

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

Fifty-Fourth Session
Geneva, October 27 to 31, 2025

REPORT

adopted by the Working Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its fifty-fourth session in Geneva from October 27 to 31, 2025. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Argentina, Armenia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Eurasian Patent Office (EAPO), European Patent Office (EPO) (31). Cyprus, ELSA, Hungary, India and Palestine were represented as observers. The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. K. Natsume, Assistant General, Infrastructure and Platforms Sector, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), who welcomed the participants.

OFFICERS

3. Ms. A. Merle-Gamez (EPO) was elected as Chair and Ms. N. Beauchemin (Canada) as Vice-Chair for the IPC revision cycle of 2025-2026.

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 TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE IP5 WG1-WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION

7. The Working Group noted an oral report presented by CNIPA on behalf of the FiveIPOffices (hereinafter referred to as “the IP5 Offices”), on the twenty-ninth session of the IP5 Working Group on Classification (IP5 WG1).

8. The IP5 Offices agreed to promote six IP5 projects (F projects) to the IPC phase, namely [F 207](#), [F 209](#), [F 211](#), [F 213](#), [F 217](#) and [F 218](#). Three of these projects originated from the IPC Revision Roadmap candidate areas, while one was identified as related to new emerging technologies (NETs).

9. It was noted that CNIPA, 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 53 to project file) to avoid overlapping between the IPC revision requests and the IP5 ongoing revision activities.

IPC REVISION PROGRAM

10. The Working Group discussed 40 revision projects, namely: [C 510](#), [C 517](#), [C 518](#), [C 529](#), [C 530](#), [C 531](#), [C 536](#), [C 537](#), [C 538](#), [C 539](#), [C 540](#), [C 541](#), [C 542](#), [C 543](#), [C 544](#), [C 545](#), [C 546](#), [F 140](#), [F 148](#), [F 186](#), [F 189](#), [F 190](#), [F 192](#), [F 193](#), [F 194](#), [F 195](#), [F 196](#), [F 198](#), [F 199](#), [F 200](#), [F 201](#), [F 204](#), [F 206](#), [F 207](#), [F 208](#), [F 209](#), [F 211](#), [F 213](#), [F 217](#) and [F 218](#).

11. The Working Group approved 17 revision projects, including one project, namely: [F 206](#), approved and completed with respect to scheme amendments only, which would enter into force in IPC 2027.01; thirteen of the 17 approved projects, addressing definitions amendments only, were completed and would be integrated into IPC 2026.01. These include projects: [C 517](#), [C 518](#), [C 529](#), [C 530](#), [C 531](#), [C 540](#), [F 140](#), [F 189](#), [F 190](#), [F 194](#), [F 196](#), [F 198](#) and [F 200](#), while their scheme amendments had been completed by the Working Group at its previous sessions.

12. The Working Group approved the scheme and definition amendments for project [C 510](#), resulting from cross-reference checking and correction of obvious errors. All amendments would enter into force in IPC 2026.01. The Working Group also noted that a corrected revision concordance list in project [C 519](#) was electronically approved in September 2025 on the IPC e-forum (see Annex 20) and will be included in IPC 2026.01. Project [C 519](#) was therefore completed.

13. The Working Group also noted that project [C 544](#) was considered completed without further action.

14. 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 agreed to create the following maintenance projects, namely:

Electricity [M 849](#) (Rapporteur – EPO) – originating from project [F 195](#).

IPC MAINTENANCE

15. The Working Group discussed 10 maintenance projects, namely: [M 627](#), [M 633](#), [M 634](#), [M 838](#), [M 839](#), [M 842](#), [M 843](#), [M 844](#), [M 845](#) and [M 846](#).

16. The Working Group approved 8 maintenance projects, three projects were approved and completed with respect to scheme and/or definition amendments, which would be integrated into IPC 2026.01, namely: [M 838](#), [M 839](#) and [M 843](#). Two projects were approved with respect to scheme amendments or scheme and definition amendments, which would be integrated into IPC 2027.01, namely: [M 844](#) and [M 845](#). Meanwhile, the Working Group approved scheme and definition amendments resulting from multiple proposals, which definition amendments would be included in IPC 2026.01, namely for project [M 634](#). The Working Group also noted that scheme and definition amendments approved for project [M 633](#) would be integrated into IPC 2027.01. The Working Group was further informed that a compilation of corrections of obvious errors in both the English and French versions of the scheme in project [M 631](#) (see Annex 32) will be included in IPC 2026.01.

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 agreed to create the following two new maintenance projects, namely:

Mechanics: [M 847](#) (Rapporteur – United States of America) – originating from project [M 634](#); and

Chemistry [M 848](#) (Rapporteur – Republic of Korea) – originating from project [M 627](#).

IPC DEFINITIONS

19. The Working Group discussed one definition project, namely: [D 313](#).

20. The Working Group approved and completed the definition amendments of project [D 313](#), which would be integrated into IPC 2027.01.

21. The status of the project is indicated in project [D 313](#) on the e-forum, as well as decisions and observations are also available in the “Working Group Decision” Annex of project [D 313](#) on the e-forum.

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

22. Discussions were based on a status report prepared by the International Bureau concerning maintenance projects for the removal of non-limiting references (NLRs) from the scheme of the IPC (see Annex 57 to project file [WG 191](#)).

23. The Working Group noted that, among the 20 active projects, agreement had been or would soon be reached for the following four 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 2027.01.

[M 284](#) Removal of NLRs in subclass G03F (Rapporteur – United States of America)

[M 294](#) Removal of NLRs in subclass A47B (Rapporteur – Germany)

[M 301](#) Removal of NLRs in Subclass D02H (Rapporteur – United States of America)

[M 309](#) Removal of NLRs in Subclass A22B (Rapporteur – Israel)

24. The Working Group was informed that the rest of the 16 projects should continue their discussions on the IPC e-forum.

25. The Working Group encouraged offices to actively take the task of removal of NLRs from the scheme. Offices wishing to volunteer should inform the International Bureau about their preferred subclass(es) selecting from the updated table to project file [WG 191](#) and the International Bureau would then create M projects on the IPC e-forum with those offices as Rapporteurs.

26. 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

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

28. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its fifty-fifth session:

April 27 to May 1, 2026.

CLOSING OF THE SESSION

29. The Chair closed the session.

30. This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on November 28, 2025.

[Annexes follow]