**IP5 Industry Consultation Group Meeting**
**Summary of outcomes**

The IP5 Industry Consultation Group (ICG), comprised of representatives from the IP5 Offices, IP5 Industry and WIPO IB, for the first time took the form of a virtual meeting on 25th and 26th February 2021. The meeting presented an excellent opportunity for all delegates to engage in a frank and informative manner in spite of time limitations imposed by the virtual environment.

In their 4th meeting, the ICG held an intensive and productive discussion on a number of issues, including the future work of the IP5 Patent Harmonization Expert Panel (PHEP), unity of invention at the PCT level, IP5 NET/AI Task Force, measures taken by the IP5 Offices that users consider beneficial, and the IP5 website.

The IP5 Offices will continue their dialogue with IP5 Industry to ensure that IP5 projects effectively support the needs of the global user community.

**Main outcomes**:
- Outcome of the IP5 Heads Meeting 2020: A report on the outcome of the first virtual IP5 Heads of Office meeting was given, including the adoption of the IP5 joint statement, a discussion on strategic responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and measures taken by the IP5 offices, as well as the endorsement of the progress from the working groups and next steps. Industry representatives considered compliance with the communication protocol endorsed by the IP5 Heads important for the IP5 process and emphasized the importance of IP5 Industry speaking with one voice;

- Future work of PHEP: IP5 Industry provided additional information necessary for the IP5 Offices to finalize their analysis and evaluation of the candidate PHEP topics, i.e., global assignment and harmonization of allowable features in drawings. Based on the outcome of discussions, it is expected that the IP5 Offices will further consult and finalize the topic selection in the next PHEP meeting;

- Unity of invention (former PHEP topic): IP5 Industry appreciated the IP5 Offices' efforts to introduce the methodology agreed by the IP5 PHEP into the PCT ISPE Guidelines, noted the need for examiners' training and continued follow-up monitoring to ensure consistent application of the methodology for the assessment of unity;

- NET/AI Task Force: the IP5 Offices shared with IP5 Industry an overview of the current status and next steps in the work of the IP5 NET/AI Task Force, highlighting that the Task Force members were currently evaluating possible project proposals from the IP5 Offices according to the scoping document, in order to develop an IP5 NET/AI roadmap for the endorsement by the IP5 Heads in June;

- Measures taken by each Office that are beneficial to users: in response to a survey by the JPO, IP5 Industry representatives drew attention to specific, helpful

measures implemented at individual offices. The IP5 Offices thanked all industry associations for the valuable feedback, which they considered important as offices and users were moving into a "new normal" way of working post-COVID-19;

- IP5 website: the IP5 Offices and IP5 Industry agreed to partner on considering further improvements for the IP5 website;

- Next IP5 Heads with IP5 Industry meeting: IP5 Industry and the IP5 Offices discussed possible topics of strategic nature suitable to be addressed at the high-level IP5 meeting which the JPO will host in June 2021.