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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Sixth Session
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PROGRESS REPORT ON PROJECTS FOR ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL
INFORMATION CENTERS, AND OTHER REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
UNDER CHAPTER IV OF THE PCT, BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

prepared by the International Bureau

1. This document relates to developments of interest to the PCT Interim Committee for Technical Assistance (hereinafter referred to as "the Interim Committee") with respect to projects, other than the Brazilian and OAPI Projects, which have occurred since the preparation of the report presented to the Interim Committee at its fifth session (see document PCT/TAS/V/5). With regard to the Brazilian and OAPI Projects, reference is made to documents PCT/TAS/VI/2 and PCT/TAS/VI/3, respectively.
2. The attention of the Interim Committee is drawn to the following projects which could become PCT Technical Assistance Projects, once preparations have developed further.
3. Algeria. The Government of Algeria, in November 1975, requested the assistance of the International Bureau in the preparation of a plan for the modernization of its industrial property legislation and the reorganization of the Algerian Institute for Industrial Property and Standardization (INAPI). Discussions are taking place between the International Bureau and the Algerian authorities concerning the scope of these requests and the timetable, and the financial and other means for meeting them. In April 1976, INAPI expressed its interest in receiving a complete collection of Swiss patent documents and in continuously receiving the newly issued Swiss patent documents as offered by the Swiss Patent Office. The Swiss Patent Office has agreed to provide the said documents. For details see document PCT/TAS/VI/4. INAPI has furthermore requested the assistance of WIPO in a special training program in the field of industrial property for its staff. The International Bureau intends to continue to assist the Government of Algeria in the modernization of its industrial property legislation and, in cooperation with the International Organization for Standardization, in the reorganization of INAPI.
4. Cuba. In response to the request by the Government of Cuba, an expert from the German Patent Office (Munich) provided training in Cuba for a two-week period during

October 1975 on the application of the International Patent Classification (IPC), and gave advice on the classification of search files and on other questions concerning the organization of an industrial property Office. In April 1976, the Government of Cuba requested the assistance of the International Bureau in obtaining an expert to provide further training in the use of the IPC.

5. Nigeria. In April 1976, the Government of Nigeria informed the International Bureau that it had accepted the report on the findings and recommendations made by an evaluation mission, consisting of three officials of the International Bureau who had visited the government authorities of Nigeria in June 1975 and studied the needs of the Nigerian Industrial Property Office (as reported in document PCT/TAS/V/5, page 2). Furthermore, the Government of Nigeria requested the assistance of the International Bureau in the reorganization of the Intellectual Property Office at the Federal Ministry of Trade, including the preparation of an organizational chart and the evaluation of staff and training requirements along the lines recommended in the report of the mission. The proposal of the International Bureau concerning the measures which could be taken to meet this request, including the sending of experts and the preparation of a project to give effect to the long-term recommendations made in the report, were communicated to the government authorities of Nigeria in April 1976.

6. Zaire. In December 1975, the Government of Zaire requested the assistance of the International Bureau in the modernization of its industrial property legislation and the administration of its national industrial property office, in the training of personnel and in the dissemination of information to industry and to the public on the usefulness of industrial property. Steps have been taken by the International Bureau to establish a training program during 1976 for two government officials. Discussions took place between the International Bureau and the government authorities of Zaire by correspondence and also during a visit by an official of the International Bureau to Zaire in January 1976 and during the presence of a government official of Zaire in Geneva in May/June 1976.

7. English-Speaking Countries in Africa. The Conference on Industrial Property Laws of English-Speaking Africa, which was convened jointly by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and WIPO in Addis Ababa in June 1974, established a Committee for Patent Matters and a Committee for Trademark and Industrial Design Matters. These two Committees held their first sessions in October 1975 at Nairobi, Kenya. Of the 18 States invited, nine sent delegations to take part in the work of the Committees: Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda and Zambia. The delegations expressed the favorable attitude of their Governments to the draft Agreement on the Creation of an Industrial Property Organization for English-Speaking Africa which the Conference held at Addis Ababa had approved for consideration, and recommended the convening in December 1976 of a Diplomatic Conference for the adoption and signature of such an Agreement.

8. The two Committees recommended that independent patent and trademark systems should be established where they did not yet exist, that national patent and trademark laws should be modernized and harmonized, that such harmonization should be accomplished through the preparation of model provisions which should form the basis of national legislation, and that, in order to promote regional cooperation, a regional office should be established to assist the cooperating countries in implementing their national legislation, training personnel, giving advice on existing technology through the creation of a patent documentation center and assisting in the examination of trademark applications. The two Committees invited WIPO, in consultation with the ECA, to prepare a full draft of the model provisions referred to above, to undertake a feasibility study with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and to take other necessary steps with a view to the establishment of the proposed regional office. Finally, the Committee for Patent Matters recommended that all countries should accede as soon as possible to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and, where they had not done so, should, at a first step, accede to the Paris

Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.

9. Pursuant to the recommendations referred to above, the Director General and the Executive Secretary of the ECA have made arrangements to convene a Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of an Agreement on the Creation of an Industrial Property Organization for English-Speaking Africa, to be held from December 6 to 9, 1976, and working sessions of the Conference on Industrial Property Laws of English-Speaking Africa as well as its Committee for Patent Matters and its Committee for Trademark and Industrial Design Matters, to be held from December 8 to 17, 1976, in Lusaka, Zambia.

10. As proposed by WIPO to UNDP on the basis of the above-mentioned resolution, the draft Second Regional Programme (1977-1981) for Africa of UNDP includes a project for the creation of a regional patent documentation center for the countries of English-Speaking Africa. The said draft Regional Programme, which includes also the projects which may be retained for implementation and for financing in 1977, will be submitted to the Governing Council of UNDP at its January 1977 session.

11. Industrial Development Centre for Arab States (IDCAS). Further discussions took place in Geneva in May 1976 between the International Bureau and IDCAS on the feasibility and the ways and means of establishing, under the aegis of IDCAS, a patent documentation and information service for Arab States.

12. *The Interim Committee is invited to take note of this report and to give its advice, if any, concerning the activities referred to above.*

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