

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

**Fortieth Session  
Geneva, November 12 to 16, 2018**

### **REPORT**

*adopted by the Working Group*

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its fortieth session in Geneva from November 12 to 16, 2018. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and the European Patent Office (EPO) (20). Hungary, Singapore and the Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC Patent Office) were represented as observers. 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 (WIPO).

### **OFFICERS**

3. Ms. Y. Nguyen (United States of America), Vice-Chair, presided the session as Acting Chair in the absence of Mr. F. Brady (Ireland), Chair.

4. Mr. R. Marcok (WIPO) acted as Secretary of the session.

### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

5. The Working Group unanimously adopted the revised agenda, 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 VIRTUAL TECHNICAL SESSION OF THE IP5 WG1-WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION

7. The Working Group noted an oral report by the Republic of Korea on behalf of the FiveIPOffices (IP5).

8. It was noted that, during the first Virtual Technical Session of the IP5 WG1, the IP5 offices agreed to promote 18 IP5 projects (F projects) to the IPC phase, namely: F 071, F 072, F 074, F 075, F 076, F 082, F 095, F 106, F 108, F 109, F 110, F 111, F 113, F 115, F 117, F 123, F 124 and F 125.

9. The Working Group further noted that the KIPO, on behalf of the IP5 offices, would post, to the IPC e-forum (hereinafter referred to as the “e-forum”) under project CE 456, 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

10. The Working Group discussed 33 revision projects, namely: [C 488](#), [C 490](#), [C 492](#), [C 493](#), [C 494](#), [C 495](#), [F 044](#), [F 048](#), [F 050](#), [F 059](#), [F 061](#), [F 067](#), [F 068](#), [F 070](#), [F 078](#), [F 081](#), [F 082](#), [F 083](#), [F 087](#), [F 088](#), [F 089](#), [F 090](#), [F 092](#), [F 094](#), [F 097](#), [F 098](#), [F 099](#), [F 100](#), [F 101](#), [F 103](#), [F 105](#), [F 112](#) and [F 124](#).

11. 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.

12. 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).

13. 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.

14. 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.

## IPC DEFINITIONS PROGRAM

15. The Working Group discussed two definition projects, namely: [D 310](#) and [D 311](#).
16. 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.
17. The Working Group agreed to create one new definitions project as follows:  
Chemistry: D 312 (C09J, EPO) – originating from project [M 623](#) (see Annex 3).

## IPC MAINTENANCE

18. The Working Group discussed seven maintenance projects, namely [M 622](#), [M 623](#), [M 625](#), [M 769](#), [M 786](#), [M 789](#) and [M 790](#).
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.
20. 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 approval.
21. The Working Group agreed that the procedure to be applied to the maintenance projects mentioned in paragraph 20, above, would need further clarification, particularly in terms of decisions on the amendments proposed in the said maintenance projects (see paragraph 9 of Annex VII to document IPC/CE/47/2).
22. The Working Group noted that the International Bureau would submit a proposal to clarify the procedure referred to in paragraph 21, above, for the consideration of the IPC Committee of Experts at its next session, in particular how the Working Group would be notified about the completion of the maintenance projects concerned.
23. 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 13, above), bearing in mind that no reclassification should be involved therefrom within the scope of those maintenance projects mentioned in paragraph 20, above.
24. 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](#).

## UPDATES ON IPC-RELATED IT SUPPORT

25. The Working Group noted a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat on the status update of the various IT systems and projects supporting the IPC.
26. The Working Group was informed about the status of the IPCWLM project. The requirements clarification phase was completed in October 2018. IPCWLMS implementation started in November 2018 for an expected first production use in the fourth quarter 2019 for IPC-2020.01 reclassification.

27. The Working Group was also informed about tentative periods of time for the involvement of volunteering offices in IPCWLMS testing as well as of the tentative IPC reclassification freeze period which will allow transition from IPCRECLASS to IPCWLMS.

28. The International Bureau also informed the Working Group about preliminary conclusions of the IPCCAT-neural cross-lingual prototyping which was just completed.

29. The Working Group was reminded the ongoing survey on the IPC-related IT tools to collect feedback from users on IPCRMS and IPCCAT to make them more attractive and useful. The deadline for submitting the feedback was extended by November 30, 2018 (see project CE 509).

#### **NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP**

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

31. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its forty-first session:

May 13 to 17, 2019.

*32. This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on December 17, 2018*

[Annexes follow]