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GENEVA

**SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION
(IPC UNION)**

IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP

**Thirteenth Session
Geneva, June 13 to 17, 2005**

APPOINTMENT OF AN EDITORIAL BOARD FOR IPC DEFINITIONS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. At its meeting, in May 2002, the Task Force on Classification Definitions “noted an important difference in the style of the wording of definitions. It was noted that the harmonization in wording could be solved in the future by an ‘editorial board’...In the meantime...the Secretariat was authorized to introduce editorial amendments that would not change the technical aspects of the projects...in agreement with the respective Rapporteur”.
2. The experience since then, in preparing and discussing definitions, has shown that the absence of an editorial board has slowed down the process of approval of IPC definitions. Numerous comments on the IPC e-forum, or during the sessions of the Working Group, were focused on editorial problems (e.g., conformity with the template or with IPC terminology), creating delays in approving proposals, which were otherwise ready.
3. It is therefore proposed to create an Editorial Board to review proposals of definition projects. The same Board could be used to review proposals of other types of projects as well (e.g., Training Examples), if needed.
4. The Board should not be a formal body with regular meetings, but rather a number of delegates with good experience in drafting using IPC terminology. At least one member should be appointed from each technical field. The Secretariat should coordinate the Board, accomplish some of its formal tasks and appoint a member of the Board to review a particular proposal, when needed.

5. In order to accelerate the work, the Board should already intervene at the initial stage of a project and also at later stages, if needed.

6. An initial draft proposal should first be submitted to the Board before posting to the IPC e-forum. The Secretariat should check the conformity of the initial draft with the template and make the necessary corrections. If additional editorial changes are needed, a member of the Board would be appointed by the Secretariat to review that initial draft. The member of the Board would amend the proposal, in agreement with the Rapporteur. The final draft should be posted to the IPC e-forum within, approximately, one month after submission of the initial draft to the Board.

7. The Working Group might refer a project to the Board, at any stage, giving specific instructions, e.g., in order to bring the text of a proposal in conformity with IPC terminology. Electronically approved projects would also be checked by the Board, in agreement with the Rapporteur, and the final version would be posted to the IPC e-forum within, approximately, two months after approval.

8. The Working Group is invited to approve the appointment of an Editorial Board for IPC definitions and the proposed working methods.

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