

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

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

### **REPORT ON TASK NO. 52 BY THE PUBLIC ACCESS TO PATENT INFORMATION TASK FORCE**

*Document prepared by the PAPI Task Force Leader*

#### **SUMMARY**

1. The Public Access to Patent Information (PAPI) Task Force is responsible for Task No. 52 and reports progress made on the Task since the eleventh session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS). The Task Force indicates its intention to provide a proposal to update WIPO Handbook Part 6.1 at the thirteenth session of the CWS.

#### **BACKGROUND**

2. The CWS, at its reconvened fourth session held in 2016, noted the request and information provided by the Patent Documentation Group (PDG) concerning the requirements for national and regional patent registers. The CWS agreed, in particular, to collect practices of Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs) on content, functionalities and future plans with respect to their patent registers (see Annex III to document CWS/4BIS/6).

3. In response to this request, at its fifth session in 2017, the Committee created Task No. 52 whose description reads:

*"Survey on content and functionalities of systems for providing access to publicly available patent information of industrial property offices, as well as future plans with respect to their publication practices; prepare recommendations for systems for providing access to publicly available patent information of industrial property offices."*

The International Bureau was designated as the Task Force Leader. (See paragraphs 94 to 100 of document CWS/5/22.)

4. At its seventh session in 2019, the CWS considered the questionnaire on the Public Access to Patent Information, presented by the PAPI Task Force. The CWS approved the first part (Part 1) of the questionnaire and referred the second part questionnaire (Part 2) back to the PAPI Task Force for further discussion. (See paragraphs 197 and 201 of document CWS/7/29.)

5. At its eighth session in 2020, the CWS noted the results of the survey on the content, practices, functionalities and future plans of IPOs with respect to patent information available to the public, of which 60 Offices responded to. The CWS approved publication of the PAPI survey results, as reproduced in the Annex of document CWS/8/10. (See paragraphs 71 and 72 of document CWS/8/24.) It is now available on WIPO website as [Part 7.18.1: Survey on public access to patent information, part 1](#). At the same session, the CWS also approved the revised questionnaire for Part 2 of the survey as presented by the PAPI Task Force.

6. At its ninth session in 2021, the CWS noted the results of part 2 of the PAPI survey. The CWS approved publication of the survey results and analysis in [Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook](#). At the same session, the CWS approved the revision to the description of Task No. 52, which reads:

*“Prepare recommendations for systems for providing access to publicly available patent information of intellectual property offices.”*

(See paragraphs 84 to 88 of document CWS/9/25.)

7. At its eleventh session in 2023, the CWS noted the proposals to transfer the responsibility to update Part 6 of the WIPO Handbook, which was previously undertaken by the Digital Transformation Task Force under the framework of Task No. 62. The CWS also noted the PDG’s letter in support of the update to the Part 6 with some suggestions, which was reproduced as the Annex to document CWS/11/12. The CWS approved the proposal and consequently approved the update to the description of Task No. 52 which reads:

*“Prepare a proposal for the update of the WIPO Handbook Part 6.1: Recommended minimum contents for intellectual property offices’ websites”*

(see paragraph 92 of document CWS/11/28).

## PROGRESS REPORT ON TASK NO. 52

### Objectives

8. The objective of Task No. 52 is to prepare a proposal for the update of the WIPO Handbook Part 6.1 for IPOs to implement recommended minimum contents for their websites.

### Relevant actions for 2024

9. The PAPI Task Force has reviewed the proposal included as the Annex to document [CWS/11/12](#); and the results of related CWS surveys published as Part 7.18 (Public Access to Patent Information) and Part 7.19 (Practices for digital transformation). The Task Force will extract and analyze desirable information that patent information experts or users would like to find in the IPOs’ website and the information available in the IPO’s website. On the basis of this analysis, the Task Force plans to prepare a set of recommendation to update WIPO Handbook Part 6.1.

#### Potential Challenges or Dependencies

10. The Task Force identified challenges or dependencies to conducting their work, which include:

- Low priority of this Task for some IPOs so there may not be active participation by Task Force members and other IPOs; and
- Largely relying on inputs and participation from IP industry.

#### Progress evaluation

11. The Task Force met in May 2024 and reviewed the current content of Handbook Part 6.1 and agreed on the work plan. The Task Force noted that WIPO Handbook Part 6.1 is composed of three components:

- Recommended content for IP websites;
- Recommended design principles for developing IP websites; and
- Advanced services for IP websites.

12. In terms of the first item, the Task Force Observers provided a list of essential items that they would like to see in IPOs' website, and desirable items and further functions. With regards to the second, the International Bureau intends to provide its guidelines for discussion by the Task Force in upcoming Task Force meetings. Regarding the third, discussions have not yet commenced.

#### WORK PLAN

13. The PAPI Task Force plans to prepare a proposal for the update of WIPO Handbook Part 6.1 and present it for consideration at the thirteenth session of the CWS.

14. *The CWS is invited to:*

*(a) note the content of this document; and*

*(b) note the work plan of the PAPI Task Force as referred to in paragraph 13 above.*

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