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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
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**SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION
(IPC UNION)**

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

**Thirtieth Session
Geneva, February 19 to 23, 2001**

REVISION PROCEDURE IN RELATION TO
THE ADVANCED LEVEL OF THE IPC

Document prepared by the International Bureau

1. At its twenty-ninth session, held in March 2000, the Committee of Experts came to several decisions relating to the two-level structure of the reformed IPC (see document IPC/CE/29/11, paragraph 29), in particular that:
 - the proposed amendments to the core level of the IPC should be adopted by the Committee so as to ensure the highest quality of the core level;
 - revision of the advanced level of the IPC should be provided through an accelerated procedure and should not depend on revision cycles.
2. At its fourth session, held in October/November 2000, the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group discussed the proposal submitted by the International Bureau, relating to the revision policy and revision procedure for the reformed IPC and published in Annex 16 to project file IPC/R 2/99 Rev.2, and agreed that, although it was difficult to specify in detail the revision policy and revision procedure until the Committee of Experts took a decision concerning the most appropriate contents of the core level of the IPC, consideration of this task should progress on a provisional basis. The Working Group requested the International Bureau to prepare, after the thirtieth session of the Committee of Experts, a revised proposal and to circulate it for comments in time for the fifth session of the Working Group (see document IPC/REF/4/4, paragraphs 8 to 13).

3. With regard to paragraphs 24 and 25 of the proposal by the International Bureau (see the Annex to this document), specifying the role of a special subcommittee supervising revision of the advanced level, the Working Group agreed that supervision would be necessary in order to ensure the compliance of the amendments to the advanced level with general principles and rules of the reformed IPC and to provide a mechanism for resolving possible disagreements in relation to the proposed amendments. In the opinion of some Delegations, such supervising functions should be carried out by the Committee of Experts itself.

4. The Working Group realized that providing supervision or control over the revision of the advanced level related to the competence of the Committee of Experts and recommended to the Committee to consider this question at its thirtieth session.

5. The Committee of Experts is invited to take a decision with regard to supervision or control over the revision of the advanced level of the IPC, in particular whether such supervision or control should be carried out by a special subcommittee within the IPC Union or by the Committee of Experts itself.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

EXCERPT FROM ANNEX 16 TO PROJECT FILE IPC/R 2/99 REV.2

24. For the supervision of the revision of the advanced level, a special subcommittee within the IPC Union would be established by the IPC Committee of Experts. The subcommittee should consist of International Searching Authorities under the PCT (ISAs) and could include five ISAs receiving the largest number of patent applications per year.

25. The special subcommittee should be authorized to resolve disagreements between the office-proponent and other offices with regard to the proposed amendments to the advanced level. The decisions should be taken by the subcommittee by a simple majority of its members using electronic correspondence. The International Bureau should provide for consultations with members of the subcommittee when its decision is required.

[End of Annex and of document]