

WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

INTERNATIONAL PATENT COOPERATION UNION
(PCT UNION)

PCT COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Twentieth Session
Geneva, September 23 to October 1, 2002

REPORT

adopted by the Committee

INTRODUCTION

1. The PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) held its twentieth session in Geneva from September 23 to October 1, 2002.
2. The following members of the Committee were represented: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

and the European Patent Office (EPO). The Eurasian Patent Office (EAPO) and the African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO) were represented as special observers. The list of participants is contained in Annex I to this report.

3. Mr. Francis Gurry, Assistant Director General, opened the session and welcomed the participants on behalf of the Director General.

ELECTION OF A CHAIR AND TWO VICE-CHAIRS

4. The Committee unanimously elected Mr. Jørgen Smith (Norway) as Chair and Mr. Wang Jingchuan (China) and Mr. Miklós Bendzsel (Hungary) as Vice-Chairs.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Committee unanimously adopted the agenda as contained in Annex II to this report.

PCT MINIMUM DOCUMENTATION

6. Discussions were based on document PCT/CTC/20/4.

7. The International Bureau recalled the background to the proposal for a study of matters related to the PCT minimum documentation, as outlined, in particular, in paragraphs 4 to 8 of document PCT/CTC/20/4. It noted that the upcoming session of the Meeting of International Authorities under the PCT (PCT/MIA) would not be held in December 2002 (as was indicated in paragraph 10 of that document) but was expected to be held during the week of January 20, 2003.

8. The Delegation of the United States of America expressed strong support for the proposal for a study by PCT/MIA, noting the importance for the work of patent Offices of the incorporation of traditional knowledge periodicals and databases into the minimum documentation and of the possible access, within the framework of the PCT minimum documentation, to documents in certain technical fields via databases.

9. The Delegation of Finland supported the proposal as well as the statement made by the Delegation of the United States of America.

10. The Committee noted the contents of document PCT/CTC/20/4 and unanimously recommended to the Assembly of the PCT Union that PCT/MIA be requested to undertake the study proposed in that document and to make recommendations to the Committee on proposed modifications of PCT Rule 34 and proposed mechanisms for reviewing and maintaining the non-patent literature part of the PCT minimum documentation.

ADVICE TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PCT UNION ON THE REQUEST OF THE
CANADIAN COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS TO BE APPOINTED AS
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY AND AS INTERNATIONAL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

11. Discussions were based on documents PCT/CTC/20/2 and PCT/CTC/20/2 Add. 1.

12. In response to an invitation by the Chair, the Delegation of Canada made a statement to the Committee. The Delegation stated that the growth and importance of intellectual property throughout the world in the past decade had influenced public policy, economic development and social welfare globally. This had resulted in intellectual property Offices being faced with an increase in demand for their products and services. Increasing filings of patent applications had led to growing workloads and backlogs in national Offices, including the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO). CIPO had received some 40,000 patent applications in 2001, which constituted an almost 50% increase over the previous five years.

13. The Delegation of Canada noted that the tremendous development in the utilization of the patent system had been mirrored by the extraordinary success of the PCT. Canadian applicants, like most applicants worldwide, had embraced the PCT system: there had been in 2001 a 16% increase in the number of PCT applications filed in Canada, which compared with an overall growth rate of 14% in PCT applications received by the International Bureau for the same year. As a consequence of these developments, CIPO had carried out an examination of its activities within the intellectual property community at large and more specifically with respect to the service level provided to Canadian applicants. As a result of this exercise, CIPO had become increasingly committed to building an international role, aiming for the highest standard of excellence in services. Furthermore, Canada had been assuming international leadership and cooperation roles reflecting its rising prominence and status among intellectual property Offices. CIPO had evolved accordingly and its rising status was reflected in collaboration ventures carried out with other intellectual property Offices, an example of such a venture being the specialized courses it offered in conjunction with WIPO on client service and quality management in the delivery of patent services; in these courses, CIPO was able to share with Offices of other countries its knowledge and practical experience in the provision of quality products and services.

