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Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Committee for Technical Cooperation

**Thirty-Third Session
Geneva, February 2 to 6, 2026**

EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OF CHILE AS AN INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AND PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY UNDER THE PCT

Document prepared by the International Bureau

1. All the existing International Authorities were appointed by the PCT Assembly for a period ending on December 31, 2027. Before the expiry of this period, the Assembly will need to decide on the extension of the appointment of each existing International Authority that wishes to seek an extension of its appointment, having first sought the advice of this Committee (see PCT Articles 16(3)(e) and 32(3)). Information concerning this process and the role of the Committee is set out in document PCT/CTC/33/INF/1.
2. On November 19, 2025, the National Institute of Industrial Property of Chile (INAPI) submitted its application for extension of appointment, which is reproduced in the Annex to this document.

3. *The Committee is invited to give its advice on this matter.*

[Annex follows]

APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENT AS AN INTERNATIONAL
SEARCHING AND PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY UNDER THE PCT

1 - GENERAL

(a) Name of Office or intergovernmental organization:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OF CHILE (INAPI)

(b) Name and contact details of official for any queries about this application:

Henry Crew, Head of the INAPI PCT Department, hcrew@inapi.cl

(c) Date on which application for extension of appointment was received by the Director General:

November 19, 2025

2 - MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR APPOINTMENT

In addition to the annual report on the quality management system by the Office or organization for 2025 (“the QMS Report”, <https://www.wipo.int/en/web/pct-system/quality/authorities#CL>) produced in accordance with paragraphs 21.31 and 21.32 of the International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines (“the Guidelines”), the Authority submits the following information.

2.1 - SEARCH AND EXAMINATION CAPACITY

Rules 36.1(i) and 63.1(i): The national Office or intergovernmental organization must have at least 100 full-time employees with sufficient technical qualifications to carry out searches and examinations.

The QMS Report provides information from the Authority on the infrastructure in place to ensure a sufficient quantity of technically qualified staff under paragraph 21.15(i) of the Guidelines, and on the training and development programs for staff involved in the search and examination process under paragraph 21.15(vi). The Authority also includes the following information on numbers of employees qualified to carry out search and examination.

Employees qualified to carry out search and examination:

Technical field	Number (in full-time equivalent)	Average experience as examiners (years)
Mechanical	25	10.3
Electrical/electronic	14	8.5
Pharmaceuticals	24	12.6
Chemistry	19	10.6
Biotech	25	7.4
Industrial designs	5	17.7
<i>Total</i>	112	10.4

Other information beyond the QMS Report and the above table (optional):

The Office has staff and external experts trained and qualified to conduct searches and to examine applications. External experts work mainly on national applications. Staff experts focus on PCT applications in the international phase, but also examine national applications when considering whether to recommend granting or refusing them.

INAPI has 107 highly qualified specialists to conduct searches and examinations in all areas of the technical fields relating to mechanics, electronics, pharmaceuticals, chemistry and biotech, as set out in the table above. Our Office also has five substantive examiners for industrial designs. More than half of them have done postgraduate studies, whether master's degrees or doctorates.

Training programs

The first step in the process of hiring new staff is to identify needs in technical areas and establish job profiles. A public call is then made for applications, specifying the desired qualifications. Candidates are then selected. The candidates receive full training and undergo a two-stage selection process: an initial induction stage, focused on providing general knowledge and experience in patent and industrial property matters; the second stage comprises the training itself. During this period, candidates work under the supervision of INAPI experts, examining real patent applications. The entire process is overseen by the heads of the Patent Examination Department's technical areas, who assess the candidates' performance and capacity and select those who meet INAPI requirements.

The candidates who pass are each assigned a tutor who supervises and guides them in drafting their first reports. This mentoring period lasts for one year, with a range of tutors in the same technical area. The new recruits' performance is assessed every four months. Candidates who, within one year or earlier, show that they have developed the necessary skills and abilities to draft search and examination reports, can start working independently. The goal of this process is that, within 18 months, all new experts will be ready to conduct searches and examinations without the supervision of a tutor, in accordance with the law, regulations and guidelines.

The recruitment and training process has been designed in such a way as not to impinge on the Office's productivity. That is reflected in the rapid drop in recent years in the backlog of pending applications.

