

WIPO



IPC/A/23/3

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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

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

ASSEMBLY

**Twenty-Third (15th Ordinary) Session
Geneva, September 26 to October 5, 2005**

REPORT

adopted by the Assembly

1. The Assembly was concerned with the following items of the Consolidated Agenda (document A/41/1): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 20, 26, 28 and 29.
2. The report on the said items, with the exception of item 20, is contained in the General Report (document A/41/17).
3. The report on item 20 is contained in the present document.
4. Mr. Gilles Barrier (France) was elected Chair of the Assembly; Mr. Michel Patenaude (Canada) and Mr. Lu Guoliang (China) were elected Vice-Chairs.

ITEM 20 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA:

MATTERS CONCERNING THE IPC UNION

IPC Reform Status Report

5. Discussions were based upon document IPC/A/23/1.
6. The Secretariat introduced document IPC/A/23/1 and outlined the main results achieved in the course of the basic period of IPC reform, which was started in 1999 and completed in 2005. The Secretariat noted that this period culminated in the publication, in July 2005, of the new reformed IPC.
7. The Delegation of China noted the great achievements made in the course of IPC reform and that the eighth edition of the IPC would enter into force on January 1, 2006, and expressed thanks to the International Bureau for its efforts in achieving the goals of the reform. The Delegation pointed out that the patent classification is an important foundation for improving the patent system and could produce an immediate impact on the quality of patent documentation and patent examination. Therefore, China had attached great importance to participation in the work carried out by the IPC Revision Working Group and had submitted a revision proposal concerning plant pesticides. A further proposal, taking into account comments made by other offices, had also been submitted. The Delegation hoped that WIPO would attach even greater importance to this work so that the patent classification could achieve further progress.
8. The Delegation of the Russian Federation recognized the considerable amount of work which had been done over the last six years, during the reform process of the IPC. The Delegation believed that the results achieved had become possible thanks to joint efforts by the International Bureau and the national offices. The Delegation expressed a particular appreciation for the effort put into the reform by the International Bureau which had provided methodological support and cooperation to all offices throughout the reform process. The Delegation noted, with satisfaction, the establishment of the computerized multilingual IPC search tool which would also include the Russian language. Finally, the Delegation stated that the Russian Federation would continue to support, and cooperate with, the International Bureau in further improving the IPC system.
9. The Delegation of Croatia welcomed the results of the six years of work of the International Bureau and national offices on the IPC reform. The Delegation found the new, eighth edition of the IPC very useful for classification work and informed the Assembly that the State Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Croatia intended to translate the eighth edition of the IPC into the Croatian language.
10. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea expressed its appreciation, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea, for the excellent work carried out during the six-year IPC reform period by the IPC Committee of Experts, its working groups and the International Bureau. The Delegation also welcomed the IPC reform status report prepared by the International Bureau. The Delegation recognized that 18 out of the 19 tasks on the IPC reform program had been completed, with the exception of one task relating to the creation of the Master Classification Database, which would be completed soon. The Delegation believed that, through this work, it would be possible to adapt the Classification to the new

electronic environment and to increase thereby the level of efficiency in retrieving patent information and accelerating its use. The Republic of Korea, for its part, has been working on the measures to implement IPC reform. The Delegation communicated that, in particular for the preparation for the entry into force of the eighth edition of the IPC, the Korean Intellectual Property Office would publish the eighth edition in the Korean language before January 1, 2006, and would reclassify its patent documents before June 1, 2006. These measures would make internal administrative systems of the Office consistent with the requirements of IPC reform.

11. The Assembly took note of the IPC reform status report as contained in document IPC/A/23/1.

Availability of the IPC Electronic Data

12. Discussions were based upon document IPC/A/23/2.

13. The Secretariat introduced document IPC/A/23/2 and explained the proposals by the International Bureau contained in paragraphs 10 and 11 of document IPC/A/23/2. According to these proposals, datafiles of the authentic (English and French) versions of the eighth edition of the IPC and of the IPC-related material would be available online to any user free-of-charge even if the datafiles were intended to be used for commercial purposes. However, users requesting the datafiles for commercial use should declare not to make them available to a third party and should acknowledge WIPO's copyright with respect to the IPC data in their public products and services.

14. The Delegation of the United States of America expressed support of the proposals by the International Bureau and raised a question as to whether any entity receiving the IPC data may add value to the data and whether there would be any restrictions on this on the part of WIPO.

15. The Delegation of Japan associated itself with the position of the United States of America.

16. In response to the question of the Delegation of the United States of America, the Secretariat confirmed that there would be no restrictions on the addition of value to the IPC data, and, on the contrary, the International Bureau would encourage addition of value to these data.

17. The Assembly of the IPC Union approved the proposals contained in paragraphs 10 and 11 of document IPC/A/23/2.

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