

Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Working Group

**Eleventh Session
Geneva, June 18 to 22, 2018**

LANGUAGES OF INTERPRETATION IN THE PCT WORKING GROUP

Document prepared by the International Bureau

1. On October 10, 2017, the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China, in a letter addressed to the International Bureau, requested the provision of Chinese interpretation at the PCT Working Group in the following terms:

“SIPO always attaches great importance to PCT system and its utilization in China. In the last few years, China has been always among the biggest users of the Patent Cooperation Treaty. In 2016, China ranked third in the number of applications with a remarkable growth of 44.7 per cent. With the rapid development of the PCT application, China has huge desire to exchange views and discuss in depth on the PCT related matters in the PCT Working Group meeting. So it will be definitely necessary and helpful that Chinese can be taken into account as the working language in this meeting.”

2. The WIPO language policy leaves the matter of interpretation at meetings other than the main bodies, like the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and the Standing Committees, as decisions for the individual bodies concerned, subject to the availability of funds. The International Bureau observes that the respective Working Groups for the Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems have already decided to provide interpretation in the six United Nations languages. For recent sessions, the PCT Working Group has provided documents in six languages, but interpretation between only English, French and Spanish. The present session has exceptionally been provided with six language interpretation and it is proposed that this regime be formally extended to all future sessions of the Working Group, subject to the availability of funds.

3. The additional cost to provide for interpretation in Arabic, Chinese and Russian compared to three language interpretation is 45,000 Swiss francs per session. This amount was provided for in Program 5 of the 2018-19 Program and Budget, as approved by Member States at the WIPO Assemblies in October 2017. Consequently, the funding is available for this biennium, should the Working Group approve the proposal.

4. The Working Group is invited to agree that future sessions of the Working Group be provided with interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations, subject to the availability of funding.

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