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**Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

**Ninth Session**

**Geneva, November 1 to 5, 2021**

REPORT

*prepared by the Secretariat*

INTRODUCTION

The Committee on WIPO Standards (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”, or “the CWS”) held its Ninth Session in Geneva from November 1 to 5, 2021.

The following Member States of WIPO and/or members of the Paris Union and Bern Union were represented at the session: Albania; Argentina; Armenia; Australia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Brazil; Bulgaria; Canada; China; Colombia; Croatia; Czech Republic; El Salvador; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Hungary; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Italy; Japan; Libya; Lithuania; Mexico; Morocco; Nicaragua; North Macedonia; Norway; Oman; Pakistan; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Republic of Moldova; Russian Federation; Saudi Arabia; Singapore; Slovakia; Slovenia; South Africa; Spain; Sweden; Thailand; Ukraine; United Kingdom; United States of America; Uruguay; Uzbekistan; Viet Nam (52).

In their capacity as members of the CWS, the representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations took part in the session: African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO); European Patent Organization (EPO); European Union (EU) (3).

Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations took part in the session in an observer capacity: Confederacy of Patent Information User Groups (CEPIUG); European Law Students’ Association (ELSA International); Independent Alliance for Artists Rights (IAFAR); Institute of Professional Representatives Before the European Patent Office (EPI); Omani Association for Intellectual Property (OAIP); Patcom; Research Center for Innovation-Supported Entrepreneurial Ecosystems (RISE) (7).

The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

### Agenda Item 1: Opening of the session

The ninth session was opened by the Assistant Director General, Infrastructure and Platforms Sector of WIPO, Mr. Ken-Ichiro Natsume, who welcomed the participants.

### Agenda Item 2: Election of the Chair and two Vice-Chairs

The CWS unanimously elected Ms. Åsa Viken (Sweden) as Chair and Mr. Siyoung Park (Republic of Korea) as Vice‑Chair.

Young-Woo YUN (WIPO) acted as Secretary to the CWS.

## DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS

### Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the agenda

The CWS unanimously adopted the agenda as proposed in document CWS/9/1 PROV.3.

The Chair invited the regional group coordinators to provide group statements. The Delegation of India, on behalf of Asia Pacific Group, thanked the International Bureau for continuing to provide technical assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic and stressed the importance of capacity building for developing countries. The Delegation of France, on behalf of Group B, thanked the Committee for continuing its work, particularly the agreement to implement WIPO Standard ST.26 simultaneously at national, regional and international levels on July 1, 2022. The Delegation of Georgia, on behalf of Central European and Baltic States, appreciated the chance to have fruitful discussions at this meeting, including exchanging information on blockchain technologies. The Delegation of the Russian Federation remarked that the question of digital development is essential, particularly for three-dimensional (3D) objects, blockchain, and the development of relevant XML schemas.

## PRESENTATIONS

The presentations, written statements given, and working documents from this session are available on the WIPO website at: <https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=64368>.

## DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS, AND DECISIONS

As decided by the Governing Bodies of WIPO at their tenth series of meetings held from September 24 to October 2, 1979 (see document AB/X/32, paragraphs 51 and 52), the report of this session reflects only the conclusions of the CWS (decisions, recommendations, opinions, etc.) and does not, in particular, reflect the statements made by any participant, except where a reservation in relation to any specific conclusion of the CWS was expressed or repeated after the conclusion was reached.

### Agenda Item 4 (a): Report by the ICT Strategy for Standards Task Force (Task No. 58)

Discussions were based on a presentation by the ICT Strategy for Standards Task Force.

The CWS noted the results of the work and the work plan of the ICT Strategy for Standards Task Force, which were reported by the International Bureau as the Task Force Leader. The presentation may be found on the meeting page as document [CWS/9/ITEM 4A](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=554951).

### Agenda Item 4 (b): Publication of the survey results on the priority of 40 Recommendations on ICT Strategies

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/2.

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the responses to the survey as presented in document CWS/9/2. It was noted that the participating Offices had different interpretations of the survey questionnaire and rated recommendations by different criteria. Some Offices gave a low priority vote to a recommendation because they already implemented it, while some others gave a high priority because the recommendation is still important for Offices. Results of this survey were quite different from the survey results of the Task Force, which were reported to the eight session of CWS.

