PROPOSAL FOR THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (SCIT)

COMMENTS OF IPAUSTRALIA

Australia generally supports the proposal for the restructuring of SCIT given in
SCIT/RES/1 Rev., and in particular the separation of the IT advisory role from standards
and documentation. Particular comments on the proposal follow

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND
DOCUMENTATION (SCTSD)

While Australia supports the setting up of this committee, it is concerned about its
relationship to other committees within WIPO. Australia considers that:

- The SCTSD should NOT be a committee that reports to the General Assembly;
- The work of the SCTSD should be subsidiary to the work of the SCP, SCT, and the
  various Assemblies. Standards and documentation should be seen as being necessary
  to facilitate developments under the SCP, SCT, and Assemblies. Standards and
  documentation should not be seen as a goal in their own right;
- The SCP, SCT, and the various Assemblies should be able to ask the SCTSD to
  develop or refine standards or documentation; and
- When standards and documentation have been developed, the SCTSD should be
  authorized to promulgate them – subject to subsequent ratification by the relevant
  Committees and/or Assemblies.

ADVISORY GROUP ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Australia considers that member states should not have involvement with the internal IT
infrastructure of WIPO. Australia considers that the role of this group should be limited
to the provision of IT services external to WIPO. The document does not make this
distinction clear.

The success of this group will be dependent upon
(a) being able to attract the attendance of relevant persons from member states; and
(b) ensuring that relevant attention is paid both to the needs of states with advanced IT
    infrastructure and high-volume usage, and the needs of states with poor IT
    infrastructure.
The proposal does not indicate how these success issues might be addressed.

* * * * *