

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

**Forty-Seventh Session  
Geneva, May 9 to 13, 2022**

### **REPORT**

*adopted by the Working Group*

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its forty-seventh session in Geneva from May 9 to 13, 2022. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO), the European Patent Office (EPO) (27). Hungary, India and Singapore were represented as observers. The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. O. Steinkellner, Chair of the Working Group.

3. Mr. K. Natsume, Assistant Director General, Infrastructure and Platforms Sector, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), welcomed the participants.

### **OFFICERS**

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 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 FIFTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE IPC COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS**

7. The Working Group noted an oral report by the Secretariat on the fifty-third session of the IPC Committee of Experts (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) (see document IPC/CE/53/2).

8. The Working Group noted that the Committee expressed its great satisfaction with the revision work achieved by the Working Group, in particular, during the past years of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Committee encouraged offices to actively participate in the IPC Revision Program, in particular by submitting revision requests under the IPC Revision Roadmap and under the new emerging technologies.

9. The Working Group also noted that the Committee agreed to instruct the Working Group to consider an improved and better-balanced working manner between its yearly sessions, with respect to the completion of the number of “big” revision projects, for example, by applying a case-by-case approach, in coordination among Rapporteurs, the International Bureau, as Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) owners, the EPO and the United States of America.

10. It was noted that the Committee also discussed possible format for the future Working Group meetings and emphasized the importance of physical participation to help solve complex issues, promote an efficient exchange of views and provide the opportunity for necessary informal discussions during the break, while also supporting the continuous possibility of remote participation to allow wider participation. The Committee also addressed the importance of the intensified use of the IPC e-forum in combination with the hybrid format of the Working Group meetings.

11. It was further noted that the Committee extended its gratitude to the EPO, the leading Office and all of the member Offices of the Expert Group on Semiconductor Technologies (EGST), for the tremendous work so far, in particular, with respect to the launching of the first batch of C projects at the IPC e-forum, as well as during the past years of the Covid-19 pandemic.

12. The Working Group further noted that the Committee adopted amendments to the Guide to the IPC and the Guidelines for Revision of the IPC and, in particular, decided that the use of marks in the IPC should be avoided as far as possible and modified paragraph 29 of the Guidelines accordingly.

## **REPORT ON THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE IP5 WG1-WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION**

13. The Working Group noted an oral report by the Japan Patent Office (JPO), on behalf of the five IP Offices (hereinafter referred to as “the IP5 Offices”), on the twenty-second session of the IP5 Working Group on Classification (IP5 WG1).

14. It was noted that, during the twenty-second session of the IP5 WG1, the IP5 Offices agreed to promote four IP5 projects (F projects) to the IPC phase. The JPO, on behalf of the IP5 Offices, had posted to the e-forum under project [CE 456](#), the updated lists of all ongoing IP5 projects and proposals (see Annex 39 to project file) in order to avoid overlap between the IPC revision requests and the IP5 ongoing revision activities.

15. The Committee further noted that the IP5 Offices discussed the initiative for classification on New Emerging Technology and Artificial Intelligence (NET/AI) related technologies.

### **IPC REVISION PROGRAM**

16. The Working Group discussed 31 revision projects, namely: [C 505](#), [C 508](#), [C 509](#), [C 510](#), [C 511](#), [C 512](#), [C 513](#), [C 520](#), [C 521](#), [C 522](#), [C 523](#), [C 524](#), [F 071](#), [F 082](#), [F 089](#), [F 122](#), [F 138](#), [F 141](#), [F 142](#), [F 143](#), [F 149](#), [F 151](#), [F 152](#), [F 156](#), [F 157](#), [F 158](#), [F 159](#), [F 161](#), [F 162](#), [F 163](#) and [F 164](#)

17. 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.

18. The Working Group approved 21 revision projects, six of which were completed with respect to scheme amendments, and definition amendments if any namely projects [C 521](#), [F 151](#), [F 152](#), [F 159](#), [F 161](#) and [F 162](#), for which both the scheme and definition amendments would enter into force in IPC 2023.01, while 11 of which were completed with respect to scheme amendments only, namely projects [C 505](#), [C 508](#), [C 509](#), [C 510](#), [C 511](#), [C 512](#), [C 513](#), [F 138](#), [F 141](#), [F 156](#) and [F 164](#), which would enter into force in IPC 2023.01. Meanwhile, four out of 21 projects were completed with respect to definitions to be integrated into IPC 2023.01, namely projects [F 071](#), [F 089](#), [F 122](#) and [F 149](#), while scheme amendments had been completed by the Working Group in its previous sessions.

