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The International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) presents its compliments to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and has the honor to invite His Excellency's Government to be represented as an observer at the fourth session of the *Working Group on Reform of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)*, which will be held in Geneva, at the headquarters of WIPO, from May 19 (10 a.m.) to 23, 2003.

The proceedings will be informal, and it is envisaged that the five days of the session will be devoted to discussions. There is no formal agenda and there will be no formal report, but it is envisaged that a summary of the session will, as at the previous sessions of the Working Group, be prepared by the Chair and issued as a document. The topics for discussion at the session will be the following:

1. restoration of the right of priority;
2. missing part-type requirements;
3. future development of international search and international preliminary examination;
4. common quality framework for international search and international preliminary examination;
5. further streamlining and simplification of PCT procedures;
6. procedures relating to formalities checking;
7. electronic deposit system for sequence listings;

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8. international filing fee: incorporation of the handling fee;
9. divisional applications;
10. copyright issues in relation to the making and sending of copies of documents cited in the international search report.

Working documents will be available in English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish.

Working documents will be communicated on request. They are also being made available on WIPO's website (see <http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/meetings>).

An electronic forum has been established to facilitate the work of the Working Group and other bodies concerning reform of the PCT. The forum, which is accessible via the web page relating to the session, enables the submission by e-mail, and subsequent posting and browsing, of comments on matters concerning PCT reform. Provision is also made for subscription to an electronic mailing list by persons wishing to be informed when additional documents are made available on the web page and when comments are posted on the electronic forum.

The International Bureau would appreciate it if the name(s), title(s) and e-mail address(es) of the representative(s) of His Excellency's Government who will attend the session could be communicated to it by April 28, 2003.

February 17, 2003