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## **Special Union for the International Patent Classification (IPC Union) IPC Revision Working Group**

**Thirty-Fifth Session  
Geneva, April 11 to 15, 2016**

### **REPORT**

*adopted by the Working Group*

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its thirty-fifth session in Geneva from April 11 to 15, 2016. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Australia, Canada, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), the European Patent Office (EPO) (23). The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. A. Farassopoulos, Director, International Classifications and Standards Division.

### **OFFICERS**

3. The Working Group unanimously elected Mr. O. Steinkellner (Germany) as Chair and Mr. B. Tisthammer (Norway) as Vice-Chair for 2016.

4. Mrs. N. Xu (WIPO) acted as Secretary of the session.

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Working Group unanimously adopted the agenda, with one minor modification, which appears as Annex II to this report.

## DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

6. As decided by the Governing Bodies of WIPO at their tenth series of meetings held from September 24 to October 2, 1979 (see document AB/X/32, paragraphs 51 and 52), the report of this session reflects only the conclusions of the Working Group (decisions, recommendations, opinions, etc.) and does not, in particular, reflect the statements made by any participant, except where a reservation in relation to any specific conclusion of the Working Group was expressed or repeated after the conclusion was reached.

## REPORT ON THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE IPC COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

7. The Secretariat presented an oral report on the forty-eighth session of the IPC Committee of Experts (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") (see document IPC/CE/48/2).

8. The Working Group noted that, in response to its request, the Committee decided to establish an Experts Group to consider how to solve the problem of semiconductor-related technology in subclass H01L. Ten offices volunteered to participate therein and the EPO was appointed as leading office. The Committee invited the members of the Experts Group to review the semiconductor technology-related areas throughout the IPC and to prepare a report to the Working Group at an appropriate time, taking into account the current classification practice at IP offices and minimizing the required reclassification workload.

9. It was noted that the Committee further adopted amendments to the *Guide to the IPC* (hereinafter referred to as the *Guide*) and the Guidelines for Revision of the IPC (hereinafter referred to as the Guidelines). With respect to the application of indicator "C" and new version indicators, the Committee invited the International Bureau to prepare a proposal for necessary amendments to the *Guide* and to the Guidelines.

10. The Working Group further noted that the expected target of the handover of the Working Lists management from the EPO to WIPO was the creation of IPC 2018.01 Working Lists by the International Bureau in September 2017.

## REPORT ON THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE IP5 WG1-WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION

11. The Working Group noted an oral report by the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) on behalf of the FiveIPOffices.

12. The Working Group noted that during the fourteenth session of the IP5 WG1, the FiveIPOffices agreed to promote eight F-projects to the IPC phase, namely: [F 039](#), [F 046](#), [F 052](#), [F 058](#), [F 063](#), F 064, [F 065](#) and [F 069](#).

13. The Working Group further noted that KIPO, on behalf of the FiveIPOffices, had posted, to the IPC e-forum (hereinafter referred to as e-forum) under project [CE 456](#), a list of all ongoing IP5 projects (F-projects) and proposals (P-proposals), in order to avoid overlap between the IPC revision requests and the IP5 ongoing revision activities.

## IPC REVISION PROGRAM

14. The Working Group discussed 32 revision projects, namely: [C 469](#), [C 471](#), [C 474](#), [C 476](#), [C 478](#), [C 479](#), [C 481](#), [C 482](#), [C 483](#), [C 484](#), [C 485](#), [F 008](#), [F 024](#), [F 030](#), [F 032](#), [F 033](#), [F 034](#), [F 035](#), [F 038](#), [F 041](#), [F 043](#), [F 044](#), [F 045](#), [F 047](#), [F 051](#), [F 054](#), [F 055](#), [F 056](#), [F 057](#), [F 060](#), [F 061](#) and [F 062](#).

15. The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum. All decisions, observations and technical annexes are available in the “Working Group Decision” Annexes of the corresponding projects on the e-forum.

16. Rapporteurs of revision projects were reminded to review systematically the references in the revised areas of the revision projects and to provide proposals for removal of non-limiting references from the scheme if any, as well as to provide definitions where needed (see Annex VII to document IPC/CE/47/2).

17. The Secretariat indicated that an updated table summarizing the status of the removal of NRLs from the scheme would be posted to project file [WG 191](#).

## IPC DEFINITIONS PROGRAM

18. The Working Group discussed seven definition projects, namely: [D 271](#), [D 228](#), [D 305](#), [D 306](#), [D 307](#), [D 308](#) and [D 309](#).

19. The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum. All decisions, observations and technical annexes are available in the “Working Group Decision” Annexes of the corresponding projects on the e-forum. The Working Group completed four definition projects, which would be published with the IPC 2017.01 version.

## IPC MAINTENANCE

20. The Working Group discussed 14 maintenance projects, namely: [M 613](#), [M 751](#), [M 755](#), [M 756](#), [M 757](#), [M 758](#), [M 760](#), [M 761](#), [M 762](#), [M 763](#), [M 764](#), [M 765](#), [M 766](#) and [M 767](#).

21. The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum. All decisions, observations and technical annexes are available in the “Working Group Decision” Annexes of the corresponding projects on the e-forum.

22. The Working Group agreed to create five new maintenance projects as follows:

Mechanical: [M 770](#) (E05B, Germany) – originating from project [C 485](#);

Chemical: [M 769](#) (D06, Japan) – originating from project [F 030](#); and  
[M 772](#) (B01J, Japan) – originating from project [F 057](#);

Electrical: [M 768](#) (United States of America) – originating from project [F045](#); and

Technology-independent: [M 771](#) (EPO) – originating from project [M 755](#).

## UPDATES ON IPC-RELATED IT SUPPORT

23. The Working Group noted a short presentation by the International Bureau on the status of the various IT systems and projects supporting the IPC.

24. The Working Group was informed about the implementation status of the upgrade of the IPC publication platform (IPCPUB 7) and was provided with a live demonstration on the most recently implemented features of the IPCPUB 7.

25. The Working Group was also informed that the migration to named login authentication for WIPO IPC-related applications would be expected to be completed during the second quarter of 2016.

## NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

26. The Working Group, having assessed the workload expected for its next session, agreed to devote Monday and Tuesday morning to the mechanical field, Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning to the chemical field and Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday to the electrical field.

27. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its thirty-sixth session:

October 31 to November 4, 2016.

*28. This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on April 29, 2016.*

[Annexes follow]