The International Bureau suggested that this survey is different from usual CWS surveys and should not be published in Part 7 of the *WIPO Handbook for Industrial Property Information and Documentation*, due to limited usefulness for a general audience. Instead, the International Bureau proposed that the Task Force take the results into account when preparing the ICT strategic roadmap and the Task Force’s work plan for 2022.

The CWS requested the ICT Strategy Task Force to take into account the results of the survey when it prepares the planned ICT strategic roadmap and its work plan for 2022.

### Agenda Item 5 (a): Report by the XML4IP Task Force (Task No.41, Task No. 47 and Task No.64)

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/3.

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the release of WIPO Standard ST.96 version 5.0. The CWS also noted that the separate publication of WIPO ST.96 example XML instances on the WIPO website will be undertaken shortly, and the pilot project for the WIPO ST.96 Centralized Repository and the external developer’s forum, hosted on GitHub, with developers working locally at Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs). The XML4IP Task Force presented their work plan for 2022 and indicated their intention to present a final proposal for the JSON standard for consideration at the next session of the CWS.

### Agenda Item 5 (b): Proposals for improvement of copyright orphan work metadata in WIPO Standard ST.96

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/4 and the revised draft proposal for right holders role published as document [CWS/9/ITEM 5B](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=554504).

The CWS noted the content of the document and draft proposals for copyright orphan work metadata, in particular two proposed models for rights holders’ roles and creative work categories. The CWS also noted that the proposed model for right holder roles includes the list of proposed rights holder roles, their description and corresponding code per entry; and the proposed model for creative work category includes the list of proposed categories of creative works, their description and corresponding code per entry. The International Bureau informed the CWS that it had reached out to several copyright federations with the draft proposals for feedback.

One delegation explicitly supported the work done by the International Bureau and committed to provide its feedback to the draft proposals. One delegation suggested refining the definition of “Unknown” in the proposed model for creative work category. A second delegation welcomed the draft proposal as it deals with copyright, while another delegation expressed its diffulty to provide comments on the proposals as it does not have copyright in its business portfolio. In response to the comments, the International Bureau confirmed that the Task Force would reach out to more copyright Offices and copyright industry groups for assistance with this work. The CWS noted that the International Bureau plans to present the final proposals for consideration at its next session.

The CWS invited its members to comment on the draft paper for copyright orphan work metadata, as presented in the Annex to document CWS/9/4, and to liaise with their copyright Office for comments.

### Agenda Item 6 (a): Report by the 3D Task Force (Task No. 61)

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/5.

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the work plan of the 3D Task Force. The Task Force will continue work on search methods for 3D objects in 2022 and present a proposal at the next session of the CWS.

### Agenda Item 6 (b): Proposal for a new standard on 3D digital objects

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/6.

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the proposed new standard on digital three-dimensional (3D) models and 3D images. 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 design documentation.

One delegation suggested a number of clarifying edits to the text. These include indicating that “at least one of” the recommended file formats should be used; striking several unused file formats from the list of definitions; clarifying that 3D to 2D conversions in paragraph 15 of the proposed standard are only recommended for IPOs that require 2D images; that IPOs not be required to convert 3D objects to 2D images under paragraph 25 of the proposed standard (Annex to document CWS/9/6); and that paper publications under paragraph 26 of the proposed standard may publish a link to an online 3D object instead of a 2D representation of the object. Another delegation proposed adding “CDX” to the definition for “MOL” format. The Secretariat recommended adding WIPO Standards ST.67 and ST.88 to the list of references in the proposed standard.

The Task Force Leader presented an updated draft incorporating the suggestions. After discussions among interested delegations, the language of paragraphs 15 and 25 was adjusted slightly and proposed for adoption by the CWS.

The CWS adopted new WIPO Standard ST.91 with the name “Recommendations on digital three-dimensional (3D) models and 3D images” with modifications agreed during the session, as presented in document [CWS/9/Item 6(b)](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=554845) Rev. published on the meeting page.

The CWS approved the revision of Task No. 61, which now reads: “Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.91, including methods of search for 3D models and 3D images.”

One delegation suggested adding an Annex to the adopted Standard on criteria for selecting file formats. The CWS referred this matter back to the 3D Task Force for consideration and possible presentation at its next session.

### Agenda Item 7 (a): Report by the Blockchain Task Force (Task No. 59)

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/7.

