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GROUP B+ STATEMENT

prepared by the Secretariat

Group B+ statement

Group B+ agreed to continue to support improvements to the global patent system for the benefit of users and to provide an effective stimulus for economic growth.

The Group welcomed the progress which has been made over the last year on multilateral initiatives, including the launch of the Global PPH pilot, the linkage of One Portal Dossier and WIPO CASE, and the publication of the Consolidated Report on the Tegernsee User Consultation on Substantive Patent Law Harmonisation.

The Group noted that the PCT Working Group had made moderate progress this year, including agreement on changes regarding fee reductions for certain applicants from certain countries and the procedure for appointment of International Authorities. The Group expressed hope, however, that more progress could be made over the coming year on improvements to the PCT, such as the sharing of international search strategies.

The Group also welcomed continued improvements in national and regional arrangements which can contribute to an improved global patent system.

The Group also addressed the issue of privilege in communications between intellectual property advisors and their clients. Following a very informative presentation by representative of AIPPI, FICPI and AIPLA, the Group recognised the importance of this subject and decided to continue the work which had been started the previous year with a view to developing a text for a multilateral agreement.

To this end, Group B+ members were asked to consult as appropriate with their respective competent national authorities and communicate their views on the draft to the delegations co-chairing this work (Switzerland, UK, Sweden) by the end of March 2015 at the latest so that a revised proposal could be presented at the next meeting of the Group.

Furthermore, the Group reaffirmed the importance of substantive patent law harmonisation in the context of the global economy as a means to promote the integration and simplification of the international patent system, to enhance legal certainty and predictability in the acquisition of patent rights.

Group members expressed strong support for the continuation of the relevant discussions in B+ as a multilateral forum and in close consultation with users. It was agreed to establish a sub-group that will assist the Chair to consider how best to advance work on areas which might be harmonised. The process would be transparent to the whole Group, who would be asked to endorse any proposals made by the sub-group.

Additionally, it was agreed to involve representatives from the users' community in the work of the B+ on a case-by-case basis.