WIPO
WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Eleventh Session
Geneva, December 4 to 8, 2023

REPORT BY THE ICT STRATEGY FOR STANDARDS TASK FORCE (TASK NO. 58)

Document prepared by the ICT Strategy for Standards Task Force Leader

SUMMARY

1.	The ICT Strategy for Standards Task Force works on Recommendations related to Information Communication Technology (ICT) for Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs) and prepares a strategic roadmap for the work of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS),

BACKGROUND

2.	At its sixth session in 2018, the CWS created the new Task No. 58 to:

"*Prepare a proposal for a roadmap of future development and enhancement of WIPO Standards, including policy recommendations, in view of more effective production, sharing, and utilization of data by IPOs and other interested parties, taking the following activities:*

-	*to review the Recommendations in Group 1 indicated in the Annex of document CWS/6/3, in collaboration with other relevant CWS Task Forces;*

-	*to review the Recommendations in Group 2 and Group 3 indicated in the Annex of document CWS/6/3;*

-	*to prioritize Recommendations and suggest a timeline; and*

-	*to explore the impact of disruptive technologies on IP administration and IP data in view of harmonization and collaboration.*"

3.   The CWS also established the ICT Strategy for Standards Task Force (hereinafter referred to as "ICT Strategy Task Force" or "Task Force") to work on Task No. 58 and designated the International Bureau as the Task Force leader. (See paragraphs 17 to 24 of document CWS/6/34.)

4.   At its seventh session in 2019, the CWS noted that the Task Force had started prioritizing the 40 Recommendations for which feedback had been requested including the development of a common DOCX conversion tool. The CWS also noted that the Task Force would prepare a strategic roadmap of future work of the CWS and collaboration among Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs) for consideration by the CWS at a future session. (See paragraphs 19 to 21 of document CWS/7/29.)

5.   At its eighth session in 2020, the CWS noted the prioritization of 40 Recommendations which was collected as the result of survey distributed to the members of the ICT Strategy for Standards Task Force. In order to reflect the opinions of a wider group, the CWS requested the International Bureau invite all IPOs to respond to the survey on the prioritization of 40 Recommendations and to report the results of the survey at its ninth session. (See paragraphs 80 to 84 of document CWS/8/24.)

6.   At its ninth session in 2021, the CWS noted the results of survey on the priority of the 40 Recommendations for which all IPOs were invited. Participating Offices had different interpretations of the questionnaire and rated recommendations by applying 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 remains important for their Office. Results of this survey were quite different from the survey results of the Task Force, reported at the eight session of the CWS. The CWS requested the Task Force take into account the results of the survey when it prepares the planned ICT strategic roadmap and its work plan for 2022. (See paragraphs 15 to 18 of document CWS/9/25.)

7.   At its tenth session in 2022, the CWS noted that the work on developing a common DOCX converter would be assigned to the Digital Transformation Task Force, including the development of a common technical specification to meet the goals of IPOs and applicants (see paragraphs 117 to 120 of document CWS/10/22.)

PROGRESS REPORT ON TASK No. 58

Objectives

8.   Working under the framework of Task No. 58, the ICT Strategy for Standards Task Force aims to prepare a proposal for revised recommendations taking into account the mandate of the CWS and relevant ICT activities in IP community.

Relevant actions for 2023

9.   The Task Force agreed to focus on following actions in 2023:

- Agreeing on a revised description of Task No. 58, which indicates a high-level objective;

- Preparing a new set of recommendations with an indicated priority after reviewing and reorganizing the original set of 40 Recommendations, and analyzing discussions in other forums; and

- Drafting a proposal for the strategic roadmap for the CWS taking into account the mandate of the CWS and the newly agreed set of recommendations prepared by the Task Force.

Potential Challenges or Dependencies

10. The Task Force identified several challenges or dependencies which may inhibit their work:

- Active participation and contribution from IPOs;

- Lack of engagement of ICT policy makers or business owners in the Task Force's activities;

- Hard to follow up or analysis of various ICT-related activities in the IP community; and

- Difficulty to share ICT strategies among IPOs.

Progress evaluation

11. The Task Force met four times, during the tenth session of the CWS and in March, July and October 2023.

12. Taking into account the CWS Organizational matters and Special Rules of Procedure that was adopted by the CWS at its tenth session and the achievements including the prioritization of 40 Recommendations, the Task Force members agreed to rename the Task Force to "ICT Strategy Task Force" by removing "for Standards" and to simplify the description of Task No. 58 as follows: "Prepare a proposal for strategies and a roadmap for the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) taking into account the mandate of the CWS". The Task Force requests the CWS to approve its proposed new name and the new description for Task No. 58.

13. The Task Force has been looking for its co-leader since it was created at the seventh session of the CWS (see paragraph 21 document CWS/7/29). Recently the Delegation of Australia informed the International Bureau that they volunteer to serve as a Co-Leader with the International Bureau and the Task Force requests the CWS to approve it.

14. The Task Force had several rounds of discussion review and rearrange 40 Recommendations considering information shared at some regional or international ICT-related meetings in either public or private sector. In addition, the Task Force considered some 40 Recommendations that are categorized into Group 3 are relevant to the mandate of the CWS, which was adopted at the last session of the CWS. The Task Force prepared a new list of Recommendations and presented it to the current session of the CWS for consideration under the Agenda item 8(b) "Recommendations on ICT and IP administration", as a part of document CWS/11/18.

15. The Task Force members agreed to share their ICT Strategy to analyze what are common strategies that IPOs are considering. This will be helpful to prepare a proposal for strategies and a roadmap for the CWS.

WORK PLAN

16. The Task Force will continue to work on new Recommendations and a proposal for strategies and a roadmap for the CWS.

17.   *The CWS is invited to*

   (a) note the content of this document;

   (b) consider and approve the proposed new name of Task Force as referred to in paragraph 12 above;

   (c) consider and approve the proposed new description of Task No. 58 as referred to in paragraph 12 above; and

   (d) designate the Delegation of Australia as a Co-leader of the ICT Strategy Task Force as referred to in paragraph 13 above.

[End of document]