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the progress on a draft blockchain standard and the draft work plan. The Blockchain Task Force also provided feedback on drafts of the blockchain whitepaper for IP ecosystems being prepared by the International Bureau. The CWS also noted that the Task Force participated in a WIPO webinar on blockchain for IP ecosystems in September 2021.

### Agenda Item 7 (b): Report on the Blockchain Whitepaper for IP ecosystem

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/8.

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the draft WIPO blockchain whitepaper to be published in November 2021. The whitepaper presents several potential use cases where blockchain technologies could be applied within IP ecosystems.

The whitepaper consists of six components: executive summary, main body and four annexes. The most important aspects and characteristics which should be considered when assessing blockchain technologies are: interoperability, standardization, governance, regulatory framework and collaboration for capacity building. The paper refers to all types of IP assets: registered and unregistered rights such as industrial property, copyright and related rights, protection and access to digital data, and IP enforcements. Potential use cases are included for all and every phase of IP value chains in horizontal and vertical use cases.

The main objectives of the whitepaper include:

* gathering information on how blockchain is perceived in general and within IP community
* exploring the opportunities and challenges of using blockchain technologies for IP
* analyzing implications of blockchain applications in IP space
* identifying potential applications of blockchain in IP ecosystems
* supporting the Blockchain Task Force
* suggesting recommendations for consideration

Annex I to the whitepaper is an overview of IP ecosystems and IP value chains. Annex II to the whitepaper is the summary of the survey results conducted for the paper. Annex III of the whitepaper explains 13 prominent or potential use cases in IP space in more details, including business rationale and blockchain rationale. Annex IV to the whitepaper is prepared for the mock-up of the Blockchain whitepaper as an example to explain how blockchain technology could be used to address one of the long-standing issues in identifying an actor or a participant in IP ecosystems at global level, namely self-sovereign identities and decentralized Identifier.

There are many blockchain-based applications that are already used in place and many potential use cases were identified. The paper noted that there are a number of blockchain-inspired initiatives at international level, which are affecting various IP systems and IP ecosystems across all IP value chains and all IP types. IP Offices are still in the exploration phase, but some IP Offices are developing blockchain-powered systems and plan to release them soon. The paper noted that there are already many blockchain-powered applications on the market, in particular in the copyright industry.

The CWS noted that upon requests by CWS members and observers, the final draft of the whitepaper is presented to this session for factual information checking as the Annex to document CWS/9/8. CWS members and observers were invited to comment by October 22, 2021. As of October 30, the International Bureau has received feedback from one CWS member regarding the content of the whitepaper main body with regard to correction on its activities and improving the text related to consensus algorithm of Etherium version 2.0. At the same time, the International Bureau has slightly improved Annexes III and IV of the whitepaper.

The International Bureau intends to publish the whitepaper on the WIPO website in November 2021 after editing and designing it.

The CWS invited IPOs to consider the information in the whitepaper when developing their blockchain strategies and practices.

### Agenda Item 8 (a): Report by the Legal Status Task Force (Task No. 47)

Discussions were based on a presentation by the Legal Status Task Force.

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the progress of the Task Force on Task No. 47. The Task Force made some progress on studying a potential merger of legal status standards, but the Task Force did not reach agreement on how to proceed further. The Task Force also prepared a proposal for use of reserved characters in ST.27.

One delegation asked the CWS whether the work on a potential merger should continue. The Secretariat noted several reasons why a merger could be problematic. The CWS referred this matter back to the Task Force to report on this matter at its next session, which might impact the description of Task No. 47.

The CWS requested the Legal Status Task Force to prepare an update to the description of Task No. 47 for consideration at the next session of the CWS, taking into account discussions on whether or not the work on the potential merger of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61, and ST.87 should continue.

### Agenda Item 8 (b): Proposal for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.27

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/9.

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the proposals to revise Standard ST.27. The Legal Status Task Force recommended two sets of revisions: one set called “event indicators” to replace the term “reserved characters” with a general feature to provide more information on events, and a second set “procedure indicators” as a specific implementation of event indicators to group events which are related as part of a higher-level IPO procedure. Extending these revisions to ST.61 and ST.87 was proposed for further study by the Task Force.

One delegation proposed letting IPOs gain more experience with implementing ST.27 before extending the proposed revisions to other legal status Standards ST.61 and ST.87. Other delegations preferred to begin work on extending the proposals right away, to keep the three Standards synchronized.