2.2 – MINIMUM DOCUMENTATION – MAKING AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION

Rules 36.1(ii) and 63.1(ii): That Office or organization must make available for consultation as part of the minimum documentation referred to in Rule 34, in accordance with the requirements specified in the Administrative Instructions, any patent issued, and any patent application published, by it, and where applicable by its legal predecessor(s).

The requirements specified in the Administrative Instructions are set out in Circular [C. PCT 1672](#), dated June 19, 2024.

The making available for consultation as part of the minimum documentation referred to in Rule 34 of the patents issued and patent applications published by the Office or, where applicable, the Offices that are members of the intergovernmental organization in accordance with the Understanding adopted by the PCT Assembly in paragraph 8 of document PCT/A/55/2, is reported as follows:

Either:

- The PCT Minimum Documentation Task Force has tested the availability of the patent documentation collections before November 1, 2025, and certifies that the requirements have been met. The extent and format of the documents that the Authority has made available for consultation were published in the PCT Gazette on October 23, 2025, at: <https://www.wipo.int/documents/d/pct-system/docs-en-official-notices-officialnotices.pdf#page=184>.

Or:

- The Authority reports on the availability of its patent documentation collection as follows, including a timetable for when testing and full availability can be certified by the PCT Minimum Documentation Task Force. Please also provide details of your Authority File with any links, as appropriate.

2.3 – MINIMUM DOCUMENTATION - ACCESS

Rules 36.1(iii) and 63.1(iii): That Office or organization must have in its possession, or maintain access to, at least the minimum documentation referred to in Rule 34, for search purposes in accordance with the Administrative Instructions.

The QMS Report provides information from the Authority on the infrastructure in place to ensure that at least the minimum documentation referred to in Rule 34 is available, accessible, properly arranged and maintained for search and examination purposes under paragraph 21.15(iv) of the Guidelines.

Other information beyond the QMS Report (optional):

INAPI provides examiners with access to internal and external databases. They include free online platforms such as Espacenet, Google Patents, INAPI's own database and Patentscope. Contracts have also been signed for access to various paid platforms, such as STN (with a sequence list search module), Derwent Innovation (formerly Thomson Innovation) and ProQuest Dialog, which provide access to more than 200 databases covering all technical fields. Since 2015, full access to EPOQUE Net has been available. EPOQUE will cease to be available on December 31, 2025, and will be replaced by the ANSERA-based Search (AbS) platform. INAPI examiners have therefore received training to familiarize themselves with this new system. INAPI and the European Patent Office have also held meetings to explore and establish the most appropriate mechanisms to ensure the optimal and efficient use of this new tool in the future. In addition, under an agreement with the National Agency for Research and Development (ANID), INAPI has access to the full text of almost 5,000 scientific and technological journals in electronic format and in 99 disciplines through the Electronic Scientific Information Library (BEIC), which provides access to sources such as Oxford University Press, Elsevier, the American Chemical Society, Annual Reviews, Nature, Springer, Science Magazine and Wiley. The cost of this platform exceeded US\$12 million in 2024.

INAPI is constantly looking at other databases that could enhance its search capabilities.

2.4 – QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Rules 36.1(iv) and 63.1(iv): That Office or organization must have in place a quality management system and internal review arrangements in accordance with the common rules of international search.

The QMS Report provides information from the Authority on the quality management system in place under Chapter 21 of the Guidelines and includes a report under paragraph 21.09 of the internal review arrangements that are further described in paragraphs 21.27 to 21.30 of the Guidelines.

Other information beyond the QMS Report (optional):

INAPI has a quality management system that complies with the requirements of Chapter 21 of the PCT Guidelines for International Search and Preliminary Examination. It is well developed and is being continuously improved. All the PCT international phase processes at INAPI, i.e., our role as Receiving Office (RO), International Searching Authority and Preliminary Examining Authority (ISA/IPEA) are ISO 9001:2015 certified. That guarantees our commitment to ensure a high standard of quality to users who rely on PCT services provided by INAPI.

3 – SCOPE OF OPERATION

(a) Current scope of operation

The receiving Offices for which the Office or intergovernmental organization is competent as an International Searching Authority and an International Preliminary Examining Authority, language(s) in which services are offered and other details of scope of operation are listed in the *PCT Applicant's Guide* at the following links: <https://pctlegal.wipo.int/eGuide/view-doc.xhtml?doc-code=CL&doc-lang=en#ISA>; <https://pctlegal.wipo.int/eGuide/view-doc.xhtml?doc-code=CL&doc-lang=en#IPEA>.

