

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

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

### **REPORT ON 2023 ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORTS (ATRS)**

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

#### **SUMMARY**

1. This document includes information on the Annual Technical Reports (ATRs) submitted in 2024 by Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs). As the pilot period using the simplified format has concluded with an increase in the number of ATRs received, the International Bureau proposes to continue the collection of ATRs.

#### **BACKGROUND**

2. ATRs have been collected by the International Bureau since 1978 and published on the WIPO website since 1998. IPOs continue to be invited to submit their ATRs under the framework of Task No. 24 whose description reads:

*“Collect and publish Annual Technical Reports (ATRs) on Patent, Trademark and Industrial Design Information Activities of the CWS Members (ATR/PI, ATR/TM, ATR/ID)”*

3. At its ninth session in 2021, after noting the declining participation and usefulness the CWS considered two options proposed by the International Bureau to improve ATR collection: discontinuing ATR collection and simplifying ATR collection by collecting links to this information from IPO websites. These options were prepared by the International Bureau on the basis that this type of information is now typically widely available through other sources and so the original purposes of these ATRs may have been fulfilled through other means. In particular, relevant technical data is available in IPO annual reports and websites, the numbers of ATRs provided are declining, and there are a small number of user visits to ATRs. (See document CWS/9/18.)

4. At the same session, the CWS agreed to try the use of a simplified format where IPOs may provide links to their annual report or website instead of detailing their activities and systems through a text submission, for a period of 3 years (see paragraph 104 of document

CWS/9/25). The CWS also agreed that after this time that it reconsiders whether to continue ATR collection at its twelfth session. (See paragraph 105 of document CWS/9/25).

## 2023 ACTIVITY REPORTS

5. In April 2024, the Secretariat issued circulars C.CWS.182, C.CWS.183, and C.CWS.184 requesting IPOs to submit ATRs on their technical activities in 2023, for each of the main industrial property rights. Twenty-four IPOs submitted 65 ATRs. This represents a slight increase from last year, when 53 submissions were received from 24 IPOs on their activities in 2022. The 2023 ATRs are published on the ATRs wiki at: <https://www3.wipo.int/confluence/display/ATR/Browse+by+Year>.

## PROPOSAL FOR CONTINUATION

6. During the past three years, ATR submissions were received from 17 IPOs in 2022; 24 IPOs in 2023; and 24 IPOs in 2024. The International Bureau notes that the number of ATR submissions has been increased during the pilot period and the simplified template seems helpful to streamline the preparation of ATRs by IPOs. Further detail regarding specific numbers for each IP Right type is provided in the table below:

ATR Type	2021 activities	2022 activities	2023 activities
Industrial Designs Information	15	18	19
Patent Information	17	17	22
Trademark Information	15	18	23
<b>Total number of ATRs</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>65</b>

7. With regards to the number of visits to the ATR pages during the past three years, the number of visits to the most recent ATRs in the given period has recently increased. Although this represents a small number of visits relative to other WIPO Standards resources, the consolidation of this information is still considered useful. Further detail on the number of unique visitors and page views is provided in the table below:

Period	August 2021 – July 2022	August 2022 – July 2023	August 2023 – July 2024
ATR page visit total	Unique visitors: 701 (page views: 2,817)	862 (3,758)	768 (3,126)
ATR Home page	351 (935)	515 (1,365)	300 (899)
2020 ATRs page	113 (267)*	83 (141)	27 (37)
2021 ATRs page	N/A	95 (213)*	28 (52)
2022 ATRs page	N/A	N/A	<b>230 (497)*</b>

(\* : the most recent ATRs in the given period)

8. Considering the increased number of ATRs provided by Offices and the number of visits to the ATR pages during the past three years, the International Bureau proposes to continue the ATR collection using the simplified template.

9. Additionally, the ATR can be used to collect the information on Offices' activities on WIPO Standards or other related matters including IP data, information services and data dissemination. If the ATR collection was to be discontinued then the CWS would lose one means to collect data from Offices. To collect Offices' activities on WIPO Standard, the International Bureau proposes to add a new topic to the simplified template regarding activities related to the use or implementation of WIPO Standards by Offices. The purpose of this question is to determine what WIPO Standards and how those are being used. The proposed topic is as follows:

*"Activities of the implementation of WIPO Standards related to Patent (Trademark or Industrial Design) Information"*

10. *The CWS is invited to*
  - (a) *note the content of this document;*
  - (b) *approve the continuation of ATRs collection as referred to in paragraph 8 above; and*
  - (c) *consider and approve the proposed the new topic which should be added to the simplified template as referred to in paragraph 9 above.*

[End of Document]