ANNEX V

DISTRIBUTION OF TASKS EMANATING FROM
THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADVANCED IPC SEMINAR

AD HOC IPC REFORM WORKING GROUP

Tasks Relating to the IPC General Structure and Principles

1.   Elaborate long-term goals and a strategic plan for the development of the IPC.
(United Kingdom)[*]

2.   Reconsider the IPC revision policy.

3.   Consider the introduction of electronic data illustrating the contents of IPC
entries: examples of patent documents, detailed notes and classification definitions,
where appropriate, more exemplifying technical terms. (United States of America)

4.   Consider the elaboration of rules for multiple classification in the IPC, for
example, in areas covered by the last place rule, in function-orientated versus
application areas, and investigate possible bearing of such rules on general principles of
classifying disclosed in the Guide to the IPC. (Discussion paper from Japan and
consolidating comments)

5.   Review the hybrid systems in the IPC. (International Bureau)

6.   Study factors influencing an insufficient level of the consistency in the application
of the IPC and elaborate measures for increasing the consistency.
(United States of America)

Tasks Relating to the Revision Period, the Revision Procedure and Implementation of
the Results of the Revision

7.   Determine the most appropriate duration of revision cycles.

8.   Study the possibility of cooperation between offices in the reclassification of
backlog patent files, including its outsourcing to external contractors.
(European Patent Office)

9.   Reconsider the criteria for accepting new revision requests and elaborate a system
of priorities for revision proposals.

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[*]   The Office serving as Rapporteur, when designated, appears in brackets.

IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP

<u>Task Relating to Training in the Use of the IPC</u>

10.   Develop a general question and answer pamphlet on the application of the IPC.
(United States of America)

 INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

<u>Tasks Relating to the Implementation of the Results of the Revision</u>

11.   Establish a close cooperation between the Committee and the Standing Committee
on Information Technologies.

12.   Study automated classification and indexing tools and conduct pilot projects on
their use, in particular for the reclassification of backlog patent files.

<u>Task Relating to Training in the Use of the IPC</u>

13.   Improve IPC training by providing modern training techniques, for example,
computer-based and Internet training tools, involving, in particular, enhanced support for
developing countries in the use of the IPC.

[Annex VI follows]