The CWS approved the proposed revisions to Standard ST.27 for “event indicators” and “procedure indicators”, as described in document CWS/9/9.

The CWS approved the work plan proposed by the Legal Status Task Force. The CWS requested the Legal Status Task Force to study how to adapt ‘event indicators’ and ‘procedure indicators’ for ST.61 and ST.87, with the goal of presenting a proposal for consideration at the tenth session of the CWS.

### Agenda Item 8 (c): Report on the implementation plans of WIPO Standard ST.61

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/10 Rev.

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular, the mapping tables submitted by IPOs in response to circular C.CWS.152. Fourteen IPOs responded to the circular and eleven IPOs provided mapping tables.

The CWS approved publication of the WIPO Standard ST.61 mapping tables from IPOs, which are reproduced in the Annex to document CWS/9/10 Rev. The mapping tables will be published in Part 7.13 of the *WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation*.

### Agenda Item 9 (a): Report by the Sequence Listings Task Force (Task No. 44)

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/11.

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the activities and work plan of the Sequence Listings Task Force, including the Task Force’s active support for the development of WIPO Sequence suite and suggestion on the postponement of the ST.26 big-bang implementation date to July 1, 2022 from January 1, 2022 for consideration by the member states at the WIPO General Assembly. The CWS was informed that the new ST.26 big-bang implementation date of July 1, 2022 was formally decided by the WIPO General Assembly in October 2021.

The CWS encouraged IPOs to continue to test the WIPO Sequence Suite, as described in paragraph 16 of document CWS/9/11.

### Agenda Item 9 (b): Proposal for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.26

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/12 Rev.

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the proposed revisions to ST.26. Proposed changes to the main body of ST.26 were as follows:

1. all instances of the “SOURCE” feature for amino acid sequences were changed to “source”, in order to comply with recent UniProt changes;
2. all instances of the qualifiers “ORGANISM”, “MOL\_TYPE”, and “NOTE” were changed to “organism”, “mol\_type”, and “note”, in order to comply with recent UniProt changes;
3. all instances of 'patent Office' were changed to 'IPO';
4. changed the position of the acronym 'DTD' from the end of the sentence next to 'Document Type Definition';
5. an edit to paragraph 3(g)(i)(2) to replace "nucleotide analogues" with "backbone moieties";
6. an edit to the code segment in paragraph 44 to correct the quotation marks used for softwareVersion, which should be: softwareVersion="1.0";
7. an edit to paragraph 46, Examples 1-2 to change the nonEnglishFreeTextLanguageCode from "jp" to "ja" and also correcting the indentation of <FilingDate> to be aligned with <ApplicationNumberText>; and
8. an edit to paragraph 97 to replace the phrase “…a subgroup of…” with “…a value other than…”.

Changes to the annexes were proposed for consistency, as shown in Annexes I-III of document CWS/9/12 Rev.

One delegation inquired how future revisions to ST.26 would be made after July 2022, with Offices requiring at minimum several months to prepare for simultaneous implementation of revised ST.26 at national, regional, and international levels. The International Bureau remarked that many aspects of ST.26 development, including updates to the WIPO Sequence Suite and revisions to the Standard, require consideration by the Sequence Listings Task Force to prepare guidance for Offices, which should be presented to the Committee.

The CWS approved the proposed revisions to WIPO Standard ST.26 as reproduced in the Annexes to document CWS/9/12 REV.

### Agenda Item 9 (c): WIPO Training webinar series and WIPO Sequence Suite development

Discussions were based on a presentation by the International Bureau.

The CWS noted the content of the presentation, in particular the webinars on WIPO Standard ST.26 and WIPO Sequence suite. The presentation may be found on the meeting page as document [CWS/9/ITEM 9C](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=554953).

### Agenda Item 10 (a): Report by the Authority File Task Force (Task No. 51)

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/13.

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the 2021 updates to data sets on the authority file portal. IPOs who have not yet provided data for the authority file portal were invited to do so.

The Authority File Task Force considered that there will be no need for further revision to this Standard in the near future. The Task Force proposed that Task No. 51 should be considered complete and removed from the CWS Task List. The Authority File Task Force also recommended that the Task Force be disbanded. Consequently any future request to revise WIPO ST.37 will be considered under Task No. 33 “Ongoing revision of WIPO Standards”.

