### Questionnaire to PCT International Authorities on Non Patent Literature (NPL), Traditional Knowledge-Based Prior Art (TK) and Inclusion of Databases in the PCT Minimum Documentation (PCT Min Doc)

**Responding Office:**

Name of contact person:

Position:

Email address:

### Use of NPL:

1. Do you use sources of NPL and TK in searching that are not currently included in the PCT Min Doc? If yes, please describe those sources.
2. How do you keep your collection of NPL and TK prior art sources current?
3. How do you ascertain the technical accuracy and trustworthiness of new sources of NPL and TK prior art which you consider using for prior art searches, such as new journals and new databases?
4. With respect to sources of NPL and TK prior art including journals, periodicals, print collections and databases, please describe what standards those sources must meet to be used by your office in prior art searches. Please indicate, if applicable, which standards are preferences and which are firm requirements.
5. Regarding NPL and TK used as prior art, do you provide the applicant with a complete reference or with only a summary or citation to the reference? If a summary is provided, how detailed is it?
6. If your office does not provide the applicant with a copy of the complete reference, do you provide a link whereby applicant may access the reference such as through a digital object identifier (DOI)?

### Addition of NPL and TK to the Min Doc:

1. Are there additional specific sources of NPL or TK that you would favor including in the PCT Min Doc? Which ones? Why?
2. Would you be willing to notify WIPO when a NPL or TK source is added or is removed from your collection, so that its addition to the PCT Min Doc could be evaluated?

### Use of databases:

1. Does your office provide or maintain its own database of NPL and/or TK prior art? If so, is it available to the public? Is there a fee to access the database? Are there other restrictions to accessing the database? If so, what is the purpose of those restrictions?
2. With respect to sources of NPL and TK prior art including journals, periodicals, print collections and databases, please answer the questions below if not already addressed:
   1. Do you use NPL or TK sources such as printed publications that do not provide the ability to conduct text searches and other database operations?
   2. Do you require the ability to load database information in your office’s IT system?
   3. How sensitive are you to pricing of the databases?
   4. How significant is for your office the availability of English (or other language used by your office) language abstracts?
   5. Are currently available English-language abstracts of NPL and TK references sufficiently detailed to use in a PCT search?
   6. What level of detail provided by the abstracts or other translation do you consider sufficient to utilize a NPL or TK reference in a language not used by your office?
   7. Would you use a database from a commercial vendor, at an additional cost, if the vendor packaged otherwise available NPL or TK information in an easier to use format?
   8. Would you use a NPL and/or TK database if you were required to maintain its contents as proprietary and / or confidential information?

### Addition of databases to the Min Doc:

1. With respect to sources of NPL and TK prior art including journals, periodicals, print collections and databases, please answer the questions below if not already addressed:
   1. Would you oppose inclusion of a NPL or TK database in the PCT Min Doc because of high cost?
   2. Would you oppose inclusion of a NPL or TK database in the PCT Min Doc if you were required to maintain the information therein as proprietary and / or confidential information?
   3. Would you oppose inclusion of a NPL or TK database in the PCT Min Doc if you were prohibited from sharing the information therein with third parties or with the public?
2. Would you oppose inclusion of a required database in the PCT Min Doc if access to that database could be curtailed because of failure to abide by provisions mandated by the database provider?
3. Are you concerned that access to a required database in the PCT Min Doc could be interrupted by an asserted breach of an agreement with the database provider?
4. Do you foresee any difficulties for your office in including NPL and TK databases in the PCT Min Doc, as compared to the existing required journals and other NPL printed publications?
5. In your office, do you expect that requirements for handling databases listed in the PCT Min Doc would be different from those of printed publications? In what ways?
6. Is there something that WIPO can do to assist International Authorities in managing changes in the contents of the PCT Min Doc, such as mergers and discontinuations of journals and other references?

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