
Special Union for the International Patent Classification (IPC Union) IPC Revision Working Group

**Thirty-Eighth Session
Geneva, November 13 to 17, 2017**

REPORT

adopted by the Working Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its thirty-eighth session in Geneva from November 13 to 17, 2017. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Brazil, Canada, China, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), the European Patent Office (EPO) (22). Hungary was represented as an observer. European Law Students’ Association (ELSA International) was represented. The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. K. Fushimi, Director, International Classifications and Standards Division.

OFFICERS

3. Mrs. N. Xu (WIPO) acted as Secretary of the session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Working Group adopted the draft agenda with minor changes, which appears as Annex II to this report.

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

5. As decided by the Governing Bodies of WIPO at their tenth series of meetings held from September 24 to October 2, 1979 (see document AB/X/32, paragraphs 51 and 52), the report of this session reflects only the conclusions of the Working Group (decisions, recommendations, opinions, etc.) and does not, in particular, reflect the statements made by any participant, except where a reservation in relation to any specific conclusion of the Working Group was expressed or repeated after the conclusion was reached.

REPORT ON THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE IP5 WG1-WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION

6. The Working Group noted an oral report by Japan on behalf of the FiveIPOffices.

7. It was noted that, during the seventeenth session of the IP5 WG1, the IP5 offices agreed to promote six IP5 projects (F projects) to the IPC phase, namely: F 094, F 096, F 097, F 099, F 100 and F 103.

8. The Working Group further noted that the JPO, on behalf of the FiveIPOffices, would post, to the IPC e-forum (hereinafter referred to as the “e-forum”) under project CE 456, a list of all ongoing IP5 projects and proposals, in order to avoid overlap between the IPC revision requests and the IP5 ongoing revision activities.

IPC REVISION PROGRAM

The Working Group discussed 34 revision projects, namely: [C 486](#), [C 487](#), [C 488](#), [C 489](#), [C 490](#), [C 491](#), [F 044](#), [F 047](#), [F 048](#), [F 050](#), [F 053](#), [F 055](#), [F 059](#), [F 061](#), [F 062](#), [F 065](#), [F 066](#), [F 067](#), [F 068](#), [F 069](#), [F 070](#), [F 073](#), [F 077](#), [F 078](#), [F 079](#), [F 083](#), [F 084](#), [F 085](#), [F 086](#), [F 087](#), [F 088](#), [F 090](#), [F 091](#), and [F 092](#).

9. The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum. All decisions, observations and technical annexes are available in the “Working Group Decision” annexes of the corresponding projects on the e-forum.

10. Rapporteurs of revision projects were reminded to review systematically the references in the revised areas of the revision projects and to provide proposals for removal of Non-Limiting References (NLRs) from the scheme if any, together with the revision proposal, as well as to provide definitions where needed (see Annex VII to document IPC/CE/47/2).

11. The Working Group recalled its decision at the thirty-sixth session concerning the procedure on the use of the IPCRMS and the e-forum, and strongly encouraged offices to start using the IPCRMS following the agreed procedures (see Annex III to document IPC/WG/36/2). The Working Group also invited the International Bureau to apply the deadlines for actions to be followed by offices in a strict manner, in order to assure effective and efficient discussions during the physical Working Group sessions.

IPC DEFINITIONS PROGRAM

12. The Working Group discussed two definition projects, namely: [D 310](#) and [D 311](#).

13. The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum. All decisions, observations and technical annexes are available in the “Working Group Decision” Annexes of the corresponding projects on the e-forum.

14. The Working Group noted that guidelines for drafting definitions would need to be updated in order to provide more detailed instructions, and in particular, on how to draft definitions at subclass, main group and subgroup level with respect to limiting references under the heading “References” and their relationship with the scheme. The Working Group invited proposals to be submitted under project [CE 455](#) to modify the said guidelines to be submitted to the Committee for its consideration.

IPC MAINTENANCE

15. The Working Group discussed 16 maintenance projects, namely: [M 611](#), [M 617](#), [M 619](#), [M 769](#), [M 774](#), [M 775](#), [M 776](#), [M 778](#), [M 779](#), [M 780](#), [M 781](#), [M 782](#), [M 783](#), [M 784](#), [M 785](#) and [M 786](#).

16. The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum. All decisions, observations and technical annexes are available in the “Working Group Decision” Annexes of the corresponding projects on the e-forum.

17. The Working Group repeated its invitation to Offices to initiate proposals for the removal of NLRs from the scheme on a voluntary basis under maintenance projects (M 200 to M 500). Volunteering offices were invited to inform the International Bureau about the subclasses where they intended to carry out the task for the removal of NLRs in order to allow the creation of the corresponding maintenance projects on the e-forum.

18. The Secretariat indicated that an updated table summarizing the status of the removal of NLRs from the scheme would be posted to project file [WG 191](#).

UPDATES ON IPC-RELATED IT SUPPORT

19. The Working Group noted a short [presentation](#) by the International Bureau on the updates of various IT systems and projects supporting the IPC.

20. The Working Group was informed about the upgrade of the IPC publication platform (IPCPUB 7), which had been implemented for the IPC 2018.01 early publication and had also been deployed by some offices for the publication of their national translations of the IPC.

21. The International Bureau announced the development of a prototype for automatic text categorization in the IPC (IPCCAT) at subgroup level.

22. The Working Group noted that the IPC 2018.01 Working Lists with 1.3 million patent families to be reclassified were uploaded in IPCRECLASS according to the current Working Lists distribution algorithm and that the reclassification for the IPC-2007 and IPC-2008 was completed.

23. The International Bureau also indicated that according to IPCRECLASS, the total amount of backlog of IPC reclassification, i.e. 3.7 million of patent families, would be considered for the future IPC Working List Management Solution (IPCWLMS) integrating the newly adopted Working List distribution algorithm.

NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

24. The Working Group, having assessed the workload expected for its next session, agreed to devote Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning to the electrical field; Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning to the chemical field and Thursday afternoon and Friday to the mechanical field.

25. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its thirty-ninth session:

April 23 to 27, 2018.

26. This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on December 15, 2017.

[Annexes follow]