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Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

**Tenth Session
Geneva, November 21 to 25, 2022**

PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING AN INTERNATIONAL DATABASE TO STANDARDIZE APPLICANT NAMES
Document prepared by the Secretariat

1.   On June 1, 2022, the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) submitted a document to the Secretariat proposing the establishment of an international database to standardize applicant names. The SAIP also requested to include the proposal in the agenda of this session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS). The proposal by the SAIP is reproduced in the Annex to this document.

2.   If the CWS determines that the proposal falls within its mandate, a detailed project brief should be prepared with additional information such as cost estimates, resource requirements, risks, success factors and the implications of the new task on the existing CWS Tasks.

3.   The Secretariat notes that the proposal seems related to the activities of the Name Standardization Task Force as well as the use case of "Digital Identity" included in Annex III and the decentralized identifiers mock-up described in Annex IV of Blockchain technologies and IP ecosystems: A WIPO white paper.

4.   The CWS is invited to:

(a)   note the content of the present document; and

(b)   consider the proposal submitted by the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property as reproduced in the Annex to this document and decide appropriate actions required.

[Annex follows]

PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING AN INTERNATIONAL DATABASE TO STANDARDIZE APPLICANT NAMES

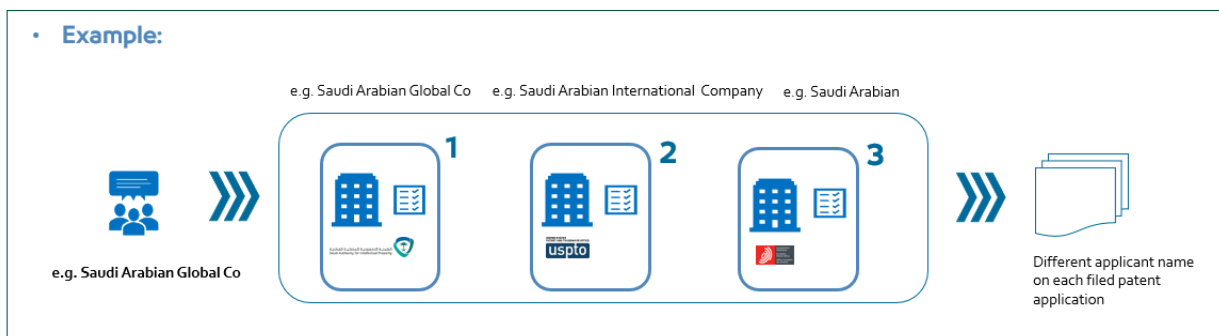*Document prepared by Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP)*

PROPOSAL BRIEF

The Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) is currently developing a WIPO standard to unify the format in which applicant names are stored in an effort to improve the quality of Intellectual Property (IP) information of Member States.

Therefore, the Saudi Authority of Intellectual Property (SAIP) is submitting a proposal to create a unified international database through which IP offices' (IPOs) data will be stored in a unified format to generate a useful source of data that can enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of IP information search, analysis and utilization.
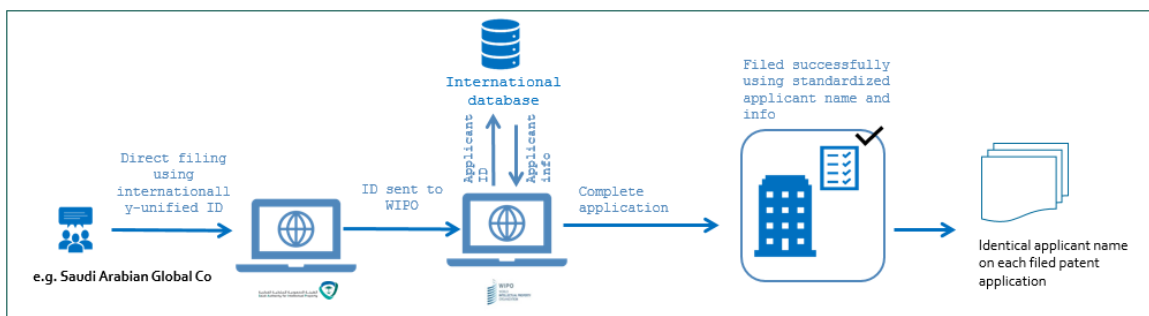
CURRENT SITUATION

