

Standing Committee on the Law of Patents

Thirty-Eighth Session
Geneva, November 2 to 6, 2026

REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT SYSTEM: CERTAIN ASPECTS OF NATIONAL/REGIONAL PATENT LAWS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP), at its thirty-seventh session held in a hybrid format from November 3 to 7, 2025, agreed that the information concerning certain aspects of national/regional patent laws, published on the SCP electronic forum website, would be updated, restructured, and its contents improved based on input received from Member States.
2. Consequently, the Secretariat reviewed, updated, and restructured the information concerning certain aspects of national/regional patent laws, as published on the SCP electronic forum website. As part of the first phase of this work, the Secretariat designed and created webpages on the topics of prior art, novelty, inventive step (non-obviousness) and grace period (non-prejudicial disclosure mechanisms), based on information submitted by 32 Member States and regional patent offices, as well as information previously submitted by other Member States that was contained in the previous version of the website. The newly created webpages are available at: <https://www.wipo.int/en/web/scp/electronic-forum/certain-aspects-of-national-regional-patent-laws-database>.
3. In addition, the Secretariat updated the SCP electronic forum website, which contains information concerning the remaining aspects of national/regional patent laws, namely, sufficiency of disclosure, exclusions from patentable subject matter and exceptions and limitations to the rights. The information is available at: https://www.wipo.int/en/web/scp/electronic-forum/annex_ii. The website was updated based on the information received from Bulgaria, Burundi, Ecuador, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, South Africa, Switzerland, the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) and the European Patent Office (EPO).

4. If Member States and regional patent offices so wish, under agenda item 4, entitled "Report on the international patent system: Certain aspects of national/regional patent laws", they may share information on recent developments of national/regional patent laws with respect to the aspects mentioned above or various aspects of patent law in general.

[End of document]