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**Contribution by WIPO
to the CSTD 2026-2027 priority theme on
“Data Governance for Development: From Asymmetry to Equitable Stewardship”**

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Input form WIPO

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the CSTD issue paper on data governance for development. As data and frontier technologies, including AI, drive increasing digitalization and reshape how we do business, innovate and create, they raise important questions for the international intellectual property (IP) system — a system designed with human creativity and innovation at its center, and one that has long grappled with how to balance competing interests equitably. WIPO offers the following observations, focused on where our mandate and work intersect with the theme.

On the IP dimension of data governance (Questions 1 and 3)

Data has become a strategic resource for innovation and development, and how it is generated, accessed, owned and shared raises questions that fall directly within debates on the IP system. IP rights provide a crucial legal basis for licensing, technology transfer and open-source schemes, and the system embeds numerous checks and balances intended to ensure that, over time, knowledge benefits society as a whole. For example, the patent system incentivizes technical innovation while its disclosure requirement ensures that knowledge is made public, contributing to a shared global knowledge base from which all — including developing countries — can benefit. Clarifying how data fits within these frameworks is an important element of building equitable and interoperable data governance, particularly at a time of increased focus on the role of data access and use in the context of the development and deployment of artificial intelligence (AI).

On reducing asymmetries through global data infrastructure and interoperability (Questions 1, 4 and 6)

WIPO contributes to reducing data asymmetries by maintaining global, openly accessible IP data infrastructure — including PATENTSCOPE, the Global Brand Database and WIPO's IP statistics — which allow innovators, researchers and policymakers worldwide, including in developing countries, to access technological and market information. WIPO Standards further support the interoperability of IP data across national and regional offices. Through its network of Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISCs) and capacity-building programs, WIPO helps developing countries build the skills and institutional capacity to leverage this data for development.

In the specific context of AI, in March of this year, WIPO launched the AI Infrastructure Interchange (AIII), an initiative focused on facilitating global dialogue on the practical and operational challenges and opportunities arising at the intersection of AI and IP, with a particular focus on the specific IP infrastructure needed to realize the full global potential of this moment.

On international cooperation and the role of multi-stakeholder dialogue (Questions 5, 6 and 7)

WIPO has led global discussions on questions related to the intersection of data governance and IP since it held its first symposium on AI and IP in 1991. Over the past five years, it built the WIPO Conversation on IP and Frontier Technologies into a truly global, multilateral and inclusive forum, bringing together nearly 20,000 participants from 174 countries. Its 4th session, "Data: Beyond AI in a fully interconnected world", examined the nature and value of data, how data fits into the IP system, and how to design appropriate regulatory frameworks for emerging data ecosystems. Building on this foundation, WIPO is establishing the **Global Forum on IP and AI** as the successor to the WIPO Conversation, providing a renewed and enduring platform for inclusive, multilateral dialogue on the fast-evolving issues at the intersection of IP and AI.

Initiatives such as the AIII further illustrate how this collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach can be applied to concrete infrastructure challenges. This model of multi-stakeholder and multi-dimensional dialogue offers a useful template for advancing equitable data governance, and WIPO stands ready to share its experience with the CSTD.

WIPO's mission is to lead the development of a balanced and effective international IP system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all, keeping humans at the center of innovation and creativity. WIPO also remains available to further share our IP expertise and insights with CSTD and Member States as required.