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**Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

**Reconvened Fourth Session**

**Geneva, March 21 to 24, 2016**

REVISION OF WIPO STANDARD ST.3 (TASK NO. 33/3)

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) requested, April 3, 2015, to establish a new two-letter code “ZZ” to represent “unknown states, other entities or organizations” in WIPO Standard ST.3. Following the request and the procedure for the revision of Standard ST.3, the International Bureau proposed to revise Standard ST.3 by issuing Circular C.CWS 56, on April 30, 2015, to which the USPTO’s request was attached.
2. During the consultation period of two months, the International Bureau received comments from the following seven the Members of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), AU, CL, CN, JP, KZ, RU and UA. The comments indicated support for the proposal with the exception of the Japan Patent Office (JPO) which indicated the need for further analysis and suggested alternative code “XX”. As no consensus had been reached on the proposed revision, the International Bureau informed the CWS Members of the result of the consultation by issuing Circular C.CWS 60.
3. On December 21, 2015, the International Bureau has received a letter from the USPTO and the JPO, containing a joint-proposal to establish a new two-letter code “XX” to represent unknown states, other entities or organizations in WIPO Standard ST.3. The letter is attached as the Annex to this document.
4. In view of the request, the International Bureau would like to propose that the following changes to Annex A of WIPO Standard ST.3 should be carried out:

Inclusion of:

* Unknown states, other entities or organizations (English name)
* États, autres entités ou organisations inconnus (French name)
* Estados, otras entidades u organizaciones desconocidos (Spanish name);

and its two-letter code XX.

1. The International Bureau would like to inform the CWS that the CWS Members are invited, by March 26, 2016, to comment on a proposal to establish a new two-letter code “XV” in WIPO Standard ST.3 to represent the Visegrad Patent Institute (VPI). The VPI was appointed, in October 2015, as an International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority by the Assembly of the International Patent Cooperation Union (PCT Union). As a follow-up to the above-mentioned appointment, a new two-letter code for the VPI should be established in WIPO Standard ST.3 (see Circular C.CWS 61).
2. The International Bureau would like to inform the CWS that once the proposals were approved, paragraph 10 of WIPO Standard ST.3, which is reproduced below, would be updated accordingly.

*“10. The letter combinations AA, QM to QY, XA to XM, XO to XT, XV to XZ and ZZ are available for individual use and for provisional codes.”*

*7. The CWS is invited to:*

*(a) note the information provided above; and*

*(b) consider and approve the proposal for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.3 referred to paragraph 4, above.*

[Annex follows]