

WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

GENEVA

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Seventh Session

Geneva, March 13 to 17, 1978

RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE PCT INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OF POSSIBLE INTEREST
TO THE WIPO PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
RELATED TO INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

Memorandum of the Director General

1. In its last session, held in November 1976--there was no session in 1977--the Interim Committee noted the progress made in different fields of technical assistance to developing countries, in particular the "Brazilian Project," the "OAPI Project," the usefulness of INPADOC services for developing countries and training programs (see document PCT/TAS/VI/11). These activities certainly have many aspects which would fall within the following definition of the task of the Committee for Technical Assistance referred to in Article 51 of the Patent Cooperation Treaty ("PCT"): "The task of the Committee shall be to organize and supervise technical assistance for Contracting States which are developing countries in developing their patent systems individually or on a regional basis" (paragraph (3) (a)). However, only few, if any, of the said activities have any direct connection with the PCT.

2. The PCT was adopted in 1970. In the meantime, fundamental changes have taken place in WIPO's approach to the problems of development cooperation and patent information. Two new bodies have been created since then: the WIPO Permanent Committee for Development Cooperation Related to Industrial Property and the WIPO Permanent Committee on Patent Information. Most of the "technical assistance" activities which have, in the past, been considered, or also considered, by the PCT Interim Committee for Technical Assistance are now within the jurisdiction, or mainly within the jurisdiction, of the said two Permanent Committees and, naturally, of the competent bodies of WIPO itself and of the Paris Union for the Protection of Industrial Property.

3. It is believed that these new facts should lead to a consequential reorientation of the tasks of the PCT Committee for Technical Assistance, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and the danger of conflicting decisions. In this connection, it may be of interest to note that the WIPO Coordination Committee and the Executive Committee of the Paris Union, when establishing (in 1977) the WIPO Permanent Committee on Patent Information, decided that the meetings of the PCT Committee for Technical Assistance should be joint with those of the Permanent Committee for Development Cooperation Related to Industrial Property and that the activities of the two Committees should be coordinated (the text of the said decision is reproduced in the Annex to this document). This decision was taken in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and the danger of conflicting decisions. The consequential reorientation of the tasks of the PCT Committee for Technical Assistance, in the opinion of the Director General, should consist in asking for guidance from the PCT Committee only on those aspects of technical assistance to developing countries which have a direct bearing on the use of the PCT by such countries.

4. *The Interim Committee is invited to express its views on the suggestions contained in the preceding paragraph.*

[Annex follows]

Annex

DECISION ESTABLISHING THE WIPO PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON PATENT INFORMATION AND DEALING WITH RELATED MATTERS

The Executive Committee of the Paris Union for the Protection of Industrial Property and the Coordination Committee of the World Intellectual Property Organization,

Considering the desirability of increased coordination and cooperation in the field of patent information matters within the framework of the World Intellectual Property Organization and the Unions administered by that Organization,

Convinced that such coordination and cooperation will result in increased efficiency and savings for the benefit of States and all others interested in patent information,

1. Decide to establish, on an interim basis, the WIPO Permanent Committee on Patent Information;
2. Adopt the attached Organizational Rules of the WIPO Permanent Committee on Patent Information;
3. Agree that neither WIPO nor any Union administered by WIPO should henceforth establish any committee, subcommittee, working group or similar group dealing with patent information matters, and that, as from a date to be determined by the Assembly of the Paris Union, the Paris Union Committee for International Cooperation in Information Retrieval Among Patent Offices (ICIREPAT) should be discontinued and, as from a date to be determined by the Committee of Experts of the IPC Union, the Steering Committee and the Working Groups of the IPC Union should also be discontinued;
4. Further agree that the meetings of the PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation shall be joint with those of the WIPO Permanent Committee on Patent Information and that the meetings of the PCT Committee for Technical Assistance shall be joint with those of the WIPO Permanent Committee for Development Cooperation Related to Industrial Property, it being understood that the activities of the said Committees shall be coordinated and it being further understood that, where decisions are made by any of the said PCT Committees, only the members of those PCT Committees shall vote;
5. Recommend that the Assemblies of the Unions established by the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, by the Patent Cooperation Treaty and by the International Patent Classification Agreement endorse the above measures and thereby establish the WIPO Permanent Committee on Patent Information definitively.

[End of annex and of document]