

C. PCT 1691

September 18, 2025

Madam,
Sir,

Extension of Appointment of International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities

This Circular is addressed to your Office in its capacity as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

The appointments of all International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities will expire on December 31, 2027. The process of extending the appointments is set out in PCT Articles 16(3) and 32(3). If an Office or organization wishes to continue operations as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority from 2028, the PCT Assembly must approve the extension of its appointment and approve an agreement between the Office or organization and the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) before the end of 2027. The PCT Assembly must also seek the advice of the PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation before it decides on an extension of appointment, or before it allows the appointment to lapse. As discussed in the PCT Working Group at its eighteenth session in February 2025, the Director General will convene a session of the PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation in February 2026 to provide its advice on the extensions of appointment of each International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority to the PCT Assembly at its next session in July 2026.

./ An application form for International Authorities to complete and submit to the PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation is attached to this Circular in the six UN official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). The application form includes a link to the annual report on the quality management system of your Office requested in Circular C. PCT 1689, dated September 2, 2025, that the International Bureau will insert when the report is published. Section 2.2 of the application form provides the

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option for your Office to indicate that the PCT Minimum Documentation Task Force has certified that the requirements for making available its patent collection to other International Searching Authorities have been met, or to report on the availability of its patent documentation collection and a timetable for testing and being able to certify full availability. If your Office has submitted a notification to the International Bureau under PCT Rule 34.1(d)(i) that its patent collection will be available for consultation by International Searching Authorities, as requested in Circular C. PCT 1690, dated September 9, 2025, the International Bureau will insert a link to the details of the documents concerned as published in the PCT Gazette.

In order to provide adequate time for members of the PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation to review the applications for extension of appointment before the opening of the session, if your Office wishes to continue operations as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority after the end of 2027, you should submit the application form and all required supporting material in electronic format to the International Bureau by December 1, 2025, preferably by email to PCT Business Development Division at pct.bdd@wipo.int.

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Jorgenson
Deputy Director General
Patents and Technology Sector

Enclosure: Application for Extension of Appointment as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority