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**Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

**Reconvened Fourth Session**

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

PROGRESS REPORT ON TASK NO. 44 BY THE SEQL TASK FORCE

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. The Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), at its first session held in October 2010, agreed to create Task No. 44 for the preparation of recommendations on the presentation of nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings based on eXtensible Markup Language (XML) for adoption as a new WIPO standard. The CWS also decided to establish a task force to handle this Task (SEQL Task Force). The European Patent Office (EPO) was designated as the Task Force Leader. (See paragraphs 27 to 30 of document CWS/1/10 and Task No. 44 in document CWS/3/12).
2. The EPO, as the Leader of SEQL Task Force, has prepared a progress report on the work carried out by the Task Force, along with a roadmap, that is reproduced as the Annex to this document for consideration by the CWS. At the time of writing this document, the SEQL Task Force plans to conduct the eighth round of discussions aimed at completing the technical assessment of the transition from ST.25 to ST.26 including the completion of the Guidance Document.
3. If the CWS adopts new WIPO Standard ST.26, the current description of Task No. 44 should be modified to carry out remaining work that the SEQL Task Force is conducting. The International Bureau proposes the new wording for Task No. 44 that would read “Task No. 44: Prepare recommendations for the transition provisions from WIPO Standard ST.25 to ST.26; and a proposal for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.26, if needed”. The International Bureau also proposes that the SEQL Task Force will carry on the revised Task No. 44.
4. *The CWS is invited to:*

*(a) note the progress report on the work of the SEQL Task Force provided in the Annex to the present document; and*

*(b) consider and approve the modification of Task No. 44 and assignment of the modified Task No. 44 to the SEQL Task Force as proposed in paragraph 3, above.*

[Annex follows]