14. The Delegation of Canada noted that documents PCT/CTC/20/2 and PCT/A/31/1 addressed the technical aspects of the appointment and the rationale for requesting the appointment as an International Searching Authority (ISA) and International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA). The documents also explained how CIPO, under the direction of the Commissioner, would fulfill the minimum human resource and documentation requirements set out under the PCT. CIPO had a highly qualified and competent growing corps of patent examiners who possessed bilingual (French and English) and sometimes trilingual capabilities; it had a modern and efficient automated patent processing system supported by a forward thinking and comprehensive information technology infrastructure; its collection of patent documents and on-line resources permitted it to meet PCT minimum documentation requirements on a virtual basis; and it had an organizational commitment in pursuit of excellence in client service delivery. The Delegation pointed out that minimal gaps in documentation would be corrected before the summer of 2004. The Delegation further stated that its request was also backed by several rounds of consultations with client groups on the relative merits and benefits of the status as an ISA and IPEA. Informal discussions were also held with members of the international community (mostly heads of Offices) and all such exchanges had revealed wide support for the submission.

15. The Delegation of Canada was of the view that, as a consequence of the requested appointment, client groups would benefit from greater access to the international patent system. Furthermore, it believed that status as an ISA and IPEA would reinforce CIPO's commitment to continued excellence in providing service to clients. Another benefit would be CIPO's ability to influence intellectual property matters within a broader international spectrum, this being the context in which CIPO sought a positive recommendation from the Committee. The Delegation indicated that the expected start date for ISA and IPEA services would be summer 2004. The Delegation reiterated its request for favorable consideration of its submission by the Committee; it also re-emphasized its continued goodwill towards WIPO and its Member States in the improvement of global intellectual property services.
16. The Delegations of the United States of America, Australia, Morocco, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Lesotho, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, and Antigua and Barbuda fully supported the proposal by the Delegation of Canada.
17. The Delegation of Japan, while supporting the proposal, highlighted the need for the current gaps in the minimum documentation held by CIPO to be filled on an urgent basis, and in any case before the starting date of CIPO's operation as an ISA and IPEA.
18. The Delegation of Kenya expressed its full support for the proposal and emphasized that, as a developing country, Kenya would benefit from such appointment.
19. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea fully supported the proposal and congratulated the Canadian Commissioner of Patents, especially in view of the large support received, referring to its own experience in 1997 when the Korean Intellectual Property Office had achieved appointment as an ISA and IPEA.
20. The Delegation of Algeria supported wholeheartedly the proposal and pointed to the fact that the appointment would further enhance existing links between its country and Canada, which was host to a large Algerian community.
21. The Delegation of Mexico expressed support for the proposal and commended CIPO for its high level of professionalism, the well-established cooperation links with the Mexican Industrial Property Office and especially the high caliber of CIPO's examiners, 20% of whom have doctorate qualifications.
22. The Delegation of the Russian Federation, while supporting the proposal in principle, expressed its concerns about the gap in paper-based minimum documentation currently held by CIPO, especially with respect to documents from the Russian Federation and the former Soviet Union.
23. The Delegation of Denmark supported the proposal but, referring to the intervention by the Delegation of Japan, also expressed the wish that CIPO would explain how CIPO would fill the gaps present in the minimum documentation currently held by CIPO.
24. The Delegation of Canada confirmed that CIPO was making efforts to acquire, hopefully in electronic form, the relevant missing elements of the minimum documentation, and it expressed its confidence that the gaps would be filled before the start of CIPO's operations as an ISA and IPEA.

25. The Committee unanimously recommended to the Assembly of the PCT Union that the Canadian Commissioner of Patents be appointed as an ISA and IPEA.

