

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

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

### **REPORT ON TASK NO. 61 BY THE 3D TASK FORCE**

*Document prepared by the 3D Task Force Leader*

#### **SUMMARY**

1. The 3D Task Force is responsible for Task No. 61, under which revisions to WIPO ST.91 are managed. Since the last session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), the Task Force has completed an analysis of the WIPO Standard ST.91 survey results and is proposing a revision to WIPO ST.91.

#### **BACKGROUND**

2. At its sixth session, the CWS noted a proposal from the Russian Federation to promote broader acceptance of 3D formats by Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs). The proposal stated that the use of 3D formats could allow more efficient methods of search and comparative analysis. As a result, Task No.61 was established with the following description:

*"Prepare a proposal for recommendations on three-dimensional (3D) models and images"*

At the same session, the CWS approved the creation of the 3D Task Force to perform this Task, with the Russian Federation designated as the Task Force leader (See paragraphs 141 to 142 of document CWS/6/34.)

3. At its ninth session, the CWS adopted WIPO Standard ST.91, with the name "Recommendations on digital three-dimensional (3D) models and 3D images", to adapt to the changing demands from IPOs, IP users, and other stakeholders (see paragraph 31 of CWS/9/25). The Standard recommends file formats and treatment of 3D objects for receiving, processing, and publishing IP applications which contain 3D models or 3D images in patent, trademark and industrial designs documentation. It aims to help establish common 3D formats to facilitate filings at multiple IPOs, reduce processing time, facilitate data exchange between

IPOs, harmonize filing requirements, and create guidelines for publishing IP data with digital 3D objects.

4. Following the adoption of the WIPO Standard ST.91 at its ninth session, the CWS approved the modified description of Task No.61, which reads:

*"Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.91, including methods of search for 3D models and 3D images".*

5. At its tenth session, the CWS noted that the Task Force plans to develop search and comparison methods for 3D visual representations in line with the updated Task description. The Task Force Leader noted that IPOs need more time to work on 3D search methods, given their ongoing investigations, as well as limited experience that many IPOs currently have with the subject (see paragraph 122 of document CWS/10/22). As a result, the Task Force postponed presenting a proposal for recommended search and comparison methods until a future session of the CWS.

6. At its eleventh session, the CWS approved a draft questionnaire, which was presented by the Task Force. This questionnaire was intended to collect information on IPOs' practice of the ST.91 implementation and to raise the visibility of this Standard with Member States which may wish to participate in the Task Force in the future. The results of this survey could then be used to inform future revisions of WIPO Standard ST.91.

#### PROGRESS ON TASK NO. 61

##### Objective

7. The objective of the 3D Task Force is to ensure necessary revisions to WIPO Standard ST.91 on 3D models and images. Additionally, the Task Force is to investigate which methods of search for 3D models and 3D images would be most appropriate.

##### Progress evaluation

8. After the eleventh session of the CWS, the Secretariat issued Circular [C.CWS 179](#) inviting IPOs to respond to the questionnaire. The Task Force analyzed the responses to the survey and will be reporting the results to this session of the Committee. Further information regarding the results of the WIPO ST.91 Implementation survey is provided in document CWS/12/26.

9. The Task Force held an online meeting on April 10, 2024, where the following topics were discussed:

- Results of the WIPO Standard ST.91 Implementation Survey;
- Criteria for selecting 3D formats recommended in WIPO Standard ST. 91, including whether the X3D should be recommended;
- Sharing Office search and comparison practice and IPOs' practices on 3D implementation; and
- Offices' relevant regulations and statistics on the use of 3D formats in their workflow.

10. Following these discussions, the Task Force agreed to carry out consultations on the use of the X3D format, summarize and present survey results, as well as prepare a new Annex to WIPO ST.91. This new Annex outlines the criteria for selecting formats, including a brief description, to be introduced in the Standard. Task Force Members also agreed to continue sharing their experience and best practices. For further details on the proposed revision to WIPO ST.91 see document CWS/12/20.

### Challenges

11. The Task Force leader notes the following challenges experienced in undertaking their work:

- The lack of involvement and practice on search and comparison methods for 3D objects; and
- The lack of 3D implementation practice within IPOs.

### WORK PLAN

12. The Task Force informs the CWS of its work plan for 2024 – 2025 as follows:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Time frame</b>
CWS/12	Task Force report at CWS/12	September 2024
Research on 3D search methods	Continue the research on the 3D search methods and present the outcomes for further discussion within the Task Force	2024 – 2025
Preparation for the CWS/13	To draft working documents for the next CWS session	2025
CWS/13	To present a revised Standard ST.91	2025

11. *The CWS is invited to:*

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

*(b) note the proposed work plan of the 3D Task Force as referred to in paragraph 12 above.*

[End of document]