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

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

**Twenty-Eighth Session
Geneva, March 1 to 5, 1999**

CREATION OF THE IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP

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1. At its twenty-seventh session, held in October 1998, the IPC Committee of Experts adopted the IPC revision program for the seventh IPC revision period with the deadlines established for particular projects. The Committee also adopted 11 new IPC revision projects for inclusion in the revision program. [See Annexes VII and VIII to document IPC/CE/27/12.]
2. In order to provide continuity in the revision work until a new revision procedure has been established in detail, the Committee agreed that the period of application of the working procedure and methods which had been implemented for the revision work in the framework of the Permanent Committee on Industrial Property Information (PCIPI) should be extended to the first half of 1999.
3. The said new revision procedure will be considered by the Committee on the basis of the recommendations elaborated by the Advanced IPC Seminar held in December 1998 (see document IPC/SEM/98/11). Given the broad range of recommendations made by the Seminar and the interrelationship of the recommendations relating to the IPC general structure and principles, the revision period and implementation of the revision results and the revision procedure, it seems to be certain that the elaboration of the new procedure cannot be completed before the year 2000. It is also recalled that one of the recommendations of the

Seminar suggests to continue the revision of the IPC during the transitional period on the basis of the revision projects deferred from the previous revision period and new revision proposals that may be submitted for the creation of classification places covering new technologies.

4. In view of the necessity to continue the revision work, it is proposed to extend the period of application of the working procedure and methods that had been implemented in the framework of the PCIPI to the whole year 1999. For carrying out the revision work, it is also proposed to create the IPC Revision Working Group (IPC/WG).

5. The members of the Working Group would be all the member States of the IPC Union, the African Intellectual Property Organisation (OAPI), the African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO), the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) and the European Patent Organisation (EPO). States not members of the IPC Union, which had the status of members or observers in the PCIPI Working Group on Search Information, would be invited to be represented at the sessions of the Working Group as observers. Other member States of WIPO, intergovernmental organizations, international and national non-governmental organizations that would inform the Director General of WIPO of their desire to have the observer status would also receive this status in the Working Group.

6. The Rules of Procedure of the Working Group would consist of the General Rules of Procedure of WIPO, supplemented and amended by the Rules of Procedure of the IPC Committee of Experts.

7. The Working Group would have a mandate to deal with the preparation of the revision of the IPC and with search systems based on the IPC. Its working methods would be identical to those employed in the PCIPI Working Group on Search Information.

8. The Working Group would meet twice in 1999 in two-week sessions. The Working Group would have the right to create subsidiary bodies which would receive directions from, and would report to, the Working Group. A maximum of two weeks of sessions of the subsidiary bodies would be authorized to take place in 1999, but a meeting of a subsidiary body would not take place if less than three offices intend to participate.

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