ADVICE TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PCT UNION ON THE REQUEST OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF PATENTS AND REGISTRATION OF FINLAND TO BE APPOINTED AS INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY AND AS INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

26. Discussions were based on document PCT/CTC/20/3.

27. In response to an invitation by the Chair, the Delegation of Finland made a statement to the Committee. It first pointed out that the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland (“the Finnish Office”) was celebrating a jubilee year as the first Finnish patent was granted in 1842, 160 years ago. The Delegation pointed out that the Finnish Office started as an independent central Office in 1942, 60 years ago, when it was separated from the Ministry of Trade and Industry. There had been a significant rise in the number of patent applications in the world over the past few years and this had, in particular, put to the test the capacity of major patent Offices and caused ever-growing backlogs in search and examination. Therefore there was a real need for additional processing capacity in the PCT field in Europe and in the world. The Delegation noted that WIPO had in different contexts expressed concerns about this matter. Finland was ready to help by sharing some of the workload generated by the PCT system, and had therefore submitted its request for the appointment of the Finnish Office as an ISA and IPEA. The Delegation recalled that Finland was an industrialized, high-tech country and that the Finnish Office wished to guarantee good services to its clients, including inventors, small-and medium-sized enterprises and large-scale industry. The Delegation pointed out that the responsibility of the Committee was to deal solely with technical matters.

28. The Delegation of Finland also noted that the PCT system was actively used and very popular in Finland, and that, in the past five years, the number of international applications originating from Finland had doubled, last year being 1,623. The Delegation further pointed out that Finland had, for some time, ranked among the top eleven countries of origin of users of the PCT system. The Delegation stated that the present initiative was unanimously supported by all interested circles in Finland and that this had been evident during hearings organized by the Finnish Ministry of Trade and Industry.

29. With regard to the requirements under PCT Rule 34 (“Minimum Documentation”), the Delegation of Finland explained that, via EPOQUE, BNS and other international databases, the examiners at the Finnish Office had access to the entire PCT minimum documentation in electronic form, as well as to an extensive collection of paper-form documentation and to an in-house library system, Global Index Database (GID), used to manage patent documents received on CD-ROMs/DVDs. Today, the system contained about 6 million documents on hard disks and in jukeboxes.

30. The Delegation of Finland went on to explain that, currently, the Finnish Office had a staff of 480, including 92 persons with sufficient technical qualifications and experience to carry out searches and examinations, of whom 80 worked exclusively as examiners, and that the recruitment of additional staff needed to fulfill the PCT requirement had also started. The Delegation pointed out that Finnish industry and all of the Finnish Office’s clients had been satisfied with the standard of examination work by the Finnish Office, which used modern examination methods and tools. Electronic filing of applications with the Finnish Office

started in the spring of 2001, the aim being to introduce full electronic processing of applications and electronic file inspection before the end of 2004.

31. The Delegation indicated that Finland had estimated that the Finnish Office would be ready to start operations as an ISA and IPEA in the first half of 2004 in respect of international applications in Finnish, Swedish and English, originating from Finland, at the first stage. The Delegation was also confident that the Office had the qualifications needed for conducting novelty searches and examination work. It expressed its hope that its request would receive a positive response from the Committee.

32. The Delegation of Switzerland made reference to the upcoming discussions by the WIPO Assemblies on the Agenda for Development of the International Patent System (document A/37/6), which constituted a broader framework within which the Finnish Office's request needed to be considered. That document outlined a vision under which the role of the PCT would be considerably increased and it proposed the development of means for promoting the international patent system, one of such means being, in a first stage, the concept of regionalization of work. The upcoming discussions might permit the emergence of promising solutions for the sharing of work both at the European level and at the worldwide level. Because the question of distribution of PCT work was currently being discussed in Europe, many European countries would have preferred to defer a decision on the present matter. While the Delegation fully appreciated the role which the Finnish Office would be capable of playing in the PCT system and despite the unchallenged right of Finland to submit its application, the Delegation wondered whether it was wise to appoint a new ISA and IPEA in Europe at this time. The Delegation stated that it was not the only delegation convinced that certain technical questions would be solved for the next year, and that a well-founded decision could better be made in a year's time. The Delegation concluded by asking whether the Delegation of Finland would be prepared to defer its application until next year, noting that that question had been put forward to Finland in the context of discussions at the European level and that Finland had then given a negative reply. The Delegation stated that it would be useful to hear the views of the Committee on this point.

