

# WIPO



IPC/A/24/2

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**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**  
GENEVA

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

**ASSEMBLY**

**Twenty-Fourth (9<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary) Session  
Geneva, September 25 to October 3, 2006**

REPORT

*adopted by the Assembly*

1. The Assembly was concerned with the following items of the Consolidated Agenda (document A/42/1): 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 17, 21, 24 and 25.
2. The report on the said items, with the exception of item 17, is contained in the General Report (document A/42/14).
3. The report on item 17 is contained in the present document.

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## ITEM 17 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA:

## MATTERS CONCERNING THE IPC UNION

IPC Reform Status Report

4. Discussions were based upon document IPC/A/24/1 containing the IPC reform status report.
5. The Secretariat introduced document IPC/A/24/1 and outlined the main results achieved in the course of the basic period of IPC reform, which was started in 1999 and completed in 2005. The Secretariat indicated that the reformed IPC (eighth edition of the IPC) has entered into force on January 1, 2006, and has been in use since that time.
6. The Delegation of China expressed its appreciation of the excellent work carried out by the IPC Union and the WIPO Secretariat in the framework of IPC reform, with the participation of IPC experts of various countries. The Delegation also fully supported the fruitful results achieved by IPC reform and pointed out that China actively participated in the development of the IPC in the previous years. The IPC revision proposal submitted by China in respect of botanical pesticides has been approved to a great extent. The Delegation noted that modern information technologies were widely applied to the reformed IPC, which would facilitate the global search and dissemination of patent information and would definitely provide national patent offices and users of patent information with a more effective search tool. Finally, the Delegation stated that China was willing to continue its close cooperation with Member States of the IPC Union and would actively participate in further development of the IPC and would contribute to its success.
7. The Delegation of Estonia expressed its thanks to the International Bureau for the excellent preparation of the IPC reform status report. The Delegation informed the Assembly of the translation into Estonian of the *Guide to the Eighth Edition of the IPC*. The translation was published in paper form for public use. The Estonian Patent Office was currently translating into Estonian a complete list of IPC subclasses for the whole Classification and that translation would also be published in paper form. In the opinion of the Delegation, similar translations into national languages of the largest possible number of States would help in solving complex classification problems.
8. The Delegation of the Russian Federation noted positive results achieved in the course of the recent six years of IPC reform, which included the possibility of the accelerated revision of the IPC, complete reclassification of the retrospective file according to an edition of the IPC in force, establishment of the Master Classification Database and others. This finally would allow to substantially increase the quality of patent searches. The Delegation supported further development of the IPC in line with the proposed strategic goals. The Delegation underlined that, like at previous stages, the Russian Federation would actively participate in the work on the reform and revision of the IPC. The Delegation informed the Assembly that the Federal Service for Intellectual Property, Patents and Trademarks (Rospatent) is using the advanced level of the IPC and that the whole patent collection of Rospatent, containing over one million documents, had been reclassified according to the current (eighth) edition of the IPC. The reclassification data has been submitted to the Master Classification Database. The Delegation further indicated that the Russian translation of the eighth edition has been prepared by Rospatent and published on paper, CD-ROM and on the Internet.

9. The Delegation of Ukraine indicated that, taking into account WIPO's recommendations on classification of national patent documents, it had been decided to use the core level of the eighth edition of the IPC in Ukraine. However, for certain fields of technology with a large number of patent documents the entries of the advanced level would be applied. The core level of the eighth edition of the IPC in the translation into Ukrainian has entered into force on March 15, 2006. The Delegation informed the Assembly that, for facilitating the use of the Ukrainian version of the eighth edition of the IPC, an information reference system "International Patent Classification. Eighth Edition. The Ukrainian version for classification of national patent documents" had been elaborated. The system contains, in addition to the entries of the core level, all entries of the advanced level applied in Ukraine. The Delegation noted that IPC reform which had been successfully completed by WIPO had reached its principal objective – to adapt the classification system to technological progress and electronic environment – and had created principal new search possibilities for all industrial property offices and users of patent information. The Delegation further informed that, according to the existing practice, two copies of the publication of the eighth edition of the IPC in Ukrainian had been submitted to WIPO. The Delegation expressed its sincere gratitude to WIPO for the organization and conducting of seminars concerned with theoretical aspects of IPC reform, maintenance of the eighth edition and practical use of its Internet version.

10. The Assembly took note of the IPC reform status report as contained in document IPC/A/24/1.

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