

WIPO



IPC/A/19/2

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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

**SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION
(IPC UNION)**

ASSEMBLY

**Nineteenth (13th Ordinary) Session
Geneva, September 24 to October 3, 2001**

REPORT

adopted by the Assembly

1. The Assembly was concerned with the following items of the Consolidated Agenda (document A/36/1): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 16, 24, 27 and 28.
2. The report on the said items, with the exception of item 16, is contained in the General Report (document A/36/15).
3. The report on item 16 is contained in the present document.
4. Mr. José Graça Aranha (Brazil) was elected Chair of the Assembly; Mr. Nikola Kopčić (Croatia) and Mr. Michael A. Meigs (United States of America) were elected Vice-Chairs.

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ITEM 16 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA:

MATTERS CONCERNING THE IPC UNION

5. Discussions were based upon document IPC/A/19/1.
6. The Delegation of Cuba expressed its approval of the IPC reform status report and underlined the importance of the objectives of IPC reform which would broadly utilize new information technologies.
7. The Delegation of France said that IPC reform represented a very important subject. In the past, the IPC was used as an essential tool for classification and searching in paper-based patent collections. With the current development of computerized systems facilitating search and examination of patent applications, the IPC retains its essential role as an information search tool of a very high quality. The Delegation indicated that, in collaboration with other countries and WIPO, France had elaborated a computerized natural language system for accessing the IPC in French and that benefits of using that system could be made available to Member States and to WIPO.
8. The Delegation of the United States of America expressed its thanks to the International Bureau for the preparation of the IPC reform status report. The Delegation indicated that the rapid growth of patent collections resulting from sharply increased patent applications filings worldwide had made the continued maintenance of effective national classification systems problematic. The Delegation noted that the two-tiered structure of the reformed IPC would especially benefit those offices which might not have the resources to create, maintain and revise their own classification systems. The Delegation supported the IPC reform process and urged cooperation to achieve the goal of a fully functional reformed IPC in January of 2005.
9. The Assembly took note of the IPC reform status report.

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