(b) Planned changes to scope of operation as an Authority, such as the receiving Offices for which the Authority is competent and languages offered (if any):

INAPI does not envisage any changes in this regard. As an International PCT Authority, INAPI works in Spanish and English only for applicants from PCT Contracting Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Currently, 14 countries have designated INAPI as the competent ISA/IPEA for their applicants: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

4 - OTHER

Any further information relevant to the extension of appointment as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority:

Declaration of interest

The establishment of INAPI in 2009 and the work carried out since have helped to reach a new stage in the transformation of the intellectual property (IP) system in Chile. INAPI has become a modern and efficient office, able not only to provide quality services, but also to interact effectively with the international IP system as a whole.

INAPI firmly believes that the international IP system is key to promoting innovation and entrepreneurship. The PCT plays a fundamental role in that regard and, since its entry into force in Chile, its implementation has been a strategic priority for our institution.

The Government of Chile sees in the PCT a real and concrete possibility for member countries to interact and contribute effectively to the system, making it more attractive and accessible to all users. The Government is of the view that extending the appointment of INAPI as an ISA/IPEA will allow it to continue fostering development of the system in the region and encourage the filing of PCT applications in Latin America, where the total number of applications does not exceed 1,000 a year.

INAPI believes that, as a Spanish-speaking ISA/IPEA, it benefits Latin American countries that have yet to accede to the Treaty or are considering doing so. INAPI takes an active part in all areas of the PCT system, which allows it to share its experience and support countries that are implementing it or wish to join it. Having a Spanish-speaking ISA/IPEA in the region that can conduct international searches and preliminary examinations has undoubtedly benefited

the system as a whole. An example of this was the technical assistance that INAPI provided to Uruguay, which recently acceded to the PCT, in implementing the Treaty.

Taken as part of a strategy to promote use of the system as a whole, the Government views the role of INAPI as an ISA/IPEA in Latin America as helping to avoid possible delays in the processing of PCT international applications owing to the fact that some offices are overloaded with work. We also believe that there is a need to distribute search resources across different parts of the world to optimize their use.

Given the interest that Chile has in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, and the importance of the international patent system in achieving that goal, we deem the appointment of INAPI as an ISA/IPEA should be extended. INAPI meets the technical requirements to offer search and examination services to Chilean nationals and applicants from other PCT member States, thereby promoting and increasing use of the PCT in the region.

Moreover, INAPI serving as an ISA/IPEA has brought numerous advantages to our users. The Government of Chile has acknowledged that fact, having bestowed on it the National Award for Excellence in Public Service three times, thereby recognizing it as one of the country's three best public institutions. That award goes to national institutions that promote significant advances in their users' quality of life, such as by raising awareness of the IP system and of the advantages of filing patent applications abroad. Indeed, since INAPI began acting as a PCT International Authority, the international filing rate has generally risen in the region. Many applicants who were unaware of the IP system have requested information on how the Treaty works, which has brought new participants into the system who are looking at using the PCT as part of their patenting strategies.

Work of INAPI as an ISA/IPEA

INAPI has acted as a PCT International Authority since October 22, 2014. In 2024, INAPI marked its 10th anniversary as an ISA/IPEA, consolidating its position as the most widely used PCT International Authority in Spanish in Latin America. During all these years, we have seen steady growth in PCT applications, not only from Chilean applicants, but also from applicants from around the region, including Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Costa Rica.

Between 2014 and 2024, INAPI has been designated as ISA in 2,809 applications and has issued 2,449 search reports and written opinions. In 2024, it was designated in 293 applications. INAPI was designated as IPEA in 96 applications over the same period, 11 of them filed in 2024.

At the last meeting of PCT International Authorities, held in October 2025, INAPI was recognized as one of the ISA/IPEAs that have achieved 100% deadline compliance for the issuance of search reports, written opinions and international preliminary examinations. Meeting PCT deadlines and delivering timely reports to our users has been a hallmark of management at INAPI as a PCT International Authority.

The Institute's work as a PCT International Authority is highly valued by applicants from Chile and the broader region. That is reflected in satisfaction surveys conducted for each application it has processed as an ISA, in annual meetings with key users and in meetings with numerous applicants who have filed more than one application, selecting INAPI as their ISA. All of that signals their confidence in the quality of our work and recognition of our efficiency.

[End of Annex and document]