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

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE REFORM IN THE IPC

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The present document contains a status report on several tasks on the program of the IPC Revision Working Group (Working Group) with respect to the implementation of the results of the reform in the IPC.

Removal of Non-Limiting References from the Scheme

2. At its nineteenth session, the Working Group considered a proposal submitted by the International Bureau on how to further proceed with the task of the removal of informative references from the scheme.

3. The Working Group noted that the Task Force on removal of informative references from the scheme had completed removal of informative references from the scheme for 32 subclasses where definitions had already been published online. For the remaining 57 subclasses where definition projects had been completed by the end of 2007, the Working Group confirmed its decision taken at its fifteenth session that the International Bureau would prepare proposals and submit them to project M 032 (see document IPC/WG/19/2). These proposals would be submitted in the form of standardized tables that should be used by

rapporteurs of other projects when submitting proposals for removing informative references from the scheme. Following a round of comments, the International Bureau would prepare consolidated proposals for approval by the Task Force. In case of doubt about the nature of a certain reference, i.e., if the Task Force cannot come to a unanimous agreement, that reference should remain in the scheme.

4. It was decided that the Task Force should carry out discussions and approvals by electronic communication. Based on the proposals approved by the Task Force, the International Bureau would then prepare technical annexes for approval by the Working Group and adoption by the Committee of Experts.

5. The Working Group recalled its previous decision that rapporteurs of definition projects which were active at the end of 2007 should submit proposals for informative references that should be removed from the scheme (see paragraph 29 of document IPC/WG/15/4 and paragraph 22 of document IPC/WG/18/4). Those proposals should not only include the informative references at subclass level, i.e., those references that would be included in the subclass definition, but all references in the subclass that should be treated as informative references. Rapporteurs of currently active definition projects were therefore reminded to take the said decision into account when submitting their proposals.

6. With respect to subclasses where no definition projects exist, the Working Group decided that, for each newly created definition project, the International Bureau would prepare a proposal for the removal of informative references for consideration by the Rapporteur of the project. It was also agreed that the same approach should equally be applied to newly created revision and maintenance (C and M) projects, since rapporteurs of both projects also have technical expertise regarding the specific subclasses.

7. Based on the proposals approved by the Working Group at a given session, the International Bureau would prepare the relevant technical annexes for the report of that session and for further adoption by the Committee of Experts.

8. In view of the high workload and the expected long duration of this task, it was also agreed that any office could submit proposals for the removal of informative references from those subclasses for which no active project exists, in the framework of project M 032.

9. At its twentieth session, the Working Group recalled paragraph 39 of the *Guidelines for Revision of the IPC* and agreed that the task of removal of informative references from the scheme should not only cover purely informative references but also references from function-oriented to application places. The task was therefore renamed "Removal of Non-Limiting References from the Scheme".

10. At its nineteenth and twentieth sessions, the Working Group completed the removal of non-limiting references in further 29 subclasses. Thus, the non-limiting references have been removed in a total of 51 subclasses. Annex 8 to the project file WG 191 contains a table summarizing the status of the task of removal of non-limiting references for each subclass.

Renumbering of Pre-Reform Residual Main Groups

10. At its nineteenth and twentieth sessions, the Working Group continued and completed the task of renumbering pre-reform residual main groups. All decisions taken in the course of this task are summarized in Annex 63 to project file WG 111. In 45 subclasses pre-reform residual main groups have been deleted, 11 of them had subgroups which were also deleted. The deleted groups were transferred to 43 new standardized residual main groups and 16 new main groups with specific titles, some of them with subgroups.

Introduction of Residual Main Groups in IPC Subclasses

11. The Working Group continued, at its nineteenth and twentieth sessions, consideration of the remaining subclasses without residual main groups in the framework of definition projects (five subclasses). The current status of this task with respect to each subclass is summarized in Annex 63 to project file WG 111. For 39 subclasses a decision regarding the introduction of a residual main group is still pending.

IPC Definitions Program

12. Consideration of definition projects continued at the nineteenth and twentieth sessions of the Working Group. At those sessions, 21 definition projects were approved in English and 16 definition projects were completed in both English and French. In total, 113 definition projects have been completed so far, and the target of a total of 100 subclass definitions by end of 2008, as set forth in Task 1(b) of the IPC Development Program 2006 to 2008 (see Annex III to document IPC/CE/37/9), has been exceeded.

13. Annex IV to the report of the twentieth session of the Working Group (see document IPC/WG/20/2) contains a table summarizing the status of each definition project on the program.

14. The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the contents of this document, and to make decisions as necessary.

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