

WIPO



IPC/CE/30/8

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: January 17, 2001

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

GENEVA

**SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION
(IPC UNION)****COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS****Thirtieth Session
Geneva, February 19 to 23, 2001**

IPC REFORM PROGRAM FOR THE YEAR 2001

Document prepared by the International Bureau

1. At its twenty-ninth session, held in March 2000, the Committee of Experts established the IPC reform program for the year 2000 (see Annex V to document IPC/CE/29/11), which guided the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group and the International Bureau in elaborating tasks of IPC reform.
2. At its fourth session, held in October/November 2000, the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group reviewed the tasks included in the IPC reform program and noted the work which remains to be done in respect of those tasks. The status of the tasks as determined by the Working Group is shown in the structured form in the Annex to this document.
3. As follows from the structured list of the tasks, there are currently 12 tasks which require various amount of work for their completion. This list should form a basis for the IPC reform program for the year 2001.
4. At its twenty-ninth session, the Committee agreed that revision of the Guide to the IPC should commence in the year 2001 (see document IPC/CE/29/11, paragraph 35). A new task should therefore be added to the list: Task No. 17 "Revise the Guide to the IPC to provide for a more comprehensive explanation of the principles and rules of the IPC and to take into account the results of IPC reform."

5. The following distribution of the IPC reform tasks for the year 2001 is proposed:
- ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group: Tasks Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16 and 17;
 - International Bureau: Tasks Nos. 10, 12 and 13.

6. *The Committee of Experts is invited to adopt the proposed IPC reform program for the year 2001.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

STATUS OF THE IPC REFORM PROGRAM*
(agreed upon by the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group)

Tasks completed at previous sessions

- Task No.1 Elaborate long-term goals and a strategic plan for the development of the IPC
- Task No. 6 Study factors influencing an insufficient level of the consistency in the application of the IPC and elaborate measures for increasing the consistency

Tasks on which some work remains to be done

- Task No. 3 Consider the introduction of electronic data illustrating the contents of IPC entries
(Definition Task Force – Members: Portugal, Sweden, United States of America, EPO)
- Task No. 5 Review the hybrid systems in the IPC
(Hybrid Systems Task Force – Members: Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America, EPO)
- Task No. 14 Determine the most appropriate contents of the core level of the reformed IPC

Tasks on which substantial work remains to be done

- Task No. 2 Consider the IPC revision policy, the revision procedure and the criteria for accepting new revision proposals in relation to the core and advanced levels of the reformed IPC
[Task No. 9]
- Task No. 4 Consider the elaboration of rules for multiple classification in the IPC and investigate possible bearing of such rules on general principles of classifying disclosed in the Guide to the IPC
- Task No. 8 Study the possibility of cooperation between offices in the reclassification of backlog patent files
(Data Recording Task Force – Members: France, Norway, United Kingdom, United States of America, EPO)

* Task Forces created under particular Tasks are indicated in brackets.

- Task No. 12 Study automated classification and indexing tools and conduct pilot projects on their use, in particular for the reclassification of backlog patent files
- Task No. 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
- Task No. 15 Study the feasibility of introducing a simplified set of rules in the IPC, in particular a uniform precedence rule
(Rules Task Force – Members: Germany, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America, EPO)
- Task No. 16 Study ways and means for the establishment of the French version of the advanced level of the IPC

Tasks on which work has not yet started

- Task No. 7 Determine the most appropriate duration of revision cycles
- Task No. 10 Develop a general question and answer pamphlet on the application of the IPC

Task of continuing activity

- Task No. 11 Establish a close cooperation between the Committee and the Standing Committee on Information Technologies

[End of Annex and of document]