Currently, applicants can file directly at multiple IPOs. This might result in variation or differences in the applicant name used in each application form at their selected IPO depending on the applicant or agent used to file. Search difficulties and challenges might also occur as a result; affecting the credibility and accuracy of the results.
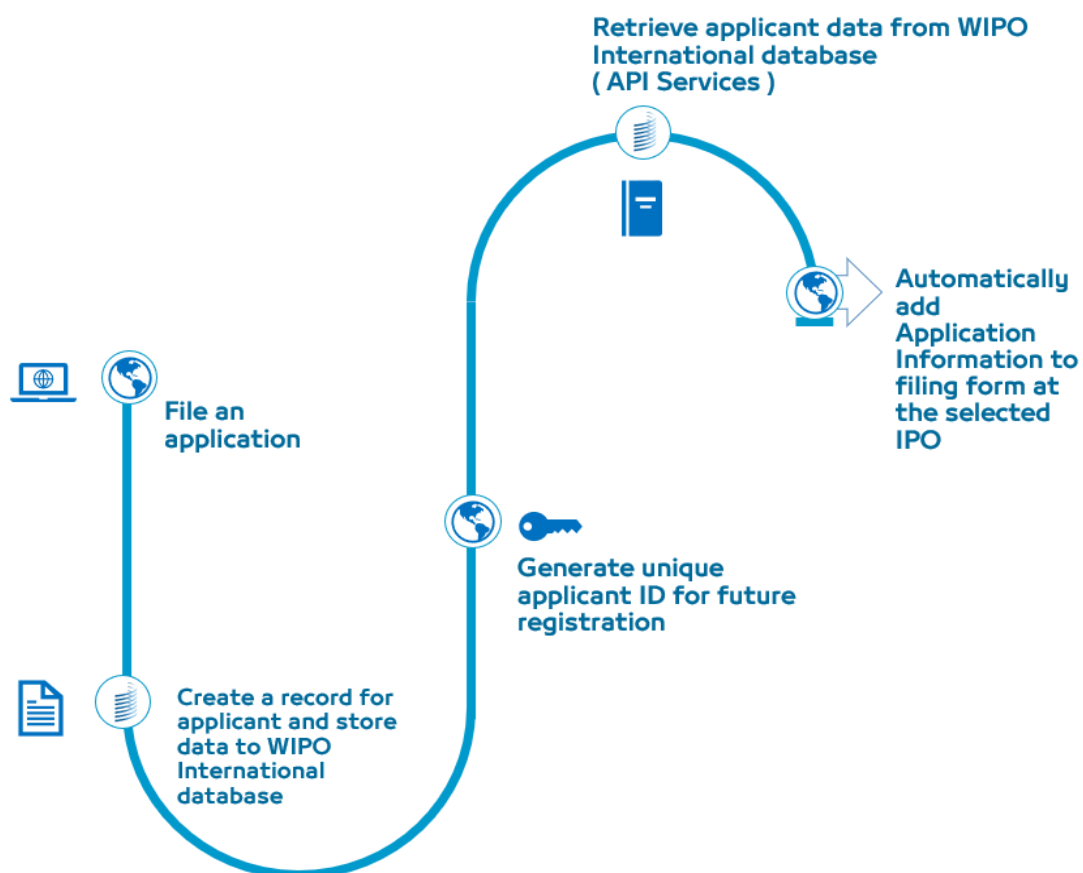

 PROPOSED SITUATION

The proposed solution suggests that when filing an application for the first time, a unique identifier (ID) for the applicant will be created to ensure a globally standardized name without sharing application information to maintain and sustain application confidentiality. Any subsequent filing across different IPOs, at any time, for any application would allow applicants information to be retrieved from the global database.

APPLICANTS' JOURNEY

Execution Steps:

– Applicants file an application at any IPO;

– Applicants add their information to the filing form;

– Applicants information is stored in WIPO international database and an ID is generated; and

– In any future filing, at any IPO, applicants can enter their ID and their information will be retrieved automatically.

Retrieve applicant data from WIPO International database (API Services)

Automatically add Application Information to filing form at the selected IPO

File an application

Generate unique applicant ID for future registration

Create a record for applicant and store data to WIPO International database

VALUE AND BENEFITS

– Standardize applicant names across all IPOs;

– Effective and accurate utilization of IP information for studies, analytics and reporting;

– Enhance and speed up the registration process; and

– Improved IP information quality.

SIMILAR PRACTICE

ORCID:

The Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID) is a global non-profit organization which aims at providing a unique, persistent identifier for individuals to use as they engage in research, scholarship, and innovation activities.

ORCID Features:

– A unique, persistent identifier free of charge to researchers;

– An ORCID record connected to the ORCID; and

– A set of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), as well as the services and support of communities of practice that enable interoperability between an ORCID record and member organizations.

[End of Annex and of document]