

# WIPO



IPC/CE/29/2

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: January 26, 2000

**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**

GENEVA

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

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS**

**Twenty-Ninth Session  
Geneva, March 13 to 17, 2000**

**RESOURCES NECESSARY FOR THE IPC REFORM**

*Document prepared by the International Bureau*

1. At its twenty-eighth session, held in March 1999, the Committee of Experts elaborated a recommendation to the Assembly of the IPC Union to invite members and observers of the IPC Union to provide internal resources necessary for carrying out the IPC reform. The recommendation also outlined the background of the reform and the strategy to be applied by the Committee during the time period of the reform (see Annex IV to document IPC/CE/28/5).
2. At its seventeenth session, held in September 1999, the Assembly of the IPC Union supported the proposed reform of the IPC and approved the recommendation by the Committee, thereby inviting the members and observers of the IPC Union to provide resources required for successfully carrying out the reform (see document IPC/A/17/2).
3. As has already been indicated by the Committee (see the said document IPC/CE/28/5, paragraph 20), the sufficient allocation of resources in the International Bureau of WIPO is a prerequisite for the effective management of the IPC reform. To date, the IPC reform management has been provided on a part-time basis by the International Patent Classification Section, Inter-Office Information Services of the International Bureau.

4. Following the initial period of study and planning of the IPC reform, which was basically completed in the year 1999, the reform now enters in the realization stage. The main bulk of the activities relating to the reform should be carried out during the years 2000 to 2002, so that the principal results of the reform could be implemented, as decided by the Committee, at the end of the transitional period, as of the year 2003. Thereafter, as envisaged, the reform will be continued to fully realize the strategic goals of the IPC development.

5. In its approval of the recommendation to provide necessary resources for carrying out the IPC reform, the Assembly of the IPC Union realized that the resources needed would go beyond the resources normally allocated by the members and observers of the IPC Union for the IPC-related work. Additional manpower resourcing would also be necessary in the International Bureau to provide coordination and management of the IPC reform process.

6. On the basis of the decision by the Assembly of the IPC Union, the Committee of Experts may wish to recommend to the Program and Budget Committee to make available funds in order to establish a new full-time professional staff post in the IPC Section, Inter-Office Information Services of the International Bureau, for supporting activities concerned with the IPC reform.

*7. The Committee of Experts is invited to consider the resources needed for the IPC reform.*

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