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SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION
(IPC UNION)

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

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IPC REFORM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. At its thirty-fourth session, held in February 2004, the Committee of Experts adopted the updated IPC reform implementation plan (see Annex VIII to document IPC/CE/34/10). Following this session, further updates to the IPC reform implementation plan were made by the International Bureau. These updates relate partly to the inclusion in the plan of IPC reform tasks completed at early stages of the reform in order to provide a comprehensive list of the reform tasks and, partly, to the inclusion in the work program of the IPC Revision Working Group of new tasks relating to the implementation of the reform results in the IPC, as agreed by the Committee of Experts (see document IPC/CE/34/10, paragraph 47).
2. The IPC reform implementation plan, as updated by the International Bureau, is given in the Annex to this document.
3. *The Committee of Experts is invited to consider the IPC reform implementation plan.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

IPC REFORM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Implementation Plan covers the years 2000-2005. The timing takes account of the requirements of the Strasbourg Agreement, according to which amendments to the Classification shall be notified to the competent authorities of the IPC Union six months before their entering into force. Given that the next edition of the IPC enters into force on January 1, 2006, it should be published by July 1, 2005, and last amendments to the current edition should be adopted by the Committee of Experts in early 2005.
2. The Plan indicates timelines and milestones with regard to major activities which are necessary for carrying out IPC reform. Those activities could be divided in two parts, namely activities relating to the elaboration of IPC reform tasks, which were in the responsibility of the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group (IPC/REF), the Committee of Experts (IPC/CE) and the International Bureau (IB), and activities relating to the realization of the reform results in the IPC itself, which is in the responsibility of the IPC Revision Working Group (IPC/WG). The Implementation Plan also covers the IPC revision program carried out by the IPC/WG.
3. The Plan of elaboration of IPC reform tasks is shown in the Table 1, below.

TABLE 1

| Task No. | Task Title | Action | Timeline |
|----------|--|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Elaborate long-term goals and a strategic plan for the development of the IPC | Adoption by IPC/CE <i>Task completed</i> | Q1/2000 |
| 2 [9] | 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 | Final proposal by IB Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE <i>Task completed</i> | Q1/2002 Q2/2002 Q1/2003 |
| 3 | Consider the introduction of electronic data illustrating the contents of IPC entries | Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE <i>Task completed</i> | Q4/2001 Q1/2002 |

| Task No. | Task Title | Action | Timeline |
|----------|---|--|---|
| 4 | General principles of classification; elaboration of rules for multiple classification in the IPC | Final guidelines on obligatory classification by US Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE <i>Task completed</i> | Q1/2002 Q4/2002 Q1/2003 |
| 5 | Review the hybrid systems in the IPC | Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE <i>Task completed</i> | Q4/2001 Q1/2002 |
| 6 | Elaborate measures for increasing the consistency in the application of the IPC | Adoption by IPC/CE <i>Task completed</i> | Q1/2000 |
| 7 | Determine the most appropriate duration of revision cycles | Final proposal by IB Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE <i>Task completed</i> | Q1/2002 Q2/2002 Q1/2003 |
| 8 | Elaborate principles of the creation, maintenance and functioning of the Master Classification Database (MCD) (a) Concept of Operations of classification and reclassification (b) Creation and maintenance of MCD and propagation of classification data | Proposal by EP, IB on classification and reclassification procedure (Concept of Operations) Discussion by IPC/CE Adoption by IPC/CE <i>Task completed</i> Creation of Master Classification Database by EP | Q1/2003 Q1/2003 Q4/2003 October/2005 |
| 10 | Develop a general question and answer pamphlet on the application of the IPC | Draft pamphlet by IB Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE <i>Task completed</i> | Q1/2002 Q2/2002 Q1/2003 |
| 11 | Establish a close cooperation between the Committee of Experts and the Standing Committee on Information Technologies | Task of continuous nature | |

| Task No. | Task Title | Action | Timeline |
|----------|--|--|--|
| 12 | Study automated classification and indexing tools and conduct pilot projects on their use, in particular for the reclassification of backlog patent files | CLAIMS project by IB Periodic reports by IB on the project progress Consideration by IPC/CE | 2002-2003 2002-2004 Q4/2004 |
| 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 | Report by IB Discussion by IPC/REF Report by IB Consideration by IPC/CE and Task completion <i>Task completed</i> | Q3/2002 Q4/2002 Q3/2003 Q4/2003 |
| 14 | Determine the most appropriate contents of the core level of the reformed IPC | Statistics by EP on new entries in IPC-7 and IPC-2006 Final distribution of IPC entries by IB and Task completion Consideration by IPC/CE <i>Task completed</i> | Q3/2003 Q4/2003 Q1/2004 |
| 15 | Study the feasibility of introducing a simplified set of rules in the IPC, in particular a uniform precedence rule | Adoption of the standardized sequence of main groups by IPC/CE Completion of Guidelines on where to classify and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE <i>Task completed</i> | Q1/2004 Q4/2003 Q1/2004 |
| 16 | Study ways and means for the establishment of the French version of the advanced level of the IPC | Discussion by IPC/CE CLAIMS project by IB Periodic reports by IB on the project progress Consideration by IPC/CE <i>Task completed</i> | Q4/2003 2002-2003 2002-2003 Q4/2003 |
| 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 the IPC reform | Discussion by Task Force and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE <i>Task completed</i> | Q2/2003 Q1/2004 |

| Task No. | Task Title | Action | Timeline |
|----------|---|--|--------------------|
| 18 | Prepare an IPC reform implementation plan | Continuous update | |
| 19 | Elaborate an IPC systematic maintenance procedure | Final proposal by SE Discussion by IPC/CE and Task completion <i>Task completed</i> | Q3/2003 Q4/2003 |

4. The Plan of implementation of reform results in the IPC by the IPC/WG is shown in Table 2, below.

TABLE 2

| Task Title | Action | Timeline |
|--|---|--------------------|
| IPC revision program | Completion of remaining revision projects Adoption by IPC/CE | Q1/2005 Q1/2005 |
| Elaboration of classification definitions | Completion of definitions for 50 subclasses | Q2/2005 |
| Rearrangement of main groups according to the standardized sequence of main groups | Preparation of rearranged main groups for all IPC subclasses <i>Task completed</i> | Q2/2004 |
| Introduction of illustrating structural chemical formulae in the electronic layer of the IPC | Preparation of a final collection of chemical formulae <i>Task completed</i> | Q4/2003 |
| Checking of notes and references in the reformed IPC | Completion of checking and modifying of notes and references Adoption by IPC/CE <i>Task completed</i> | Q4/2003 Q4/2003 |
| Conversion of indexing schemes to classification schemes | Conversion or other treatment of all indexing schemes Adoption by IPC/CE <i>Task completed</i> | Q4/2003 Q1/2004 |
| Introduction of residual main groups in IPC subclasses | Consideration by IPC/WG Adoption by IPC/CE | Q4/2004 Q1/2005 |
| Consideration of references in the advanced level of the IPC | Consideration by IPC/WG Adoption by IPC/CE | Q4/2004 Q1/2005 |