

## **GROUP B+ PLENARY VIRTUAL MEETING**

**September 21, 2022**

### **MEETING STATEMENT**

On September 21, 2022, Group B+ held a two-part plenary meeting. The Director General of the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI), Mr. Pascal Faure (France), chaired, and the Group B+ Secretariat, the USPTO, hosted the meeting. The Group B+ delegations and representatives of AIPPI, FICPI, and the IT3 organizations participated in the meeting via videoconference.

The B+ Core Group provided an update on their work on client-patent attorney privilege (CAP). The B+ Core Group will conduct stakeholder consultations through November 25, 2022. The group will review and provide a final analysis of the results of the consultations at the next plenary meeting.

IT3, AIPPI and FICPI provided information on their work on substantive harmonization. The Australian, Canadian, EPO and Japanese delegations reported results of domestic consultations on the user proposals emanating from these groups, with Australia, Canada, Japan and EPO particularly noting the strong support of their stakeholders for substantive patent law harmonisation. IT3, AIPPI and FICPI acknowledged the input and will take it into account moving forward.

Japan and the EPO reported final results from their respective grace period studies.

The Chair announced the establishment of a voluntary working group to analyze the outcome of the consultations and find areas of convergence and divergence, and called for proposals on potential new topics for discussion in Group B+ for future sessions. The Chair announced that the EPO will take over as Secretariat for the upcoming year and thanked the United States for serving as Secretariat.