

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.

5. 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).

6. 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]



UNITED STATES PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE



JAPAN PATENT OFFICE

DEC 21 2015

Mr. Yoshiyuki Takagi
Assistant Director General
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
34, ch. des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 11
Switzerland

RE: WIPO Standard ST.3

Dear Mr. Takagi:

We are writing to request that WIPO establish a new two-letter code in WIPO Standard ST.3 to represent "unknown states, other entities or organizations."

WIPO Standard ST.3 provides two-letter alphabetic codes for the purpose of improving access to industrial property (IP) information. These codes represent the names of States, other entities and inter-governmental organizations that provide for the protection of IP rights or that act within the framework of a treaty in the field of IP. Paragraph 10 of WIPO Standard ST.3 provides that "the letter combinations AA, QM to QY, XA to XM, XO to XT, XX to XZ and ZZ are available for individual use and for provisional codes."

We request that the code "XX" be designated to refer to unknown states, other entities, or organizations so that our office can accommodate unknown country information in our databases. The new code would facilitate IP data processing and exchange among Offices, and would enhance data quality. In addition, in order to facilitate the development of WIPO Standard ST.96, "Recommendation for the processing of Industrial Property information using XML," it is important that WIPO Standard ST.3 contain a two-letter code representation to be used when the country or region designation is not specified or known.

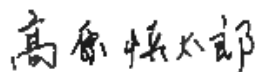
It is our understanding that other IP Offices would also benefit from the establishment of this new code. In our April 3, 2015 letter, we initially proposed use of the code "ZZ" for this purpose. Comments

received from several offices indicated support for this proposal without any objections, but the Japan Patent Office (JPO) indicated the need for further analysis. Based on discussions between us, our two offices agree on the use of the code "XX" as described above.

Sincerely,



Shira Perlmutter
Chief Policy Officer and Director for International Affairs
United States Patent and Trademark Office



Shintaro Takahara
Director for International Policy Division
Japan Patent Office

[End of Annex and of document]