One delegation questioned whether there would be further work to prepare recommendations on authority file for trademarks and industrial designs. The Secretariat recalled the discussions on this matter by the ICT Strategy for Standards Task Force and informed the Committee that there was no strong demand for it. The CWS noted that the International Bureau would reach out to IP Offices to get to know the needs for authority file for trademarks and industrial designs.

The CWS approved discontinuation of Task No. 51 as complete and disbandment of the Authority File Task Force as having fulfilled its mandate.

The CWS approved making future revisions to ST.37 under Task No. 33 when needed.

### Agenda Item 10 (b): Publication updates of the Authority File Web Portal

Discussions were based on a presentation by the International Bureau.

The CWS noted the content of the presentation, in particular the inclusion of new or updated authority file data from 24 IP Offices in the WIPO Authority File portal. The presentation may be found on the meeting page as document [CWS/9/ITEM 10B](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=555203).

### Agenda Item 10 (c): Proposal for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.37

Discussions were based on documents CWS/9/14 Rev. and [CWS/9/ITEM 10C](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=554971).

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the proposed revision to WIPO Standard ST.37, which was prepared by the Authority File Task Force in collaboration with the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Minimum Documentation Task Force. The CWS also noted that the proposed revisions of ST.37 include an indication of whether the abstract, description, claims of a publication are text-searchable through the use of one of the three new additional indicator codes. The new indicators were proposed as mandatory for inclusion by International Searching Authorities (ISAs) and International Preliminary Examining Authorities (IPEAs).

One delegation objected to the language in ST.37 paragraphs 8, 12, and 32 of the proposed revision document (Annex I to CWS/9/14 Rev.), making the new indicators mandatory for PCT ISAs and IPEAs and requested that these elements be listed as optional in ST.37. Another delegation suggested that references to PCT should be removed from the proposed revision of ST.37. The International Bureau stated that an improved proposal for revision of ST.37 could be provided such that mandatory elements for ISAs and IPEAs would not be specified. This instead could be decided within the PCT Minimum Documentation Task Force and addressed in separate PCT Admistrative Instructions (AIs) or guidelines, while ST.37 provides a common technical recommendation for the data elements which form the basis of a patent authority file.

Outside the plenary session, several delegations informally met and prepared an alternative proposal taking into account the suggestions discussed at the plenary session. The alternative proposal was presented to the plenary session for discussion as reproduced in document [CWS/9/ITEM 10C](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=554971).

The CWS approved the proposed revisions to WIPO Standard ST.37, as presented in document [CWS/9/ITEM 10C](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=554971) published on the meeting page.

### Agenda Item 11 (a): Report by the Design Representation Task Force (Task No. 57)

Discussions were based on a presentation by the Design Representation Task Force.

The CWS noted the content of the presentation, in particular the progress made by the Task Force. The issue of SVG image format in WIPO Standard ST.88 was discussed by the Task Force and a proposed revision to ST.88 prepared.

### Agenda Item 11 (b): Proposal for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.88

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/15.

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the proposed revision to ST.88. Under the proposal, SVG image format will be made an alternative format by adding it to paragraph 12 of the Standard. IPOs may accept SVG files in applicant submissions, but should convert to a preferred image format (JPG or PNG) for data exchange with other IPOs.

The CWS approved the revision of ST.88 on treatment of SVG image format, as described in paragraph 5 of document CWS/9/15.

### Agenda Item 12: Publication of the survey results on public access to patent information (PAPI), Part 2

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/16.

The CWS noted the content of the presentation, in particular the results of part 2 of the PAPI survey. Responses from 36 IPOs were received. Over 85 per cent of respondents indicated that no fees were required to access their patent information. About two thirds of respondents provide updated patent documents online when amendments are made after publication. Nine IPOs plan to implement ST.27 for legal status events in the future, while nine of the 14 IPOs not planning to implement ST.27 at this time indicate insufficient resources as the main reason. IPOs that do not comply with ST.37 for their authority file indicate lack of resources or difficulty of technical requirements as the main reasons.

The PAPI Task Force proposed updating the description of Task No. 52 in light of the work completed.

The CWS approved publication of the survey results and analysis in Part 7 of the *WIPO Handbook*, as described in document CWS/9/16.

The CWS approved the revision of Task No. 52, which now reads: “Prepare recommendations for systems for providing access to publicly available patent information of intellectual property offices.”

