

# WIPO



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**INTERNATIONAL PATENT COOPERATION UNION  
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**MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES  
UNDER THE PCT**

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**PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS OF THE PCT ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS IN  
RELATION TO INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS CONTAINING LARGE NUMBERS  
OF SEQUENCE LISTINGS**

*Proposal by the United States Patent and Trademark Office*

The Annex to this document contains a proposal by the United States Patent and Trademark Office for modification of the PCT Administrative Instructions relating to the invitation to pay additional search fees and additional preliminary examination fees where an international application contains a large number of claimed sequences which lack unity of invention.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS OF THE PCT ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Section 516 [New]

Where an international application contains claims drawn to a large number of nucleotide sequences which lack unity of invention, the International Searching Authority may, under PCT Rule 40, choose to search a number of inventions for the Search Fee already paid, and to invite the applicant to pay for a number of additional inventions for each supplemental search fee paid. For example, where an international application contains 1000 nucleotide sequences which lack unity of invention from each other, the International Searching Authority may choose to invite the applicant to request search of the first mentioned nucleotide sequence and 9 additional nucleotide sequences for the Search Fee paid and search four additional nucleotide sequences for each supplemental Search Fee paid. The exact method of grouping inventions will be at the discretion of the particular International Searching Authority concerned.

Section 615 [New]

Where an international application contains claims drawn to a large number of nucleotide sequences which lack unity of invention, the International Preliminary Examining Authority may, under PCT Rule 68.1, choose to examine a number of inventions for the Examination Fee already paid, and to invite the applicant to pay for a number of additional inventions for each additional Examination Fee paid. For example, where an international application contains 1000 nucleotide sequences which lack unity of invention from each other, the International Preliminary Examining Authority may choose to invite the applicant to request examination of 10 additional nucleotide sequences as the main invention for the Preliminary Examination Fee paid and examine four additional nucleotide sequences for each additional Examination Fee paid. The exact method of grouping inventions will be at the discretion of the particular International Preliminary Examining Authority concerned.

[End of Annex and of document]