33. The Delegation of Estonia supported the Finnish Office's request, recalling that, during the July 2002 session of the Administrative Council of the European Patent Organisation in Stockholm, it had already supported the request. The Delegation pointed out that there was close cooperation between the Finnish Office and the Estonian Office. It also emphasized that the Finnish Office was well equipped and had very qualified examiners who provided high quality examination. The Delegation stated that the proposal also enjoyed the support of the group of Central European and Baltic States.

34. With reference to the intervention by the Delegation of Switzerland, the Delegation of Finland, raising a point of order, pointed out that the Committee was only a technical committee and not political one, and stated that the Committee should concentrate its deliberations on questions concerning the capacity and capability of the Finnish Office, not on whether the request should be postponed.

35. The Delegation of France emphasized that it had no doubts as to the Finnish Office's goodwill vis-à-vis handling PCT applications in the best possible manner, but it nevertheless associated itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Switzerland. The Delegation wondered whether other delegations would not prefer to see the matter deferred so as to permit consideration, in addition to technical factors, of the result of ongoing discussions in the European regional framework. Therefore, it seemed difficult, at this point, for the

Committee to give a reasoned advice on the matter to the PCT Assembly, noting that the Committee was provided for by the PCT itself and that the advice from the Committee had to be reasoned in order to guarantee the proper functioning of the PCT system and WIPO's image. The Delegation also pointed out that another reason for postponing the matter was the need to discuss the technical capacity of PCT Authorities as part of the ongoing discussion in certain regional patent organizations.

36. The Delegation of Germany supported the proposal made by the Delegation of Switzerland that the decision concerning the appointment of the Finnish Office as a PCT Authority should be deferred until next year. The Delegation noted that Finland was a member of the EPO, that there was an ongoing debate in the European Patent Organisation on how to further organize PCT work among the EPO and its member States, and that it would be advantageous first to extensively discuss the matter in the regional forum.

37. The Delegation of Algeria supported the proposal made by the Delegation of Switzerland to defer consideration of the request made by the Finnish Office until next year.

38. The Delegation of Italy fully understood the request by Finland and recognized the unchallenged right of that country to make such request. However, like other delegations, in particular the Delegations of Switzerland, France, Germany and Algeria, it felt that it would be wise to defer the matter until next year.

39. The representative of the EPO expressed full appreciation for Finland's obvious right to make the request for the Finnish Office to become an ISA and IPEA and stated that such right had never been questioned nor challenged. Considering the technical character of the Committee, the representative wished to draw the Committee's attention to certain points. The crucial questions were not whether the Finnish Office had the required number of examiners or whether the minimum documentation was available in electronic form or in paper form but whether the ongoing discussions within the European Patent Organisation on the distribution of workload among its member States would not justify the postponement of the matter so that the question could be considered further and in greater depth, and an appropriate solution found next year, including consideration of the establishment of a Nordic PCT Authority within the framework of Nordic cooperation.

40. The Delegation of Monaco stated that it had no doubt as to the Finnish Office's technical capacity. However, the Delegation supported the position taken, in particular, by the Delegations of Switzerland and France. The Delegation also felt that there were still some technical issues to be resolved. Therefore, the Delegation felt it wise to defer the decision until the next session of the PCT Assembly.