### Agenda Item 13 (a): Report by the Digital Transformation Task Force (Task No. 62)

Discussions were based on a presentation by the Digital Transformation Task Force.

The CWS noted the content of the presentation, in particular the progress made by the Digital Transformation Task Force. While reviewing existing WIPO Standards, the Task Force realized that more information from IPOs on their digital practices would help the Task Force propose better revisions to those Standards.

### Agenda Item 13 (b): Proposal for survey on Office practices for Digital Transformation

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/17.

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the proposed survey to collect information from IPOs to assist the Digital Transformation Task Force with its work. The survey asks Offices about their practices for intake, processing, and publishing IP applications, particularly in full-text formats.

One delegation suggested skipping questions 8 to 11 and 13 when an IPO’s answers to previous questions indicate these questions are irrelevant. The International Bureau noted that this could be implemented as editorial changes in the online survey tool, as the text-based questionnaire approved by CWS requires slight transformation for the online tool.

The CWS approved the questionnaire shown in the Annex of document CWS/9/17, noting the editorial changes will be reflected when the approved questionnaire is implemented in the survey online tool.

The CWS requested the Secretariat to conduct the survey by issuing a circular and publish the responses on the WIPO website when the survey is completed. The CWS also requested the Task Force to present an analysis of the survey results for approval at the tenth session of the CWS.

### Agenda Item 14 (a): Report on 2020 ATRs

Discussions were based on a presentation by the International Bureau.

The CWS noted the content of the presentation, in particular the responses by IPOs to circulars C.CWS.147-149 requesting submission of ATR information for 2020. Nineteen IPOs provided ATR information, the same number as last year (2019 ATRs). The presentation is available on the meeting page as document [CWS/9/ITEM 14A](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=555222).

### Agenda Item 14 (b): Proposal for improvement of ATRs

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/18.

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the data on declining submissions and usage of ATR information. The environment for ATRs has changed significantly since their inception. Online publications are normal, and many IPOs publish annual reports that contain much of the information in ATRs. Automatic translation tools are widely available and becoming increasingly sophisticated, making publications easier to access by speakers of other languages. These factors address many needs that ATRs were originally meant to fulfill.

On the producer side, ATR submissions have steadily declined over the years. For ATR years 1998 to 2001, over 50 IPOs provided ATRs each year. From 2002 to 2007, an average of 42 IPOs provided ATRs. This fell to an average of 31 IPOs between 2008 and 2013. From 2014 to 2018, the number of IPOs steadily declined, from 23 in 2014 to just 11 in 2018. Numbers have increased slightly since then, with 19 submissions for 2019 and 2020 (numbers changed slightly after working document was published).

On the user side, WIPO web statistics show that all ATRs combined average about 180 views per year in their first two years after publication. This is a very low figure comparing number of views for other materials published under WIPO Handbook web pages.

Based on the data, the International Bureau presented two proposals for consideration by the CWS: (1) discontinuing ATRs or (2) simplifying the ATR process to collect links to information on IPO websites instead of collecting text.

A number of delegations expressed a preference for option 1 to discontinue ATRs. However, a few delegations preferred to keep ATRs and adopt option 2 for simplified collection. A compromise was suggested to adopt the simplified proposal for a period of three years, and then present updated usage information to the CWS to reconsider whether or not to discontinue ATR collection. All delegations supported this compromise.

The CWS agreed to use the simplified ATR process for three years and then consider again whether or not to discontinue ATR collection.

The CWS agreed to continue Task No. 24 until further decision.

### Agenda Item 15: Update of the WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/19.

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the proposal to change certain instances of “industrial property” to “intellectual property”. The proposed updates were intended to reflect existing materials in the *WIPO Handbook* and ongoing or planned activities of the Committee.

The CWS approved changing certain instances of “industrial property” to “intellectual property” in the WIPO Handbook title and text, as described in paragraph 4 of document CWS/9/19. The CWS requested the Secretariat to update the WIPO Handbook accordingly.

### Agenda Item 16 (a): Report by the Part 7 Task Force (Task No. 50)

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/20.

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the proposed updates to the work plan. Due to the pandemic, the previous work plan from CWS/7 was out of date. The new workplan will update one survey per year from the surveys in part 7 previously agreed for update. Additionally, it was proposed that the CWS request an update to Part 7.9 on citation practices. These survey updates will be carried out under the approach agreed at CWS/5 without presenting a questionnaire for further approval.

