

# WIPO



IPC/A/21/2

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: October 1, 2003

**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**  
GENEVA

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

**ASSEMBLY**

**Twenty-First (14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary) Session  
Geneva, September 22 to October 1, 2002**

REPORT

*adopted by the Assembly*

1. The Assembly was concerned with the following items of the Consolidated Agenda (document A/39/1): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 16, 18, 23, 25 and 26.
2. The report on the said items, with the exception of item 16, is contained in the General Report (document A/39/15).
3. The report on item 16 is contained in the present document.
4. Ms. Elza Marcelino de Castro (Brazil) was elected Chair of the Assembly; Mr. Florian Ionel Ciolacu (Romania) and Mr. Sanjay Venugopal (Canada) were elected Vice-Chairs.

## ITEM 16 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA:

## MATTERS CONCERNING THE IPC UNION

5. Discussions were based upon document IPC/A/21/1.
6. Addressing the subject before the Assembly, the Chair underlined that the recommendation of the IPC Committee of Experts to launch the reform of the IPC, made in 1999, aimed at the accommodation of the IPC to the electronic environment, making it more readily accessible to the users and easier to use for all 54 Member States of the IPC Union, in particular for developing countries.
7. The Secretariat introduced document IPC/A/21/1 and provided the background information and the reasons for the reform of the IPC.
8. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea welcomed the progress of the IPC reform and congratulated the International Bureau on the achievements made in the course of the reform. The Delegation indicated that, for the accommodation of the IPC to the electronic environment, IPC reform was essential. The Delegation pointed out that the Republic of Korea was pleased to participate in the development of the electronic layer of the IPC by providing a collection of chemical structural formulae as a source for further development.
9. The Delegation of China expressed its appreciation of the work done by the IPC Union and the International Bureau under the leadership of the Director General, in carrying out the IPC reform with the participation of IPC experts of various countries. The Delegation also fully supported the fruitful results achieved by the IPC Union in reforming the IPC. The Delegation recalled that the IPC Committee of Experts has launched the reform in 1999 in order to adapt the IPC to technical developments and to facilitate its use by industrial property offices and the public, and that in 2000, the IPC development strategy had been elaborated. Modern information technologies would be fully used in the IPC and would facilitate the global search and dissemination of information. The Delegation was grateful to note that the IPC revision proposal submitted by China in the area of traditional knowledge had been approved to a great extent. A significant increase in the number of IPC groups available for classification of traditional knowledge documentation would not only facilitate world-wide search and use of traditional knowledge information, but would also provide an important basis for building traditional knowledge databases. The Delegation confirmed that China would continue to actively cooperate with other Member States of the IPC Union and to contribute to IPC reform.
10. The Delegation of Belarus expressed approval of the new IPC system as described in the IPC reform progress report. The Delegation said that the future system would be particularly appropriate for such countries as Belarus with relatively restricted computer resources and that the core level of the reformed IPC would be very helpful for such countries. The Delegation also supported the concept of reclassification of patent documents and expressed its gratitude to the IPC Union for having conducted the reform.
11. The Delegation of the Russian Federation noted the very considerable amount of work done by the IPC Union and the International Bureau in conducting the reform. It underlined that, for most of the industrial property offices, the IPC represented a very important search tool and that using it in a computerized form would certainly expand even further the possibilities that it currently offers. The Delegation was especially satisfied with the

introduction in the IPC of chemical structural formulae and with the development of the Classification Automated Information System CLAIMS project aimed at the elaboration of computerized classification tools. The Delegation indicated that the Russian Federation would actively participate in the development of similar tools, particularly in the Russian language, and in the reclassification of patent files. The Delegation expressed the hope that the final stages of the CLAIMS project and the preparation of training materials for the users of the new IPC would be equally successful.

12. The Delegation of France congratulated the International Bureau on the work for reforming the IPC in order to bring the Classification into the digital age. The Delegation noted that the International Bureau would publish the next edition of the IPC in June 2004, according to the Strasbourg Agreement simultaneously in the two authentic versions, English and French. The Delegation underlined the importance of this commitment.

13. The Delegation of the United States of America expressed its support and appreciation for the work carried out by the IPC Committee of Experts for reforming the IPC as outlined in document IPC/A/21/1.

14. The Delegation of Canada stated that Canada was an active participant in the IPC reform and would continue to contribute to the reform process. The Delegation indicated the importance of the timely preparation of the French version of the IPC. The Delegation confirmed its commitment to achieving the goals of IPC reform and expected the timely implementation of the next edition of the IPC.

15. The Delegation of Mexico noted that the purpose of IPC reform was to adapt the IPC to the digital environment. It expressed its conviction that the reformed IPC would be an efficient and effective tool for providing information on patents to the public in general and to SMEs and would also make it easier to use for industrial property offices. The Delegation indicated that the CLAIMS system would be an important tool that would facilitate classification of patent documents. The Delegation expressed congratulations to the IPC Committee of Experts for their timely conduct of the reform.

16. The Delegation of Portugal expressed its thanks to the IPC Committee of Experts for starting the IPC reform in order to make it a modern classification and to adapt it to the digital environment. The Delegation joined the Delegations of France and Canada in underlining the importance of the timely publication of the IPC in the French language.

17. The Chair concluded that there was general appreciation of the work done by WIPO in the course of the IPC reform and consensus regarding support of the IPC reform progress report.

18. The Assembly took note of the IPC reform status report as contained in document IPC/A/21/1 and its Annex.

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