

C. PCT 1515

August 2, 2017

Madam,
Sir,

This Circular is addressed to your Office in its capacity as a receiving Office, International Searching Authority, International Preliminary Examining Authority and/or designated/elected Office under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). It is also being sent to certain organizations that are invited to attend sessions of the PCT Working Group as observers.

The purpose of this Circular is to invite proposals for issues to be discussed in a workshop relating to PCT fee reductions for universities, to be held during the eleventh session of the PCT Working Group in 2018.

Background

At its tenth session, the PCT Working Group discussed a document prepared by the delegation of Brazil (see document PCT/WG/10/18) proposing a fee reduction for international applications filed by universities from certain countries, notably developing and least-developed countries. The discussions are summarized in paragraphs 27 to 32 of document PCT/WG/10/24, as follows:

“27. Discussions were based on document PCT/WG/10/18.

“28. The Delegation of Brazil introduced the proposal in document PCT/WG/10/18.

“29. Many delegations and regional groups supported the proposal, mentioning the positive effect of reduction of fees for universities in developing countries. Other delegations agreed that the ability of universities to participate effectively in the PCT System was important and it was recognized that this new proposal had incorporated certain concerns expressed in the previous meeting. Nevertheless, some States were not able to support the proposal at this stage for a variety of reasons.

“30. The Chair proposed that efforts be made to advance discussions on the issue before the next session of the Working Group. The International Bureau should send a Circular before the end of July offering interested parties an opportunity to propose issues to be discussed in a workshop to be held during the next session of the Working Group. Such issues might include:

- (a) issues which had been raised in this session, such as definitions of “university”, financial impact or the relationship with the existing fee reductions;
- (b) sharing of Member States’ national or regional fee reduction programs; and
- (c) other measures which might be considered as additions or alternatives to fee reductions as ways of stimulating innovation by universities in developing countries and elsewhere.

“31. The responses should be made publicly available and may serve as the basis of both the agenda of the workshop and further proposals by Member States.

“32. The Working Group invited the International Bureau to issue a Circular as set out in paragraph 30, above, and to convene a workshop, to be held during the next session of the Working Group.”

Submission of Proposals

Your Office is accordingly invited to propose issues to be discussed in the workshop to be held during the eleventh session of the Working Group in 2018. The proposals may be accompanied by background material, such as information concerning national definitions, fee reductions or other incentives and assistance which might be relevant. The proposals and background material need not be complete or formal at this stage, provided that the general scope is clear.

Replies to this Circular should be returned by September 30, 2017, preferably by e-mail to the Secretariat of the PCT Working Group (pct.wg@wipo.int). Responses received will be made publicly available and will form the basis of a draft agenda for the workshop. That draft agenda will also be made available for discussion by interested parties and any more formal documentation required will be invited to be submitted well in advance of the workshop.

Yours sincerely,



Francis Gurry
Director General