41. The Delegation of Denmark pointed out that neither of the two Offices seeking appointment as ISA and IPEA fulfilled all the applicable requirements, but that both were ready to take initiatives to meet those requirements before they started to act as PCT Authorities. The Delegation found that both Offices were in the same situation as other Offices had been when they had sought to become PCT Authorities. The Delegation recalled the technical nature of the present Committee. It stated that it would have preferred to discuss the question of a Nordic PCT Authority, as referred to by the representative of the EPO, before discussing Finland's request and stated that from a technical point of view the Finnish Office should be appointed as a PCT Authority. That would only be fair play. However, it noted that Finland had also expressed interest in discussing the question of a Nordic PCT

Authority and it was convinced that the idea of such an Authority could already be presented to the Assembly next year.

42. The Delegation of Mexico noted that, although Mexico was not a European country, it was an active PCT Contracting State and a developing country, and pointed out that it would not question the capacity of the Finnish Office, but that it seemed to it that the issue had not yet been fully discussed in Europe. Like the Delegations of Germany, Italy and France, the Delegation of Mexico favored deferring a decision on the request by Finland.

43. The Delegation of Brazil expressed understanding for the request by Finland but supported the proposal made by the Delegation of Switzerland to defer the matter in view of the current discussions concerning regionalization.

44. The Delegation of Austria thought it would be fair to address only technical questions in the Committee. It was of the opinion that both the Canadian and the Finnish Offices would fulfill the technical requirements. Nevertheless, the Delegation stated that it would not hinder a consensus on the matter.

45. The Delegation of Spain noted that, as was often the case in the field of patents and the PCT, technical and political elements were related. The Delegation indicated that it was in favor of deferral of a decision for the same reasons that had been expressed by, in particular, the Delegations of Switzerland and Germany, having in mind what had been said by the Delegation of Finland.

46. The Delegation of the United States of America noted the concerns raised on the issue and stated that, while the United States of America, like Mexico, was not a European country, it strongly supported the adoption of a solution to those concerns that would be acceptable to all parties involved, and it hoped that such a solution could be found within the coming year.

47. The Delegation of Finland noted that only one delegation had expressed concerns as to whether the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland complied with the technical requirements; it asked the International Bureau to provide information on former cases, such as those of the national Offices of Spain, the Republic of Korea or Australia.

48. The International Bureau indicated that the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office had been appointed as an ISA in 1993 by the Assembly, following a positive recommendation by the PCT/CTC, although that Office did not at the time have the required number of technically qualified staff (that is, the number was below 100). The Agreement, as adopted by the Assembly, included a provision to the effect that the Office was required to comply with this requirement within three years from the entry into force of the Agreement. Secondly, in the case of the Korean Intellectual Property Office, which was appointed by the Assembly in 1997, the PCT minimum documentation was not fully available at the time. The Agreement provided that the appointment would enter into force one month after the date on which the Office notified the Director General of WIPO that it was in possession of all elements of the PCT minimum documentation (the notification being received by the Director General at the end of October 1999).

49. The Chair, noting that there was only little support for the request by Finland to be considered at the present time, asked the Delegation of Finland whether it wished to uphold its request to be considered at the present time or whether some other action should be pursued.

50. The Delegation of Finland remarked that no delegation had opposed its request and that delegations were only asking for the matter to be postponed for one year. The question posed by the Chair raised political considerations on which the Delegation would need to consult with its government.

51. In concluding the discussion on the matter, the Chair noted that delegations had not questioned the right of the Finnish Office to seek appointment as an ISA and IPEA and that compliance by the Office with technical requirements was not at issue; indeed, many delegations had expressed their confidence in the competence and technical capacity of the Finnish Office.

52. The Committee recommended to the Assembly of the PCT Union that further consideration of the request by the Finnish Office for appointment as an ISA and IPEA be deferred until 2003.

