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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

**SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION
(IPC UNION)**

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

**Thirty-Second Session
Geneva, February 24 to 28, 2003**

**PUBLICATION OF THE EIGHTH EDITION OF THE IPC (IPC-2005)
AND RELATED MATERIAL**

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. As decided by the Committee of Experts, the eighth edition of the IPC (IPC-2005) will enter into force on January 1, 2005. According to the Strasbourg Agreement, amendments to the Classification shall be notified to the competent authorities of the IPC Union six months before their entering into force. In view of this requirement, the next edition of the IPC should be published by July 1, 2004. The eighth (2005) edition of the Classification will represent its first publication after the completion of the basic period of IPC reform.
2. In the following paragraphs, an outline of the preparatory work for the publication of the eighth edition of the IPC is proposed for consideration by the Committee of Experts.
3. The International Bureau plans to publish, in June 2004, the core level of the eighth edition in the printed form. This publication will mainly be intended for industrial property offices wishing to use the core level of the IPC for classifying their published patent documents.
4. In addition, in June 2004, the Internet version of the eighth edition will be published on the WIPO IPC Website. The Internet version will be considered as an official publication of the IPC. Compared with the printed version, the Internet version will contain a complete text of the Classification and will incorporate the electronic layer including supplementary information facilitating the use of the Classification, such as classification definitions, informative references, chemical formulae and graphic illustrations.

5. The International Bureau is considering the expedience of the publication, in 2004, of a new version of the IPC:CLASS CD-ROM relating to the eighth edition. In addition to the present contents of IPC:CLASS, its new version could contain at least the core level of the eighth edition of the IPC. A new CD-ROM publishing platform, including a Web browser-based user's interface is also under consideration.

6. The selection of new catchwords and catchword phrases for inclusion in the official catchword indexes is carried out by the IPC Revision Working Group on the basis of revision projects completed in the course of the current revision period. An updating of the catchword indexes will also be necessary in order to introduce corrections due to deleted and amended places in the eighth edition of the IPC. The International Bureau will coordinate updating of the official catchword indexes and will propose a procedure therefor for the discussion at the ninth session of the IPC Revision Working Group. The International Bureau intends to publish the updated official catchword indexes, in the printed form and on the Internet, in Autumn 2004.

7. In order to facilitate the use of revision amendments, the International Bureau will also coordinate the preparation of the revision concordance data between the seventh and eighth editions of the IPC. A respective proposal will be submitted for the discussion at the ninth session of the IPC Revision Working Group. The revision concordance list will be published in 2004 on the Internet.

8. The Committee of Experts is invited to consider the proposed actions for the publication of the eighth edition of the IPC.

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