

ANNEXV

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION

*adopted by the Committee of Experts of the IPC Union*

(Article 5(4) of the Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification (of 1971), as amended in 1979)

*Rule 1: Application of the General Rules of Procedure*

The Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts of the IPC Union (hereinafter called "the Committee of Experts") and of the subcommittees and the working groups established by it, in accordance with Article 5(3)(v) of the Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification (of 1971), as amended in 1979 (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement"), shall consist of the General Rules of Procedure of WIPO, supplemented and amended by the provisions of the Agreement, by the resolution of the Assembly of the IPC Union of October 7, 1975, and by the provisions set forth hereinafter.

*Rule 2: Representation and Expenses of Delegations of Member States and Organizations*

- (1) Each delegate may represent one State only.
- (2) The expenses of each delegation shall be borne by the Government or the Organization which has appointed it.

*Rule 3: Sessions*

- (1) The Committee of Experts shall meet in ordinary session at least once every two years on convocation by the Director General.
- (2) The Committee of Experts shall meet in extraordinary session on convocation by the Director General at the request of one-fourth of the States members of the Committee.
- (3) Subcommittees and working groups established by the Committee of Experts shall meet at such times and at such places as may be determined by the Director General in consultation with the Chair of the subcommittee or working group concerned.

*Rule 4: Subcommittees and Working Groups*

(1) When establishing any subcommittee or working group, the Committee of Experts shall determine its terms of reference and the frequency of its sessions, and shall designate its members

(i) from among the States members of the IPC Union, and

(ii) from such States which are not members of the IPC Union, without the right to make proposals for amendments to the Classification.

(2) The African Intellectual Property Organisation (OAPI), the African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO), the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) and the European Patent Organisation (EPO) shall be invited to participate in the sessions of any subcommittee or working group established by the Committee of Experts.

*Rule 5: Observers*

(1) Member States of WIPO which are not members of the IPC Union may participate as observers in sessions of the Committee of Experts and of any subcommittee or working group established by the Committee of Experts.

(2) The Committee of Experts may invite to participate as observers in its sessions and of any subcommittee or working group established by the Committee of Experts interested intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations, as well as organizations providing information services in the field of patent information, provided that no topic that may give rise to conflict of interest are included in the agenda of the session.

*Rule 6: Status of Intergovernmental Organizations Referred to in Articles 5(2) and 5(4) of the Agreement*

(1) Article 5(2)(a) of the Agreement shall apply to the African Intellectual Property Organisation (OAPI), the African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO), the Council of Europe (CE), the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) and the European Patent Organisation (EPO).

(2) As far as the African Intellectual Property Organisation (OAPI), the African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO), the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) and the European Patent Organisation (EPO) are concerned, Article 5(4) of the Agreement shall also apply.

*Rule 7: Officers*

(1) In the first meeting of a calendar year, the Committee of Experts shall elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs. They shall remain in office until the election of new officers.

(2) Any subcommittee established by the Committee of Experts shall have a Chair and two Vice-Chairs. They shall be elected by the subcommittee in the first meeting of a calendar year. They shall remain in office until the election of new officers.

(3) Any working group established by the Committee of Experts shall have a Chair and one Vice-Chair. They shall be elected by the working group in the first meeting of a calendar year. They shall remain in office until the election of new officers.

(4) Any outgoing Chair or Vice-Chair may be immediately re-elected to the office which he has held.

(5) Where the Chair or Acting Chair is the only member of the delegation of the State of which he is a national, he may vote in his capacity of delegate.

(6) Representatives of the intergovernmental organizations referred to in Rule 6(2) may be elected as officers of the Committee of Experts or of any subcommittee or working group established by the Committee of Experts.

*Rule 8: Publication of the Report*

The report on the work of each session of the Committee of Experts, or a summary drawn up by the International Bureau, shall be published in the review *WIPO Magazine* or on the WIPO Website on the Internet.

[Annex VI follows]