[Annexes follow]

ANNEXE I/ANNEX I

I. MEMBRES DU COMITÉ/MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

(dans l'ordre alphabétique des noms français des États/
in the alphabetical order of the names in French of the States)

AFRIQUE DU SUD/SOUTH AFRICA

Cecilia 'Maelia PETLANE (Ms.), Assistant Director Department of Trade and Industry, Companies and Intellectual Property Registration Office (CIPRO), Pretoria

ALGÉRIE/ALGERIA

Amor BOUHNİK, directeur général, Institut national algérien de la propriété industrielle (INAPI), Alger

Malika HABTOUN (Mme), sous-directrice de la protection industrielle, Institut national algérien de la propriété industrielle (INAPI), Alger

ALLEMAGNE/GERMANY

Raimund LUTZ, Deputy Director General, Federal Ministry of Justice, Berlin

Jürgen SCHADE, President, German Patent and Trademark Office, Munich

ANTIGUA-ET-BARBUDA/ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Gertel Uranie THOM (Mrs.), Attorney General, Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, St. John's

Laurie FREELAND-ROBERTS (Mrs.), Deputy Registrar, Registrar's Office, High Court, Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, St. John's

AUSTRALIE/AUSTRALIA

Ian HEATH, Director General, IP Australia, Canberra

Rick GOULD, Deputy Director General (Corporate Strategy), IP Australia, Canberra

AUTRICHE/AUSTRIA

Robert ULLRICH, Head, Department for International and EC Affairs, Austrian Patent Office, Vienna

BARBADE/BARBADOS

Maureen CRANE-SCOTT (Mrs.), Registrar, Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office, St. Michael

BELGIQUE/BELGIUM

Leopold WUYTS, conseiller, Office de la propriété industrielle, Ministère des affaires économiques, Bruxelles

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Alija KRDŽALIĆ (Miss.), Assistant Director, Institute for Standardization, Metrology and Patents of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo

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José GRAÇA ARANHA, President, National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI), Rio de Janeiro

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Mircho Rachev MIRCHEV, President, Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria, Sofia

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BURKINA FASO

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CHYPRE/CYPRUS

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COLOMBIE/COLOMBIA

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Matti PÄTS, Director General, Estonian Patent Office, Tallinn

Toomas LUMI, Deputy Director General, Estonian Patent Office, Tallinn

ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE/UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Lois BOLAND (Mrs.), Acting Director, Office of Legislative and International Affairs, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

Brad HUTHER, Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property, Arlington

EX-RÉPUBLIQUE YOUGOSLAVE DE MACÉDOINE/THE FORMER YUGOSLAV
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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Ognjan BLAGOEY, Head of Patent Department, Industrial Property Protection Office, Skopje

FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE/RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Guennadi Anatolievich NEGOULIAEV, Director, Department of International Cooperation, Russian Agency for Patents and Trademarks (ROSPATENT), Moscow

FINLANDE/FINLAND

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Pekka Tapani LAUNIS, Deputy Director General, National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland, Helsinki

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Maarit LÖYTÖMÄKI (Mrs.), Deputy Director, National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland, Helsinki

Marjo AALTO-SETÄLÄ (Miss.), Coordinator, International and Legal Affairs, National Board of Patents and Registration, Helsinki

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Jean Christophe BOCCON-GIBOD, Mission permanente, Genève

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Hagar Fola ALLEN (Mrs.), Registrar General, Registrar General's Department, Department of State for Justice, Banjul

GHANA

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[L'annexe II suit/Annex II follows]

ANNEX II

AGENDA

adopted by the Committee

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of a Chair and two Vice-Chairs
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. PCT minimum documentation (See document PCT/CTC/20/4.)
5. Advice to the Assembly of the PCT Union on the request of the Canadian Commissioner of Patents to be appointed as International Searching Authority and as International Preliminary Examining Authority (See documents PCT/CTC/20/2 and PCT/CTC/20/2 Add.1.)
6. Advice to the Assembly of the PCT Union on the request of the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland to be appointed as International Searching Authority and as International Preliminary Examining Authority (See document PCT/CTC/20/3.)
7. Adoption of the report of the session
8. Closing of the session

[End of Annex II and of document]