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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
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INTERNATIONAL PATENT COOPERATION UNION
(PCT UNION)

MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES
UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

Eleventh Session
Geneva, February 21 to 25, 2005

PCT REFORM PROPOSALS WITH RELEVANCE TO
THE INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES

Document prepared by the International Bureau

SUMMARY

1. A number of preliminary draft documents have been posted on the PCT Reform website for public comment prior to preparation of final documents for the next session of the Working Group on Reform of the PCT. The International Authorities are invited to comment on aspects of the proposals relevant to them.

BACKGROUND

2. Since August 2004, the International Bureau has posted on the PCT Reform website preliminary draft documents concerning possible areas for reform of the PCT (see www.wipo.int/pct/reform/en/draftdocs/wg7/index.html), seeking comments in advance of preparing the documents for the seventh session of the Working Group on Reform of the PCT, which is expected to be held in May 2005. Each of these draft documents have aspects which are relevant to the work of the International Authorities. The latest versions of these documents are as follows:

Paper No. 1 Rev. (posted October 26, 2004)
Missing Elements and Parts of the International Application

Paper No. 2 Rev. (posted October 26, 2004)
Restoration of the Right of Priority

Paper No. 3 Rev. (posted October 26, 2004)
International Publication in Multiple Languages

Paper No. 4 (posted August 9, 2004)
Availability of Sequence Listings in Electronic Form

Paper No. 5 (posted August 17, 2004)
Recording of Changes by the International Bureau

Paper No. 6 (posted October 26, 2004)
Rectification of Obvious Mistakes

Paper No. 8 (posted December 16, 2004)
Improving the Quality of International Searches

3. In addition, paper no. 7 contains a paper by the delegation of Switzerland entitled “Further Observations by Switzerland on its Proposals Regarding the Declaration of the Source of Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge in Patent Applications”.

4. So far, comments have been received on these papers, or on earlier versions, from the Netherlands, Portugal, the United States of America, the European Patent Office, the Institute of Professional Representatives before the European Patent Office (EPI) and the Union of Industrial and Employers’ Confederations of Europe (UNICE), and the (United Kingdom) Trade Marks, Patents and Designs Federation (TMPDF). These comments can be viewed using the PCT Reform electronic forum (see www.wipo.int/pct/reform/) and will be taken into account in the preparation of the final version of the documents for the seventh session of the Working Group.

5. It is not envisaged that a document will be submitted to the Working Group on the subject of availability of sequence listings in electronic form (see paper no. 4). Comments are therefore invited on relevant aspects of the latest versions of papers no. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8.

6. The International Authorities are invited to comment on the preliminary draft documents prepared by the International Bureau for the Working Group on Reform of the PCT.

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