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**SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION
(IPC UNION)**

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

**Thirty-Third Session
Geneva, October 2 to 10, 2003**

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE REFORMED IPC

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. At its thirty-second session, held in February 2003, the IPC Committee of Experts considered the draft of the Concept of Operations for the Reformed IPC (CONOPS) prepared by the European Patent Office (EPO) in cooperation with the International Bureau (see document IPC/CE/32/12, paragraphs 71 to 82). The Committee approved in principle the contents of CONOPS, but felt that certain parts of it could be further specified and additional details introduced.
2. The Committee requested the EPO to submit an updated draft of CONOPS on the basis of the initial text and remarks made during the session.
3. The updated draft of CONOPS prepared by the EPO (see document IPC/CE/33/6, Annex I) was further discussed at the meeting of the EPO with its Member States, held on August 27, 2003, and at the meeting of the Trilateral Working Group on Classification, held from September 8 to 12, 2003. Further amendments to the text of CONOPS were made at those meetings.

4. The Annex to this document contains a final text of CONOPS incorporating all the changes made compared with the document IPC/CE/32/7 which was under consideration by the Committee of Experts at its thirty-second session. Additions to the text are indicated by underlining, and deletions are indicated by striking out.

5. The Committee of Experts is invited to adopt the Concept of Operations for the Reformed IPC.

[Annex follows]