ANNEX XII

IPC REFORM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

*approved by the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group*

1.    The Implementation Plan covers the years 2002-2004.  The timing takes account of the requirements of the Strasbourg Agreement, according to which amendments to the Classification shall be notified to the competent authorities of the IPC Union six months before their entering into force.  Given that the next edition of the IPC enters into force on January 1, 2005, it should be published by July 1, 2004, and last amendments to the current edition should be adopted by the Committee in early 2004.

2.    The Plan indicates timelines and milestones with regard to major activities which will be necessary to carry out for completion of IPC reform.  Those activities could be divided in two parts, namely activities relating to the elaboration of IPC reform tasks, which is in the responsibility of the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group (IPC/REF) and the International Bureau (IB), and activities relating to the realization of the elaborated decisions in the IPC itself, which is in the responsibility of the IPC Revision Working Group (IPC/REV).  The Implementation Plan also covers the IPC revision program carried out by the IPC Revision Working Group.  A major part of decisions and recommendations of both Working Groups should be finally adopted by the Committee of Experts (IPC/CE).

3.    The Plan of elaboration of IPC reform tasks is shown in the Table 1, below.

TABLE 1

| Task No. | Task Title | Action | Timeline |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2 [9] | Consider the IPC revision policy, the revision procedure and the criteria for accepting new revision proposals in relation to the core and advanced levels of the reformed IPC | Final proposal by IB<br>Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion<br>Adoption by IPC/CE | Q1/2002<br>Q2/2002<br><br>Q1/2003 |
| 3 | Consider the introduction of electronic data illustrating the contents of IPC entries | Task completion<br>Adoption by IPC/CE<br>**Task completed** | Q4/2001<br>Q1/2002 |
| 4 | General principles of classification;  elaboration of rules for multiple classification in the IPC | Final guidelines on obligatory classification by US<br>Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion<br>Adoption by IPC/CE | Q1/2002<br><br>Q4/2002<br><br>Q1/2003 |

| Task No. | Task Title | Action | Timeline |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Review the hybrid systems in the IPC | Task completion<br>Adoption by IPC/CE<br>**Task completed** | Q4/2001<br>Q1/2002 |
| 7 | Determine the most appropriate duration of revision cycles | Final proposal by IB<br>Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion<br>Adoption by IPC/CE | Q1/2002<br>Q2/2002<br><br>Q1/2003 |
| 8 | Elaborate principles of the creation, maintenance and functioning of the Master Classification Database<br>  (a) Concept of Operations of classification and reclassification<br><br><br><br><br>  (b) Creation and maintenance of MCD and propagation of classification data | <br><br><br><br>Proposal on classification and reclassification procedure (Concept of Operations)<br>Discussion by IPC/REF<br>Adoption by IPC/CE<br><br><br>Creation of Master Classification Database by EP | <br><br><br><br>Q2/2002<br><br><br>Q4/2002<br>Q1/2003<br><br><br>Q3/2003 |
| 10 | Develop a general question and answer pamphlet on the application of the IPC | Draft pamphlet by IB<br>Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion<br>Adoption by IPC/CE | Q1/2002<br>Q2/2002<br><br>Q1/2003 |
| 12 | Study automated classification and indexing tools and conduct pilot projects on their use, in particular for the reclassification of backlog patent files | CLAIMS project by IB<br>Periodic reports by IB on the project progress<br>Consideration by IPC/CE | 2002-2003<br>2002-2003<br><br>Q1/2004 |
| 13 | Improve IPC training by providing modern training techniques, for example, computer-based and Internet training tools, involving, in particular, enhanced support for developing countries in the use of the IPC | Report by IB<br>Discussion by IPC/REF<br>Report by IB<br>Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion<br>Adoption by IPC/CE | Q3/2002<br>Q4/2002<br>Q3/2003<br>Q4/2003<br><br>Q1/2004 |
| 14 | Determine the most appropriate contents of the core level of the reformed IPC | Final distribution of IPC entries between the core and advanced level by EP<br>Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion<br>Adoption by IPC/CE | Q1/2003<br><br><br>Q2/2003<br><br>Q1/2004 |

| Task No. | Task Title | Action | Timeline |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15 | Study the feasibility of introducing a simplified set of rules in the IPC, in particular a uniform precedence rule | Adoption of the standardized sequence of main groups by IPC/CE | Q1/2003 |
| | | Report on using the top-to-bottom precedence rule by TO | Q3/2002 |
| | | Discussion by IPC/REF | Q4/2002 |
| | | Consideration by IPC/CE | Q1/2003 |
| 16 | Study ways and means for the establishment of the French version of the advanced level of the IPC | Discussion by IPC/REF | Q4/2002 |
| | | CLAIMS project by IB | 2002-2003 |
| | | Periodic reports by IB on the project progress | 2002-2003 |
| | | Consideration by IPC/CE | Q1/2004 |
| 17 | Revise the Guide to the IPC to provide for a more comprehensive explanation of the principles and rules of the IPC and to take into account the results of the IPC reform | 2$^{nd}$ draft proposal by IB | Q1/2002 |
| | | Discussion by IPC/REF | Q2/2002 |
| | | Discussion by Task Force | Q4/2002 |
| | | Adoption by IPC/CE | Q1/2004 |
| 18 | Prepare an IPC reform implementation plan | Adoption by IPC/CE | Q1/2002 |
| | | Continuous update | |
| 19 | Elaborate an IPC systematic maintenance procedure | Proposal by SE | Q4/2002 |
| | | Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion | Q4/2002 |
| | | Adoption by IPC/CE | Q1/2003 |

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4.      The Plan of implementation of reform results in the IPC by the IPC/REV is shown in Table 2, below.

TABLE 2

| Task Title | Action | Timeline |
|---|---|---|
| IPC revision program | Completion of remaining revision projects | Q4/2003 |
| Elaboration of classification definitions | Completion of definitions for 100 subclasses | Q4/2003 |
| Revision of subclass indexes according to the standardized sequence of main groups | Preparation of revised subclass indexes for all IPC subclasses | Q4/2003 |
| Introduction of illustrating structural chemical formulae in the electronic layer of the IPC | Preparation of a final collection of chemical formulae | Q4/2003 |
| Checking of notes and references in the reformed IPC | Completion of checking and modifying of notes and references | Q4/2003 |
| Conversion of indexing schemes to classification schemes | Conversion or other treatment of all indexing schemes | Q4/2003 |

[Annex XIII follows]