool.
7. The Secretariat continues to be committed to providing technical assistance and training regarding WIPO Standards on demand, depending on the availability of resources.

#### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE IN IP INSTITUTIONS USING WIPO STANDARDS

8. WIPO's program of IP Office Business Solutions aims to enhance national and regional IPOs' business systems and technical infrastructure in order to help them provide more cost-effective and higher-quality services to their own stakeholders. The assistance provided is aligned with the Development Agenda recommendations aiming at strengthening institutional and technical infrastructure of IPOs and other institutions. The services include technical consultancy; business needs assessment; project scoping and planning; business process analysis; ongoing development and deployment of customized business systems solutions for the administration of IP rights and for the exchange of priority documents and of search and examination results; establishment of IP databases; assistance with digitization of IP records and preparation of data for online publications and electronic data exchange; training and knowledge transfer to staff of IP institutions and support for the systems provided by WIPO. The assistance takes into account WIPO Standards on IP data and information where appropriate. On-site or virtual training, mentoring and regional training workshops account for a significant portion of the activities and are critical in achieving the desired results.
9. At the end of 2023, 91 IPOs from developing countries in all regions were actively using WIPO's IP Office Business Solutions for the administration of their IP rights, in which WIPO Standards are integrated. Sixty IPOs were participating in one of the online exchange platforms offered by WIPO (the Centralized Access to Search and Examination and the Digital Access Service). A key focus is to upgrade the service level of IPOs by assisting them to move to online services for filing and for IP information dissemination. More information is available on the website of WIPO's technical assistance program for IPOs at:  
[https://www.wipo.int/global\\_ip/en/activities/ip\\_office\\_business\\_solutions/](https://www.wipo.int/global_ip/en/activities/ip_office_business_solutions/)

10. Under WIPO's program of Global Databases, the International Bureau has continued to be supported by the Japan Fund-in-Trust program, to assist Member States in creating high quality full text for their patent publications. For the Japan Fiscal year of 2023, 1,293 patent documents from the Philippines patent office, 22,221 patent documents from the Argentinian patent office and 10,280 patent documents from the Mexican patent office were OCRed, proofread, transformed into XML before being loaded into PATENTSCOPE.

#### CAPACITY BUILDING OF IP OFFICERS AND EXAMINERS FOR THE UTILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL TOOLS

11. Following requests, the International Bureau provided a training seminar organized on July 26 and 27, 2023, jointly with the Brunei Intellectual Property Office via an online platform on patent search for patent processing staff and innovation support staff in Brunei Darussalam. In this context, the relevance of related WIPO Standards was explained.

12. Following requests, the International Bureau provided a virtual training seminar on January 9 and 10, 2023 on the use of Vienna Classification for trademark examiners for the staff of the Brunei Darussalam Office. In this context, the relevance of related WIPO Standards was explained.

#### BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WIPO STANDARDS

13. In order to increase awareness of WIPO Standards in developing countries and to facilitate the physical participation by more developing countries in the preparation of new or revised WIPO Standard(s), following the decision of the General Assembly in October 2011, the participation at the eleventh session of the CWS of eight developing or least developed countries (LDCs) was funded by the International Bureau.

#### IP DATA EXCHANGE

14. The International Bureau has been working together with many IPOs, particularly in certain groups of developing countries, to promote the exchange of IP data with a view to providing users in those countries with greater access to their IP information. The exchange of IP data was organized, when possible, in accordance with relevant WIPO Standards. The trademark collections of the following countries have been included in Global Brand Database during the year 2023, in chronological order: United Kingdom and Monaco; the patent collections of the following countries have been included in PATENTSCOPE during the year 2023: Belgium, Norway and Monaco. The industrial design collections of Egypt also been added in WIPO's Global Design Database in 2023.

*15. The CWS is invited to take note of 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. This document will serve as a basis of the relevant report to be presented to the WIPO General Assembly to be held in 2025, as requested at its 40<sup>th</sup> session held in October 2011 (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19).*

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