

ANNEX IX

STATUS OF THE IPC REFORM PROGRAM*

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
- Task No. 18 Prepare an IPC reform implementation plan

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 Elaborate principles of the creation, maintenance and functioning of the Master Classification Database
(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
- 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 the IPC reform

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 IX and of document]