

## **Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Working Group**

**Fifth Session  
Geneva, May 29 to June 1, 2012**

### **THIRD PARTY OBSERVATION SYSTEM; QUALITY FEEDBACK SYSTEM**

*Document prepared by the International Bureau*

#### **THIRD PARTY OBSERVATION SYSTEM**

1. Work is almost complete on technical systems allowing third parties to make observations on international applications in accordance with the approach set out in document PCT/WG/4/7 and the comments reported in paragraphs 122 to 142 of document PCT/WG/4/17.
2. Circular C. PCT 1338, dated May 2, 2012, made proposals for instructions and guidelines on the use of the system in the form of modifications to the PCT Administrative Instructions and International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines.
3. The system is expected to be made available with effect from July 2, 2012, for use in making observations on any international application for which the time limit of 28 months from the priority date for making observations has not expired before that date.

#### **QUALITY FEEDBACK SYSTEM**

4. A first phase of the proposed system agreed by the 18th session of the Meeting of International Authorities (see paragraphs 52 to 55 of document PCT/MIA/18/17) to allow designated Offices to give quality feedback to International Authorities will be implemented later this year. This will permit designated Offices to send feedback by transmitting a free text document in Word or PDF format over PCT-EDI using a particular document type code. The details will be sent to designated Offices by means of a circular in due course. It is intended, in a second phase, to extend this service to designated Offices which do not presently use PCT-EDI by providing equivalent functionality over a secure web-based service for Offices using

ePCT. The timing of this phase will depend on feedback from receiving Offices and International Authorities in a pilot of ePCT Office services (not including such a feature), which is expected to begin during the third quarter of 2012.

5. *The Working Group is invited to note the above status report.*

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