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The International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) presents its compliments to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and has the honor to invite His Excellency's Government to be represented as an observer at the second session of the *Working Group on Reform of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)*, which will be held in Geneva, at the headquarters of WIPO, from April 29 (10 a.m.) to May 3, 2002.

The proceedings will be informal, and it is envisaged that the five days of the session will be devoted to discussions. There is no formal agenda and there will be no formal report, but it is envisaged that a summary of the session will, as at the first session of the Working Group, be prepared by the chair and issued as a document. The topics for discussion at the session will be the following:

1. improved coordination of international search and international preliminary examination and the time limit for entering the national phase: expanded international search system;
2. the concept and operation of the designation system: automatic indication of all designations possible under the PCT;
3. changes related to the Patent Law Treaty (PLT): right of priority and priority claims; language of the international application; missed time limit for entering the national phase; absence of substantive claims; other PLT-related changes;
4. general simplification and streamlining of PCT procedures: signature of the international application; transfer in certain circumstances to another International Searching Authority or International Preliminary Examining Authority; (possibly) other proposals for simplification and streamlining.

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Working documents will be available in English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish.

Working documents will be communicated on request. They are also being made available on WIPO's web site (see <http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/meetings>).

An electronic forum has been established to facilitate the work of the Working Group and other bodies concerning reform of the PCT. The forum, which is accessible via the web page relating to the session, enables the submission by e-mail, and subsequent posting and browsing, of comments on matters concerning PCT reform. Provision is also made for subscription to an electronic mailing list by persons wishing to be informed when additional documents are made available on the web page and when comments are posted on the electronic forum.

The International Bureau would appreciate it if the name(s), title(s) and e-mail address(es) of the representative(s) of His Excellency's Government who will attend the session could be communicated to it by April 8, 2002.

March 8, 2002