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**PCT/A/50/****1**

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# International Patent Cooperation Union (PCT Union)

# Assembly

**Fiftieth (29th Extraordinary) Session
Geneva, September 24 to October 2, 2018**

Report on the PCT Working Group

*prepared by the International Bureau*

1. Since the previous session of the Assembly, the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Working Group (“the Working Group”) held its eleventh session from June 18 to 22, 2018. Delegations exchanged views on issues related to the functioning of the PCT, as described in the Summary by the Chair (document PCT/WG/11/26, annexed), which was noted by the Working Group.
2. Among the subjects discussed at the session, the Working Group provided comments in support of the four main areas of work proposed in a Memorandum by the Director General published on February 2, 2017, at the time of publication of the 3 millionth international patent application under the PCT, titled “The PCT System – Overview and Possible Future Directions and Priorities”, namely: legal and institution issues, technical (IT) environment, financial issues and quality.
3. The Working Group further discussed recommendations to WIPO and to Member States with respect to certain actions that should be taken regarding patent applications related to persons or technologies that are the subject of United Nations Security Council sanctions on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.  Those recommendations were contained in a report by

the Panel of Experts established pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 1874 (2009) on its work pursuant to resolution 2345 (2017), which the Panel had submitted to the United Nations Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006).

1. Two workshops took place during the session, one on the subject of PCT fee reductions for universities, and the other on erroneously‑filed elements and parts of international applications. With regard to fee reductions for universities, the Working Group invited the Secretariat to begin a consultation to identify issues and solutions, risks and mitigations which might be relevant to the discussions on possible fee reductions for universities, which would serve as a basis for a document to be prepared by the International Bureau for consideration by the Working Group at its next session. With regard to erroneously‑filed elements or parts, the Working Group invited the International Bureau to prepare draft amendments to the Regulations relating to incorporation by reference of missing elements and parts of an international application, also for consideration by the Working Group at its next session.
2. The Working Group noted various reports, including the Summary by the Chair of the twenty‑fifth session of the Meeting of International Authorities under the PCT and the eighth informal meeting of its Quality Subgroup that took place in February 2018, documents related to the development of PCT online services, and a progress report relating to possible measures to reduce exposure of PCT fee income to movements in currency exchange rates through netting.
3. The Working Group also agreed to recommend to the Assembly the adoption of amendments to the PCT Regulations, as set out in the proposals contained in document PCT/A/50/2.
4. The Working Group further agreed that the International Bureau prepare a proposal for consideration by the Assembly in relation to introducing an application form for appointment as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority, as contained in document PCT/A/50/3.
5. Finally, the Working Group agreed to recommend to the Assembly that, subject to the availability of sufficient funds, one session of the Working Group should be convened between the current and the autumn 2019 sessions of the Assembly, and that the same financial assistance that had been made available to enable attendance of certain delegations at the eleventh session of the Working Group should be made available at the next session.
6. *The Assembly of* *the PCT Union is invited:*
	1. *to take note of the “Report on the PCT Working Group” (document PCT/A/50/1); and*
	2. *to approve the convening of a session of the PCT Working Group, as set out in paragraph 8 of that document.*

[Document PCT/WG/11/26 follows]