

WIPO



PCT/R/WG/4/12Add.1

ORIGINAL:English

DATE:May12,2003

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

GENEVA

INTERNATIONAL PATENT COOPERATION UNION
(PCT UNION)

WORKING GROUP ON REF ORMOFTHEPATENT
COOPERATION TREATY(PCT)

Fourth Session
Geneva, May 19 to 23, 2003

ACOMMON FRAMEWORK FOR
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION:

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Proposals by the United Kingdom Patent Office

INTRODUCTION

1. At the eighth session of the Meeting of International Authorities under the PCT (“the Meeting”), held in Washington, D.C., from May 5 to 9, 2003, the United Kingdom Patent Office, in its role as coordinator of the “virtual” task force on a PCT quality framework, presented the initial report of the task force (see document PCT/MIA/8/5, whose content is identical to that of document PCT/R/WG/4/12) to the Meeting. Following that presentation, the Office would like to propose the following amendments to the proposed framework set out in Annex I of document PCT/R /WG/4/12.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT FRAMEWORK

2. The term “testing” in paragraph 4(g) should be replaced by “assessing” so as to give Authorities greater flexibility in meeting this requirement.
3. Paragraph 5(d) should be removed, as paragraph 6(d), to fall within the “Quality Assurance” section rather than the “Resources” section.

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4. Paragraph 17, which covers “Stage 2” of “Reporting Arrangements,” needs clarification to identify the general framework of the Reports. The paragraph should be amended to read:

“Following the initial reporting in stage 1, annual reports should be prepared by each Authority, identifying the lessons learned and action taken, and making any recommendations in the light of the review.”

5. There is a concern that the future development of the quality framework should be as inclusive as possible, following the principles of consultation used in preparing the report of the task force. A new paragraph 18 entitled “Future Developments” should therefore be added, reading “Proposals for future changes to this framework should be made available by the International Bureau for comment by interested parties prior to their adoption.”

6. *The Working Group is invited to consider the proposals in paragraphs 2 to 5, above.*

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