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ASSEMBLY

**Eighteenth Session (11<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary)\***  
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PROPOSAL TO AMEND PCT RULE 13

*Submitted jointly by the European Patent Office,  
the Japanese Patent Office and the  
United States Patent and Trademark Office*

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Rule 13

Unity of Invention

13.1 [No change]

13.2 *Circumstances in Which the Requirement of Unity of Invention Is to Be Considered Fulfilled*

Where a group of inventions is claimed in one and the same international application, the requirement of unity of invention referred to in Rule 13.1 shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. The expression “special technical features” shall mean those technical features which define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions considered as a whole makes over the prior art.

13.3 *Determination of Unity of Invention not Affected by Manner of Claiming*

The determination whether a group of inventions is so linked as to form a single general inventive concept shall be made without regard to whether the inventions are claimed in separate claims or as alternatives within a single claim.

13.4 [No change]

13.5 [No change]

[End of document]