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

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

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

RECOMMENDATIONS FORMULATED BY THE IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP

Document prepared by the International Bureau

1. At its first and second sessions, held, respectively, in June and November-December 1999, the IPC Revision Working Group considered the elaboration and the transfer of informative references to the electronic layer of the IPC, as well as the presentation of such references. The Working Group formulated recommendations thereon to the Committee of Experts which are reproduced in the Annex to this document.

2. *The Committee of Experts is invited to adopt the recommendations formulated by the IPC Revision Working Group.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

RECOMMENDATIONS FORMULATED BY THE
IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP

Excerpt from document IPC/WG/1/2, paragraph 18

“Project C 325 (mechanical) – The Working Group considered informative references proposed by the Rapporteur (see Annex 14 to the project file) and agreed that such references could represent a useful type of electronic data illustrating the contents of IPC entries, which would not constitute part of the IPC itself. Consequently, the Working Group requested offices preparing IPC revision proposals to always consider the need for informative references in the fields concerned, which should be included in the detailed proposals, presenting them as clearly distinctive from references defining the scope of IPC entries. To provide such distinction, the Working Group agreed on the temporary presentation thereof in the form of informative notes, provisionally worded as follows:

“Informative note

“References listed below indicate IPC places which could also be of interest when carrying out a search in respect of the subject matter covered by the preceding group or subclass.”

Excerpt from document IPC/WG/2/3

“14. When considering IPC revision projects, the Working Group noted that, in a number of projects, it was felt necessary to elaborate informative references for inclusion in the electronic layer of the IPC or to transfer existing references to the electronic layer. It was agreed that with regard to informative references the normal revision procedure was not appropriate and that a simplified accelerated procedure should be introduced. In this context, the Working Group agreed to recommend to the IPC Committee of Experts that the following procedure be implemented.

“(a) The selection of informative references should continue, as needed, in the framework of IPC revision projects and should be the responsibility of rapporteurs. The rapporteurs should propose informative references, when necessary, in time appropriate for commenting by members and observers of the Working Group. In the case of positive comments, the proposed informative references would formally be approved at the session of the Working Group.

“(b) Members and observers of the Working Group would also be free to propose informative references not relating to revision projects and distribute them for comments. After the formal approval by the Working Group, those references would be considered as minor corrections to the IPC and the International Bureau would introduce them into the next edition of the Classification.

“(c) It was suggested that some informative references, for example, between function-oriented and application places, could be introduced in the IPC, after a preliminary study, using automated means and that, in the future, a global project for reconsidering existing references in the IPC might be envisaged.

“15. Finally, the Working Group agreed to recommend to the Committee of Experts that the provisional presentation of informative references in the form of informative notes, agreed upon at the first session of the Working Group, should be reviewed and that the difference between informative and defining references should be described in the Guide to the IPC.”

[End of Annex and of document]