

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

**Thirty-Ninth Session  
Geneva, April 23 to 27, 2018**

### **REPORT**

*adopted by the Working Group*

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its thirty-ninth session in Geneva from April 23 to 27, 2018. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), European Patent Office (EPO) (23). Hungary was represented as observer. European Law Students’ Association (ELSA International) was represented. The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. K. Fushimi, Director, International Classifications and Standards Division.

### **OFFICERS**

3. The Working Group unanimously elected Mr. F. Brady (Ireland) as Chair and Ms. Y. Nguyen (United States of America) as Vice-Chair for 2018.

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

### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

5. The Working Group unanimously adopted the revised agenda, with minor amendments, 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 FIFTIETH SESSION OF THE IPC COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

7. The Working Group noted an oral report by the Secretariat on the fiftieth session of the IPC Committee of Experts (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") (see document IPC/CE/50/2).

8. The Working Group noted that the Committee agreed that the International Bureau would update the IPC symbols listed in the IPC Green Inventory each time a new version of the IPC enters into force.

9. It was also noted that the Committee decided to establish an Experts Group to consider the need for a new universal indexing/tagging scheme in the IPC covering cross-cutting technologies.

10. The Working Group further noted that the Committee adopted amendments to the *Guide to the IPC* and the Guidelines for Revision of the IPC (hereinafter referred to as the "the Guidelines"), for example, in the Guidelines, to include a new Appendix VII concerning "Guidelines for Converting Existing Classification Schemes to the IPC".

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

11. The Working Group noted an oral report by the USPTO on behalf of the FiveIPOffices.

12. It was noted that during the eighteenth session of the IP5 WG1 the IP5 offices agreed to promote four IP5 projects (F projects) to the IPC phase.

13. The Working Group further noted that the USPTO, on behalf of the FiveIPOffices, had posted, to the IPC e-forum (hereinafter referred to as the "e-forum") under project [CE 456](#) (see Annex 23 to project file), a list of all ongoing IP5 projects and 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 42 revision projects, namely: [C 487](#), [C 488](#), [C 489](#), [C 490](#), [C 491](#), [C 492](#), [F 044](#), [F 048](#), [F 050](#), [F 053](#), [F 055](#), [F 059](#), [F 061](#), [F 062](#), [F 065](#), [F 067](#), [F 068](#), [F 070](#), [F 073](#), [F 077](#), [F 078](#), [F 079](#), [F 081](#), [F 083](#), [F 084](#), [F 085](#), [F 086](#), [F 087](#), [F 088](#), [F 089](#), [F 090](#), [F 091](#), [F 092](#), [F 093](#), [F 094](#), [F 096](#), [F 097](#), [F 098](#), [F 099](#), [F 100](#), [F 102](#) and [F 118](#).

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 (NLRs) from the scheme if any, together with the revision proposal, as well as to provide definitions where needed (see Annex VII to document IPC/CE/47/2).

17. The Working Group would like to draw special attention of offices to paragraphs 14 to 16 of the Guidelines when carrying out the task of removal of NLRs, in order to decide whether the precedence references should be replaced by scope-limitation references.

18. The Working Group recalled its decision at the thirty-sixth session concerning the procedure on the use of the IPCRMS and the e-forum, and strongly encouraged offices to start using the IPCRMS following the agreed procedures (see Annex III to document IPC/WG/36/2). The Working Group also invited the International Bureau to apply the deadlines for actions on the e-forum to be followed by offices in a strict manner in order to assure effective and efficient discussions during the physical Working Group sessions. Rapporteurs, as well as commenting offices, were strongly requested to respect the deadlines for actions for their rapporteur reports, proposals and comments. In particular, Rapporteurs were invited to prepare rapporteur reports within the deadlines and to decide to take into account only those comments that have been submitted within the deadlines.

### **IPC DEFINITIONS PROGRAM**

19. The Working Group discussed two definition projects, namely: [D 310](#) and [D 311](#).

20. 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.

### **IPC MAINTENANCE**

21. The Working Group discussed nine maintenance projects, namely: [M 615](#), [M 618](#), [M 622](#), [M 769](#), [M 779](#), [M 781](#), [M 783](#), [M 786](#) and [M 788](#).

22. 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.

23. The Working Group repeated its invitation to Offices to initiate proposals for the removal of NLRs from the scheme on a voluntary basis under maintenance projects (M 200 to M 500). Volunteering offices were invited to inform the International Bureau about the subclasses where they intended to carry out the task for the removal of NLRs in order to allow the creation of the corresponding maintenance projects on the e-forum (see Annex VII to document IPC/CE/47/2). The International Bureau would then set up deadlines for actions on the e-forum for two rounds of comments before their final approvals.

24. While carrying out the task of removal of NLRs, the recommendation of the Working Group on the treatment of precedence references should be followed (see paragraph 17 above), bearing in mind that no reclassification should be involved therefrom within the scope of those maintenance projects mentioned in above paragraph 22.

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

26. The Working Group agreed to create two new maintenance projects as follows:

Electrical: M 789 (H01R, EPO) – originating from project [F 055](#).

Chemical: M 790 (C12G, Sweden) – originating from project [F 078](#).

## UPDATES ON IPC-RELATED IT SUPPORT

27. The Working Group noted a short [presentation](#) by the International Bureau on the updates of various IT systems and projects supporting the IPC.
28. The Working Group was informed about the status of the IPCWLM project. The requirements clarification phase was expected to be completed at the end of June 2018 and implementation schedule could be confirmed at that time.
29. The Working Group was also informed that the possibility to submit reclassification result files by email would be discontinued from July 1, 2018, while the possibility to upload corresponding files would be preserved inside IPCRECLASS and later in IPCWLMS.
30. The International Bureau announced that as requested by the IPCWLM Task Force a first version of Working List simulation report specifications was ready for electronic comments and approval.
31. The International Bureau also informed about promising results achieved on prototyping IPCCAT cross-lingual and of the availability of a new dataset of 50 million excerpts of patent documents classified in the IPC, as incentive for research and development in the field of Artificial Intelligence, applied to automatic text categorization in the IPC.
32. As several offices offered oral suggestions for changes to the e-forum, IPCRMS and IPCPUB which should be formulated in concerned projects of the e-forum for further consideration, the International Bureau reminded that, as indicated during the fiftieth session of the Committee in 2018, its resources were essentially dedicated to the IPCWLM project.

## NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

33. The Working Group, having assessed the workload expected for its next session, agreed to devote Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning to the electrical field; Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning to the chemical field and Thursday afternoon and Friday to the mechanical field.
34. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its fortieth session:

November 12 to 16, 2018.

*35. This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on May 24, 2018.*

[Annexes follow]