

# WIPO



PCT/MIA/16/12

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**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**

GENEVA

**INTERNATIONAL PATENT COOPERATION UNION  
(PCT UNION)**

**MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES  
UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)**

**Sixteenth Session  
Seoul, March 16 to 18, 2009**

QUALITY FRAMEWORK

*Document prepared by the International Bureau*

## SUMMARY

1. The Meeting is invited to discuss the reports which have been submitted by International Authorities on their quality management systems, decide what form of report should be sent to the Assembly, and consider further action.

## REPORTS BY INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES

2. Chapter 21 of the PCT International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines (“the Guidelines”, document PCT/GL/ISPE/1) sets out a quality framework for International Authorities and requires Authorities to submit annual reports on their implementation of quality management systems in accordance with that framework. The reports which have been submitted are available from the private forum of the Meeting of International Authorities on the WIPO website. Authorities are invited to present to the Meeting any aspects of their reports which they consider may be of particular relevance to other Authorities and to discuss the reports of other Authorities.

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## REPORT TO THE PCT ASSEMBLY

3. In accordance with paragraph 21.17 of the Guidelines, the Meeting should present a report to the Assembly on progress. The International Bureau proposes that individual reports by International Authorities should again be made available to the public on the WIPO website and that the report to the Assembly should take a similar form to the one presented to the 38th session of the PCT Assembly (document PCT/A/38/3), pointing to the availability of the individual reports, together with any particular statements which the Meeting may wish to include.

## FURTHER WORK

4. Document PCT/MIA/16/2 contains proposals by the European Patent Office for revision of Chapter 21 of the Guidelines in order to develop the quality framework. Document PCT/MIA/16/5 contains complementary proposals by the Swedish Patent and Registration Office. The Meeting may wish to consider any other ways in which the quality reports might be further improved, or further common action which might be appropriate in the context of the Meeting, as distinct from the development of individual Authorities' quality systems within the general framework of Chapter 21 of the Guidelines.

5. *The Meeting is invited to:*

*(i) discuss the reports which have been submitted by International Authorities on their quality management systems;*

*(ii) decide what form of report should be sent to the Assembly; and*

*(iii) consider further action in connection with both quality reports and other matters mentioned in paragraph 4, above.*

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