19. The Working Group congratulated the EGST on the final approval of the scheme amendments of the first batch of semiconductor-related projects, namely [C 510](#), [C 511](#), [C 512](#) and [C 513](#) and their integration into IPC 2023.01. The Working Group expressed its gratitude to the EPO, the leading office of the EGST, and all member offices of EGST for the great effort made so far, as well as to offices for their active participation in the discussion of those projects. The Working Group looked forward to receiving the next batch of revision projects from the EGST soon.

### **IPC MAINTENANCE**

20. The Working Group discussed 12 maintenance projects, namely: [M 627](#), [M 633](#), [M 634](#), [M 811](#), [M 812](#), [M 814](#), [M 815](#), [M 817](#), [M 818](#), [M 819](#), [M 820](#) and [M 821](#).

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 completed eight maintenance projects with respect to either scheme or definition amendments, which would be integrated into IPC 2023.01, namely [M 627](#), [M 633](#), [M 634](#), [M 811](#), [M 818](#), [M 819](#), [M 820](#) and [M 821](#).

23. The Working Group agreed to create seven new maintenance projects, namely:

Chemical: M 822 (A23B, A23C, A23L, Rapporteur - EPO) – originating from project [M 812](#);

M 823 (B01J, Rapporteur - EPO) – originating from project [C 520](#);

Electrical: M 824 (H01M, Rapporteur - EPO) – originating from project [F 082](#);

M 826 (G03B, H04N, Rapporteur - United Kingdom) – originating from project [C 505](#);

M 827 (G10L, Rapporteur - Germany) – originating from project [M 633](#);

M 828 (G01K and G01M, Rapporteur – Canada) – originating from project [M 633](#); and

T-independent: M 825 (Rapporteur - Ireland) – originating from project [C 510](#).

### **STATUS OF REMOVAL OF NON-LIMITING REFERENCES (NLRs) WITHIN M 200 TO M 500 PROJECTS**

24. Discussions were based on a status report prepared by the International Bureau concerning maintenance projects for removal of NLRs for the scheme of the IPC (see Annex 42 to project file [WG 191](#)).

25. The Working Group noted that, among the 23 active projects, agreement had been achieved for the following 12 projects during discussions on the e-forum and that these projects could be considered completed. The corresponding amendments to the scheme and definitions would thus be included in IPC 2023.01.

<a href="#">M 223</a>	Removal of NLRs in subclass B01L (Rapporteur - US)
<a href="#">M 241</a>	Removal of NLRs in subclass B03C (Rapporteur - US)
<a href="#">M 242</a>	Removal of NLRs in subclass C09C (Rapporteur - US)
<a href="#">M 243</a>	Removal of NLRs in subclass C23C (Rapporteur - US)
<a href="#">M 244</a>	Removal of NLRs in subclass D01C (Rapporteur - US)
<a href="#">M 254</a>	Removal of NLRs in subclass H02B (Rapporteur - US)
<a href="#">M 255</a>	Removal of NLRs in subclass H02G (Rapporteur - US)
<a href="#">M 257</a>	Removal of NLRs in subclass E04H (Rapporteur - US)
<a href="#">M 258</a>	Removal of NLRs in class A41 (Rapporteur - US)
<a href="#">M 260</a>	Removal of NLRs in subclass G10H (Rapporteur - US)
<a href="#">M 261</a>	Removal of NLRs in subclass G10K (Rapporteur - US)
<a href="#">M 266</a>	Removal of NLRs in subclass A21C (Rapporteur - IL).

26. The Working Group noted, with gratitude, that the United Kingdom and Sweden volunteered to be Rapporteurs for the removal of NLRs respectively in subclass B64G and all subclasses under classes F22 and F27, namely projects M 267 (B64G, Rapporteur - GB), M 268 (F22, Rapporteur - SE) and M 269 (F27, Rapporteur - SE).

27. 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](#).

**NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP**

28. The Working Group, having assessed the workload expected for its next session, agreed to devote the first two and a half days to the electrical field, the following afternoon and the next morning to the chemical field and the last one and a half days to the mechanical field.

29. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its forty-eighth session:

November 7 to 11, 2022

*30. This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on June 3, 2022.*

[Annexes follow]