

## **Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

### **Eighth Session**

**Geneva, November 30 to December 4, 2020**

#### **PUBLICATION OF THE SURVEY RESULTS ON NUMBERING SYSTEMS OF IP OFFICES**

*Document prepared by the International Bureau*

#### **BACKGROUND**

1. At its seventh session in 2019, the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) approved a questionnaire to update Part 7.2.2 of the WIPO Handbook on numbering systems for published documents and registered rights. The CWS requested the Secretariat to administer the survey and invite Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs) to provide their information. This work is part of the ongoing effort to update Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook by the Part 7 Task Force, as indicated by Task No. 50: "Ensure the necessary maintenance and update of surveys published in Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation". The International Bureau is the Task Force Leader. (See paragraphs 192 to 194 of document CWS/7/29.)

#### **RESULTS OF THE SURVEY**

2. In February 2020, the Secretariat issued circular C.CWS.133 inviting IPOs to participate in the survey on numbering systems used by IPOs for published documents and registered rights. Responses were received until July 2020. The International Bureau, as the Part 7 Task Force Leader, collected the responses and prepared the following report for consideration by the CWS.

3. Fifty responses to the survey were received. The results are presented in the Annex to this document. Responses were received for: African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czechia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO), European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, China, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, the former Soviet Union, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America and WIPO.

4. The previous survey in 2001 had responses from 58 countries and organizations. Thirty of the respondents in 2020 also provided data in 2001. Another two respondents in 2020 (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia) correspond to a respondent from 2001 that no longer exists (Yugoslavia). The remaining 26 respondents from 2001 did not provide data in 2020. Eighteen respondents in 2020 provided data for Part 7.2.2 for the first time.

5. The following 30 IPOs responded to both the 2001 and 2020 surveys: African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America and WIPO.

6. The following 26 IPOs from 2001 are not included in the 2020 survey results: Algeria, Austria, Canada, China, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, European Patent Office (EPO), Honduras, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mongolia, Netherlands, Panama, Peru, Romania, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Despite having fewer responses, the number of examples has increased. In the 2020 survey, respondents provided 466 examples for 21 types of documents. In the 2001 survey, 289 examples were provided for 18 types of documents.

7. The International Bureau proposes to publish the 2020 survey results, which are reproduced in the Annex to this document, alongside the 2001 survey results in Part 7.2.2 of the WIPO Handbook because the two surveys present practices of many different IPOs that would not be reflected otherwise. Combining the 2001 results with the 2020 results would be misleading, as readers would think that data from the 26 countries that only responded in 2001 is up to date, when it may not be.

8. *The CWS is invited to:*

*(a) note the content of this document and the Annex; and*

*(b) approve publication of the results of the survey on IPO numbering systems as described in paragraph 7 above.*

[Annex follows]