

[English translation by WIPO]

NATIONAL REGISTRY
REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA

Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP)

With reference to the invitation issued through communication C.8076 of December 22, 2011, the Industrial Property Registry of Costa Rica thanks the Delegations of Canada, United Kingdom, Denmark and United States of America for the proposals put forward concerning the subject of “**the quality of patents**”.

It is important to improve examination and search processes and it is also fundamental for examiners to develop and share search strategies. Mechanisms should therefore be sought in order to improve exchange of information, for the purposes of achieving the objectives proposed regarding the quality of patents.

The Patent Office of the Industrial Property Registry has, for the purposes of granting high-quality patents, launched the process of subscription to the Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI) program made available by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and, since 2008, has received support from the Mexican Institute of Industrial Property (IMPI) through its CADOPAT portal.

We consider the questions raised with delegations in the proposal submitted by Denmark, for the purposes of enriching the discussions of the SCP, to be very valuable. Equally, the information shared by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) regarding quality control of its patents is of interest for our Office; it is, however, clear that for offices in countries such as Costa Rica, in which there are few examiners, such quality control becomes a complex issue.

For that reason, the Industrial Property Registry welcomes the proposals put forward, owing to the fact that these proposals will allow the subject to be discussed more comprehensively at the next SCP session.

Further, with regard to the subject of “**patents and health**”, the Industrial Property Registry welcomes the proposal put forward by the Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the African Group and the Development Agenda Group, since this proposal will enable the objectives of the SCP to be achieved, through the preparation of studies, the exchange of information and experience, and the provision of technical assistance.

The Industrial Property Registry is also grateful for the proposal submitted by the Delegation of the United States of America, since that proposal makes clear that not only the patent system has an impact on the availability of medicines. Its proposal containing three elements for a work program complements the proposal submitted by the Delegation of South Africa and will enrich the discussions at the next session of the SCP.