

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

Fifty-Third Session
Geneva, May 12 to 16, 2025

REPORT

adopted by the Working Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its fifty-third session in Geneva from May 12 to 16, 2025. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uzbekistan, European Patent Office (EPO) (31). Hungary, India, and Maloca Internationale 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, Infrastructure and Platforms Sector, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), who welcomed the participants.

OFFICERS

3. Ms. A. Merle-Gamez (EPO) acted as Chair and Ms. N. Beauchemin (Canada) as Vice Chair for the IPC revision cycle of 2024-2025.

4. Mrs. N. Xu (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 FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE IPC COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

7. The Working Group noted an oral report by the Secretariat on the fifty-sixth session of the IPC Committee of Experts (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) (see document IPC/CE/56/2).

8. The Working Group was informed that the Committee expressed great satisfaction and appreciation with the work achieved by the Working Group in 2024. The Committee encouraged broader participation by offices in the IPC revision with a particular focus on the IPC Revision Roadmap and its integration of New Emerging Technologies (NETs).

9. The Committee provided certain recommendations in different aspects, such as: inviting the International Bureau to also integrate statistical information for deleted entries in its next progress status report to the Committee to reflect a complete overall picture of the IPC revision; inviting the Working Group to carefully apply electronic approvals for revision projects, for example, only in special circumstances, as well as reviewing the terminology used in the Working Group Decision text to avoid ambiguity; and recommending holding the spring session of the Working Group earlier, preferably in the second half of April or the very beginning of May, to allow enough time for preparing the early publication of the IPC.

10. It was informed that, having noted that the EGST had almost accomplished all its objectives by creating class H10 and its seven subclasses, the last two subclasses targeting for IPC 2026.01, which would make a significant milestone, the Committee expressed its deep and sincere appreciation to all the EGST members and, in particular, to the EPO, the leading office of the EGST, for their invaluable dedication and contributions, as well as the remarkable outcomes over the past years. It was also noted that a potential closing of project [CE 481](#) was foreseen for its next session.

11. The Working Group was informed that the current practice for revising NETs using the existing IPC template should be maintained, and the International Bureau would ensure their visibility on the IPC e-forum. Discussions on establishing objective identification criteria for NETs will continue under project [CE 551](#), taking into account the concerns expressed on the value of developing detailed criteria for identifying NETs, as such criteria would be non-binding.

12. The Working Group noted an important decision made by the Committee concerning the reclassification of backfiles for legacy versions of the IPC, i.e. to apply default transfers on the remaining un-reclassified backfiles for IPC versions 2009.01 to 2015.01 to improve search efficiency and reduce the backlog. Furthermore, a task force was established to review the current and future reclassification challenges, to address reclassification issues and propose immediate and long-term solutions.

13. It was noted that the Committee further decided on certain modifications to the Guide to the IPC and the Guidelines for Revision of the IPC, which have been published by the International Bureau on the WIPO IPC website as Version 2025.

REPORT ON THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE IP5 WG1-WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION

14. The Working Group noted an oral report by the Republic of Korea on behalf of the FiveIPOffices (hereinafter referred to as “the IP5 Offices”) on the twenty-eighth session of the IP5 Working Group on Classification (IP5 WG1).

15. The IP5 Offices agreed to promote nine IP5 projects (F projects) to the IPC phase, namely projects [F 192](#), [F 193](#), [F 197](#), [F 199](#), [F 201](#), [F 202](#), [F 204](#), [F 206](#) and [F 208](#), four of which were from the IPC Revision Roadmap candidate areas, while two of which were considered as NETs-related.

16. It was noted that the KIPO, on behalf of the IP5 Offices, had posted to the IPC e-forum, under project [CE 456](#), the updated lists of all ongoing IP5 projects and proposals (see Annex 51 to project file) to avoid overlapping between the IPC revision requests and the IP5 ongoing revision activities.

IPC REVISION PROGRAM

17. The Working Group discussed 41 revision projects, namely: projects: [C 510](#), [C 517](#), [C 518](#), [C 519](#), [C 529](#), [C 530](#), [C 531](#), [C 532](#), [C 533](#), [C 534](#), [C 535](#), [C 536](#), [C 537](#), [C 538](#), [C 539](#), [C 540](#), [C 541](#), [C 542](#), [F 140](#), [F 148](#), [F 180](#), [F 185](#), [F 186](#), [F 189](#), [F 190](#), [F 192](#), [F 193](#), [F 194](#), [F 195](#), [F 196](#), [F 197](#), [F 198](#), [F 199](#), [F 200](#), [F 201](#), [F 202](#), [F 203](#), [F 204](#), [F 205](#), [F 206](#) and [F 208](#).

18. The Working Group approved 24 revision projects, one of which was approved and completed with respect to scheme and definition amendments, namely project [C 535](#), for which both the scheme and definition amendments would enter into force in IPC 2026.01, while six out of 24 were approved and completed with respect to scheme amendments only, while it was confirmed that no definitions were needed, namely projects [C 519](#), [C 534](#), [F 197](#), [F 202](#), [F 203](#) and [F 205](#), which scheme amendments would enter into force in IPC 2026.01. In addition, 12 out of 24 projects were approved with respect to scheme amendments only, namely projects [C 517](#), [C 518](#), [C 529](#), [C 530](#), [C 531](#), [C 540](#), [F 140](#), [F 190](#), [F 194](#), [F 196](#), [F 198](#) and [F 200](#), which would enter into force in IPC 2026.01. Meanwhile, three out of 24 projects were completed with respect only to definitions, which would be integrated into IPC 2026.01, namely projects [C 532](#), [C 533](#) and [F 180](#), while their scheme amendments had been completed by the Working Group at its previous sessions. The Working Group approved the scheme and definition amendments for project [C 510](#), as well as for project [F 185](#) resulting from the removal of non-limiting references (NRLs) from subclass B23K. All amendments for these two projects would enter into force in IPC 2026.01.

