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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Fifth Session

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OAMPI PROJECT

Progress Report prepared by the International Bureau

- 1 The PCT Interim Committee for Technical Assistance (hereinafter referred to as “the Interim Committee”), at its fourth session held in Geneva from November 13-19, 1974, decided that the International Bureau of WIPO should continue with the study concerning the establishment of a regional patent documentation center with the African and Malagasy Industrial Property Office (OAMPI) and the preparatory work connected with that project, as well as with the task of preparing OAMPI for a possible function as an International Searching Authority under the PCT.
2. It is recalled that in 1974 a request was submitted to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for financing a preparatory mission, to determine the ways and means of assisting OAMPI in establishing a regional patent documentation center.
3. Pursuant to this request, a contract between UNDP and WIPO concerning a preparatory assistance mission was signed on January 31, 1975. The tasks of the mission as defined in this contract were in particular to:
 - (i) assess the existing services and facilities of OAMPI, especially in the field of patents;
 - (ii) define the particular services to be rendered by the patent documentation unit,
 - (iii) determine the needs for establishing a patent documentation unit, including the necessary legislative and administrative measures, the requirements of office space, counterpart staff, equipment and other needs;
 - (iv) ascertain the need for additional inputs by OAMPI and by its Member States in terms of the necessary legal and administrative framework to be adopted, additional premises, technical and administrative staff, equipment and running costs required to ensure full attainment of the objectives outlined,

- (v) as certain the need for UNDP inputs in terms of expert services, fellowships and equipment required to fully attain the objectives outlined;
- (vi) establish a preliminary project document concerning the creation of a patent documentation service at OAMPI.

4. The mission consisted of two outside experts and two representatives from the International Bureau of WIPO. The members of the mission recruited from outside were experts from the Austrian and the Swiss Patent Offices. The experts effected their mission from May 24 to June 7, 1975. They visited OAMPI in Yaoundé (Cameroon) and met with the competent authorities of the Governments as well as the representatives of the UNDP in four countries, namely, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Gabon and Senegal.

5. The results of the different contacts have been very positive. All governments visited have assured their appreciation and support to the project for the establishment of the patent documentation service within the framework of OAMPI.

6. The experts elaborated a report based on the contacts and visits effected. The report contains recommendations for OAMPI and UNDP and a draft project document concerning the creation of a documentation and information service.

7. The report was submitted to UNDP and OAMPI on July 30, 1975 for their consideration and decision on the continuation of the Project. At the time of writing this report, a reply had not yet been received.

8. *The Interim Committee is invited to take cognizance of this report and to give its advice, if any, concerning the project referred to above.*

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