The document also proposed slightly modifying the procedure for publishing the results of all surveys conducted by the CWS. Under the proposal, individual and collated responses to a survey will be published as soon as the survey is concluded. At the next meeting, the International Bureau will inform the CWS of the publication and present survey analysis for consideration. The CWS noted that this approach would make survey results available more quickly and streamline the administration of surveys. The CWS also noted that it can request exceptions to this approach for certain surveys on a case-by-case basis.

The CWS approved the revised work plan for updates to Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook in paragraphs 5 to 10 of document CWS/9/20.

The CWS requested the Part 7 Task Force to schedule an update for Part 7.9 on citation practices in its workplan.

The CWS approved the change to publication procedure for all CWS surveys described in paragraph 12 of document CWS/9/20. With this change, survey responses will normally be published when the survey is completed without approval by the CWS. At the next session of the CWS, the Secretariat will inform the CWS of the survey results and present analysis for consideration and approval by the CWS.

### Agenda Item 16 (b): Report by the API Task Force (Task No. 56)

Discussions were based on a presentation by the API Task Force.

The CWS noted the content of the presentation. The presentation is available on the meeting page as document [CWS/9/ITEM 16B](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=555207).

### Agenda Item 16 (c): Report by the Name Standardization Task Force (Task No. 55)

Discussions were based on a presentation by the Name Standardization Task Force.

The CWS noted the content of the presentation, in particular the Task Force’s plan to continue gathering data cleaning practices from the Task Force members in 2022 and prepare recommendations for the next session of the CWS.

### Agenda Item 16 (d): Report by the Trademark Standardization Task Force (Task No.60)

Discussions were based on a presentation by the Trademark Standardization Task Force.

The CWS noted the content of the presentation, in particular that further work is pending the outcome of discussions in the Madrid Working Group.

### Agenda Item 17: Information on the entry into national (regional) phase of published PCT international applications

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/21.

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the proposal to discontinue Task No. 23. As the new requirement for the provision of national phase entry data has entered into force under the PCT and the data is available on the WIPO public PATENTSCOPE website, the International Bureau proposed to discontinue the CWS Task No. 23.

The CWS approved the discontinuation of Task No. 23, as indicated in paragraph 4 of document CWS/9/21.

### Agenda Item 18: 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

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/22.

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the 2020 activities of the International Bureau, related to providing technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IPOs, regarding dissemination of IP standards information. At the end of 2020, 90 IPOs from developing countries in all regions were actively using WIPO Business Solutions for the administration of their IP rights, in which WIPO Standards are integrated. Fifty-one IPOs were participating in one of the online exchange platforms offered by the International Bureau. In addition, the International Bureau ran a project to assist IPOs in producing searchable full text for their front file patent publication in WIPO ST.36 XML format with embedded TIFF images and 35 IPOs have received the software and been trained to use it. The International Bureau has been working together with many IPOs to promote the exchange of IP data with a view to providing users in those countries with greater access to IP information originating from those IPOs and in 2020 data sets related to 19 countries had been added to WIPO Global Databases. Upon requests, the International Bureau provided online training courses on International Classifications for patents, trademarks, or industrial designs to Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, and Malaysia, where the use of relevant WIPO Standards were explained.

### Agenda Item 19: Exchange of information on digitalization activities

Discussions were based on presentations by Delegations of Australia, Canada, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, and the Representative of the European Patent Office.

The CWS noted the presentations by five Offices: IP Australia, Canada Intellectual Property Office (CIPO), Federal Service for Intellectual Property (ROSPATENT), United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), and European Patent Office (EPO). The presentations are available on the meeting page as documents [CWS/9/ITEM 19 IP AUSTRALIA](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=555114), [CWS/9/ITEM 19 CIPO](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=555116), [CWS/9/ITEM 19 ROSPATENT](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=555138), [CWS/9/ITEM 19 USPTO](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=555139), and [CWS/9/ITEM 19 EPO](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=555115).

### Agenda Item 20: Consideration of the Work Program and Tasks List of the CWS

Discussions were based on document CWS/9/23.

The CWS noted the content of the document, in particular the tasks list presented in the Annex to document CWS/9/23.

The CWS requested the Secretariat to incorporate the agreements reached at this session in the CWS Work Program and CWS Work Program Overview, and to publish them on the WIPO website. The revised task list is presented in Annex III of this report.

[Annex I follows]