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**SCP/35/9**  
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## Standing Committee on the Law of Patents

**Thirty-Fifth Session**  
**Geneva, October 16 to 20, 2023**

### REVIEW OF THE REGULAR UPDATES ON THE INITIATIVES ON PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DATABASES OF PATENT STATUS INFORMATION CONCERNING MEDICINES AND VACCINES

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. At its twenty-ninth session held in Geneva from December 3 to 6, 2018, the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) decided that it would carry out a work program contained in the proposal by the Delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Switzerland (document SCP/28/10 Rev.)<sup>1</sup> regarding a regular update on publicly accessible databases of patent status information concerning medicines and vaccines.<sup>2</sup> The proposal stated that:

“An update would allow Member States to engage in a constructive discussion on patent information on medicines and vaccines and on the ongoing work in this area. It would also allow Member States to learn about the solutions proposed and to exchange views with the initiatives, such as the MedsPal and Pat-INFORMED and others on possible options to improve their resources and tools.”<sup>3</sup>

2. Consequently, at its thirtieth session, the Committee discussed which initiatives would be invited to provide updates at the subsequent SCP session, and decided that the following initiatives would be invited to the thirty-first session: (i) MedsPal; (ii) Pat-Informed; (iii) Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations

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<sup>1</sup> Available at: [https://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/scp/en/scp\\_28/scp\\_28\\_10\\_rev.pdf](https://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/scp/en/scp_28/scp_28_10_rev.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> See paragraph 22 of document SCP/29/7 (Summary by the Chair), available at: [https://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/scp/en/scp\\_29/scp\\_29\\_7.pdf](https://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/scp/en/scp_29/scp_29_7.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> See document SCP/28/10 Rev., Annex, paragraph 8.

(Orange Book); and (iv) List of Off-Patent, Off-Exclusivity Drugs without an Approved Generic.

3. Since the thirty-first session in 2019, representatives of a number of initiatives that provide patent status information on their publicly accessible databases relating to medicines and vaccines have been invited to the SCP session, and presented the latest information about their databases. The initiatives invited during the period of 2019-2022 are found in Table 1. The presentations made by the representatives are made available on the WIPO's meeting website.<sup>4</sup>

Table 1: Initiatives on Publicly Accessible Databases of Patent Status Information concerning Medicines and Vaccines

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| SCP/31<br>(December 2-5, 2019)    | (i) MedsPaL<br>(ii) Pat-INFORMED<br>(iii) Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations (Orange Book)<br>(iv) List of Off-Patent, Off-Exclusivity Drugs without an Approved Generic |
| SCP/32<br>(December 7-10, 2020)   | Health Canada Patent Register   |
| SCP/33<br>(December 6-9, 2021)    | (i) Pat-INFORMED<br>(ii) MedsPaL and VaxPaL<br>(iii) the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) Pharmaceutical Register  |
| SCP/34<br>(September 26-30, 2022) | China Patent Information Center   |

4. The agreed work program also states that:

“After a period of four SCP sessions, starting from the thirty-first session, Member States will review the proposal on the update and decide whether to extend it.”<sup>5</sup>

Therefore, at the thirty-fifth session of the SCP, Member States are invited to review the proposal contained in document SCP/28/10 Rev. and to decide whether this activity will be extended to future sessions of the SCP.

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<sup>4</sup> See the respective meeting webpage, accessible from [https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/topic.jsp?group\\_id=61](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/topic.jsp?group_id=61).

<sup>5</sup> See document SCP/28/10 Rev., Annex, paragraph 9.