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 agreed to create the following three new revision projects, resulting from existing revision and maintenance projects, namely:

Chemistry: [C 544](#) (Rapporteur – EPO) – originating from project [F 203](#);

Electricity: [C 545](#) (Rapporteur – EPO) – originating from project [C 533](#); and

Mechanics: [C 546](#) (Rapporteur – United States of America) – originating from project [M 279](#).

21. The Working Group, once more, strongly recommended that Rapporteur-offices, Translator-offices and commenting offices use the “Working Documents”, “Preparatory Technical Annexes” or the Working Group decision annexes prepared by the International Bureau when submitting proposals and comments during the IPC e-forum discussions.

IPC MAINTENANCE

22. The Working Group discussed seven maintenance projects namely: [M 633](#), [M 634](#), [M 836](#), [M 838](#), [M 839](#), [M 842](#) and [M 843](#).

23. The Working Group completed one maintenance project, whose scheme and definition amendments would be integrated into IPC 2026.01, namely project [M 836](#). Three other maintenance projects were approved with respect to the scheme amendments, namely projects [M 838](#), [M 839](#) and [M 843](#). Meanwhile, the Working Group partially approved project [M 633](#) with respect to both the scheme and definition amendments, as well as project [M 634](#) with respect to the scheme amendments, both of which approved amendments would enter into force in IPC 2026.01.

24. 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.

25. The Working Group agreed to create the following three new maintenance projects, resulting from existing revision and maintenance projects, namely:

Electricity: [M 844](#) (Rapporteur – United States of America) - originating from project [F 200](#);

Mechanics: [M 845](#) (Rapporteur – EPO) – originating from project [F 186](#); and
[M 846](#) (Rapporteur – EPO) – originating from project [M 634](#).

STATUS OF REMOVAL OF NLRs WITHIN M 200 TO M 500 PROJECTS

26. The Working Group noted an oral report on a status report by the International Bureau concerning maintenance projects for removal of NLRs from the scheme of the IPC (see Annex 54 to project file [WG 191](#)).

27. The Working Group noted that, among the 30 active projects, agreement had been reached for the following 17 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 2026.01.

[M 279](#) Removal of NLRs in subclass A47K
(Rapporteur – United States of America)

[M 280](#) Removal of NLRs in subclass B61H
(Rapporteur – United States of America)

[M 281](#) Removal of NLRs in subclass B61K
(Rapporteur – United States of America)

[M 283](#) Removal of NLRs in subclass B60H
(Rapporteur – United States of America)

M 285	Removal of NLRs in subclass G04C (Rapporteur – United States of America)
M 286	Removal of NLRs in subclass G03G (Rapporteur – Canada)
M 290	Removal of NLRs in subclass G06G (Rapporteur – EPO)
M 291	Removal of NLRs in subclass G06J (Rapporteur – EPO)
M 292	Removal of NLRs in subclass G06M (Rapporteur – EPO)
M 293	Removal of NLRs in subclass G07G (Rapporteur – EPO)
M 295	Removal of NLRs in subclass B21F (Rapporteur – China)
M 296	Removal of NLRs in subclass A01B (Rapporteur – United States of America)
M 297	Removal of NLRs in subclass A63F (Rapporteur – United States of America)
M 298	Removal of NLRs in subclass A63G (Rapporteur – United States of America)
M 299	Removal of NLRs in subclass A63K (Rapporteur – United States of America)
M 304	Removal of NLRs in subclass B60D (Rapporteur – United States of America)
M 305	Removal of NLRs in subclass B60F (Rapporteur – United States of America)

28. The Working Group further discussed projects [M 276](#) and [M 279](#), and decided that the issues concerning the notes in project [M 276](#) would be further addressed under project [M 634](#), while discussions on the remaining issues would continue within project [M 276](#). As for project M 279, the Working Group considered that discussions on the relationships between subclasses A47K and E03C went beyond the scope of this project and decided to deal with the issue under a newly created revision project [C 546](#). Therefore, project [M 279](#) could be considered completed and its corresponding amendments to the scheme and definitions would thus be included in IPC 2026.01.

29. The Working Group noted with gratitude that Brazil, the EPO and China volunteered to be Rapporteurs for the removal of NLRs in subclasses F16M, B06B, F16F, E21D, H03M and G04B, respectively, in projects M 311, M 312, M 313, M 314, M 315 and M 316.

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

OTHER ISSUES

31. The Working Group discussed a proposal in Annex 4 under project [WG 539](#), containing proposed abbreviations used for the Working Group in the framework of the IPC revision which was initiated by Germany and further edited by the International Bureau.

32. The Working Group agreed with the list of abbreviations and invited the International Bureau to post it under project WG 000 for more visibility and encouraged offices to submit additional abbreviations if any.

NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

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

34. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its fifty-fourth session:

October 27 to 31, 2025.

CLOSING OF THE SESSION

35. The Chair closed the session.

36. *This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on June 5, 2025.*

[Annexes follow]