

WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

GENEVA

INTERNATIONAL PATENT COOPERATION UNION
(PCT UNION)

MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES
UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

Tenth Session
Geneva, September 13 to 15, 2004

QUALITY FRAMEWORK FOR PCT INTERNATIONAL SEARCH
AND PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

Document prepared by the International Bureau

SUMMARY

1. The Meeting is invited to discuss experiences of implementing quality management systems and adopt a general initial report to the Assembly on progress in implementing the common quality framework under chapter 21 of the PCT International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines.

BACKGROUND

2. The fourth session of the Working Group on Reform of the PCT, in May 2004, approved the content of a draft quality framework for international search and preliminary examination (see document PCT/R/WG/4/12 and paragraphs 72 to 81 of document PCT/R/WG/4/14). At the ninth session of the Meeting of International Authorities Under the PCT in July 2003, this framework was incorporated into the draft PCT International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines (“the Guidelines”) (see paragraph 93 of document PCT/MIA/9/6) and, following renumbering, became Chapter 21 of the final version of the Guidelines (see document PCT/GL/ISPE/1), which are now in force for international applications filed on or after January 1, 2004.

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3. Paragraph 21.17 of the Guidelines states:

“Each Authority should be required to submit an initial report to the Meeting of International Authorities under the PCT (MIA) describing what it has done to implement a [quality management system] based on the broad requirements set out in [Chapter 21 of the Guidelines]. This would help identify and disseminate best practice among Authorities. MIA should then submit a general initial report on progress to the PCT Assembly.”

4. Circular C. PCT 994, dated June 18, 2004, requested initial reports from each of the International Authorities to be sent to the International Bureau and responses are being distributed amongst the International Authorities separately from this document. Based on those responses, the International Bureau will draft a general initial report on progress, in advance of the session, for the Meeting to consider, with a view to adopting it for presentation to the PCT Assembly at its session to be held from September 27 to October 5, 2004.

5. *The Meeting is invited to:*

*(a) discuss experiences of
implementing quality management systems;
and*

*(b) adopt a general initial report on
progress, to be presented to the PCT
Assembly.*

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