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

IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP

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

IPC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR THE YEARS 2005 TO 2008

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1. During the 2000-2005 revision period introducing the reform in the IPC, the Committee of Experts (IPC/CE) has adopted and followed an IPC Reform Implementation Plan. This Plan indicated timelines and milestones with regard to major activities which were necessary for carrying out the IPC reform. These activities were divided into two parts, those relating to IPC reform tasks and those relating to the realization of the reform results in the IPC itself.
2. At its thirty-sixth session, held in February 2005, the IPC/CE noted that virtually all tasks relating to the carrying out of the reform results in the IPC had been completed and that the Implementation Plan would no longer be updated in the future (see paragraph 29 of document IPC/CE/36/11).
3. Some of these tasks were however either partly completed (e.g., Elaboration of Classification Definitions in IPC Subclasses, Introduction of Residual Main Groups), and some completed in a short time period in view of the preparation of IPC-8 (e.g., Consideration of Outpointers in the Advanced Level of the IPC). Some other improvements to the IPC mentioned during this period, although not immediately relating to a reform task, were not considered at all in view of time and resources limitations (e.g., move informative references from the scheme to the electronic layer, remove references from guidance headings).

4. Furthermore, at a later stage during the next revision period, adjustments will probably be needed in some new IPC reform features, such as the split between the core and advanced levels or in CONOPS.

5. In order to codify all these tasks an IPC development program should be defined for the next revision period. This program should include, in addition to the ordinary revision or maintenance work, tasks relating to the implementation of the reform or of other improvements in the IPC (see paragraphs 3 and 4, above). It should set priorities, targets and milestones for these tasks and for the regular work of the IPC/CE and of the IPC Revision Working Group.

6. Such a plan could be adopted by the IPC/CE at its next meeting, in 2006, following careful preparation. In that respect, it is proposed to set up a CE project on the IPC e-forum (CE 372), and to appoint a Rapporteur. An initial proposal should be submitted by September 2005, followed by a round of comments, a Rapporteur report and a preliminary discussion at the next session of the Working Group. If needed, a revised proposal followed by a last round of comments could afterwards take place in order to prepare the final proposal to be presented for adoption to the thirty-seventh session of the IPC/CE.

7. The Working Group is invited to approve the preparation of an IPC Development Program for the years 2005 to 2008 following the procedure described in the present document.

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