

Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Working Group

Nineteenth Session
Geneva, February 2 to 6, 2026

ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA

Document prepared by the International Bureau

1. The Annex to this document contains an annotated draft agenda for the nineteenth session of the PCT Working Group, which will be held in Geneva from February 2 to 6, 2026, in hybrid format.
2. The week will include three meeting sessions:
 - (a) the resumed eighteenth session of the PCT Working Group;
 - (b) the nineteenth session of the PCT Working Group; and
 - (c) the thirty-third session of the PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation.
3. Meeting hours each day will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Central European Time (CET, UTC + 1 hour).
4. Since no officers have yet been elected for the nineteenth session of the PCT Working Group or the thirty-third session of the PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation, the Secretariat, in coordination with the Chair of the eighteenth session of the PCT Working Group proposes the following indicative timetable:
 - (a) 10 a.m. Monday February 2: Resumed eighteenth session of the PCT Working Group.
 - (b) Late morning Monday February 2: PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation.
 - (c) Following completion of PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation (likely to be afternoon of Tuesday February 3): Nineteenth session of the PCT Working Group.

5. The above indicative timetable will be adapted as required during the week by the Chairs of the relevant sessions, once elected.

[Annex follows]

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

The Chair (to be elected during the resumed eighteenth session of the Working Group) and a representative of the Director General will open the session and deliver welcoming remarks.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

See document PCT/WG/19/1 Prov.2.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE TWENTIETH SESSION

Nominations are invited for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chairs to act for the twentieth session, expected to be held in the first half of 2027.

4. PCT STATISTICS

The International Bureau will give a short presentation outlining the development of PCT application filing and processing in 2025, with particular regard to aspects the subject of discussion during this session.

5. MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES UNDER THE PCT: REPORT OF THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

See document PCT/WG/19/2

The International Bureau presents a report on the thirty-second session of the Meeting of International Authorities, held as a remote session from October 29 to 31, 2025.

6. COORDINATION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PCT

See document PCT/WG/19/9

The International Bureau reports on technical assistance activities that have a direct bearing on the use of the PCT by developing countries carried out within the Patents and Technology Sector in 2025. In addition, the document provides an update on technical assistance related to the PCT conducted in other WIPO Sectors.

7. ELECTRONIC PROCESSING OF INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS

See document PCT/WG/19/6

The document sets out some of the International Bureau's priorities for development of electronic services over the coming year, include making ePCT services more accessible and effective for applicants and Offices, using artificial intelligence to improve customer service and efficiency, identifying ways to increase the use of full text processing and allow the use of color drawings, and developing systems to improve the protection of personal information. The Working Group is invited to note the document and comment on any other priorities for the development of PCT online services.

8. FILING MEDIUM FOR ENTERING THE NATIONAL PHASE BEFORE DESIGNATED OFFICES

See document PCT/WG/19/5

The document proposes amendments to the Regulations to clarify the circumstances in which a designated Office may require the use of electronic systems for the applicant to perform the acts referred to in Article 22 in order for the application to enter the national phase, taking into account comments on the subject made during the eighteenth session.

9. ACCEPTANCE OF DOCUMENTS BY THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU ON BEHALF OF THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

See document PCT/WG/19/8

During the seventeenth session, the International Bureau was asked whether it would be willing to receive paper documents on behalf of receiving Offices and International Authorities that wished only to accept electronic post-filing documents. The International Bureau pointed out that in many cases, this would risk the document being treated as having been received late. The document proposes an amendment to the Regulations requiring that correspondence received by the International Bureau and transmitted to another Office competent to handle it should be treated by the competent Office as having been received on the date that it was received by the International Bureau.

10. SEQUENCE LISTINGS

(A) PROCESSING OF SEQUENCE LISTINGS

See document PCT/WG/19/7

The document reports on some proposed simplifications to the document codes used when processing sequence listings, preparation to handle priority documents in WIPO Standard ST.92 format, and preparations to handle sequence listings in accordance with version 2.0 of WIPO Standard ST.26, which were approved by the thirteenth session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) and will come into force on July 1, 2027.

(B) SEQUENCE LISTINGS TASK FORCE: STATUS REPORT

See document PCT/WG/19/4

The document reports on the work of the Sequence Listing Task Force of the CWS, which is responsible for the development of WIPO Standard ST.26 and is currently working on preparations for the entry into force of version 2.0 of that Standard, as well as considering the need for further revisions and supporting the development of the WIPO Sequence Suite of software.

11. PCT MINIMUM DOCUMENTATION TASK FORCE: STATUS REPORT

See document PCT/WG/19/3

The document summarizes the work done by or with the assistance of the PCT Minimum Documentation Task Force to implement the new Rules 34, 36 and 63, which came into force January 1, 2026. The work of the original task force is now complete. The document goes on to outline the work required of a new permanent task force with the same name, which is mandated by paragraphs 30 to 43 of Annex H of the PCT Administrative Instructions to oversee the ongoing updating of the list of minimum documentation.

12. WIPO TREATY ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, GENETIC RESOURCES AND ASSOCIATED TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

This agenda item has been added at the request of the Delegation of Brazil – see Circular C. PCT 1698.

13. OTHER MATTERS

Delegations are invited to offer suggestions for further areas of work not already covered in the session. The Delegation of Colombia will introduce a proposal as set out in Circular C. PCT 1700.

14. SUMMARY BY THE CHAIR

The Summary by the Chair will be in the form of a list of decisions. As agreed by the Assemblies of WIPO (see paragraph 102 of document A/62/13), the report of the meeting will be in the form of the automated speech-to-text transcripts of the session.

15. CLOSING OF THE SESSION

[End of Annex and of document]