Resolution of the Executive Committee, Cape Town, South Africa, 13 and 18 April 2015

“Office Cooperation and User Input”

FICPI, the International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys, broadly representative of the free profession throughout the world, assembled at its World Congress and Executive Committee held in Cape Town, South Africa, 13 and 18 April 2015, passed the following Resolution:

Noting that FICPI has been for a long time a well-recognized observer in many law-making processes and believes that it has positively contributed to IP treaties, laws and practices over the years,

Further noting that, as an expansion of the Trilateral Cooperation, the major IP Offices in the world have developed mutual cooperation in groups called the IP5, the TM5 and now the ID5,

Observing that the topics addressed by these groups initially covered procedural and organisational aspects of office practice but are now progressively expanding to include substantive aspects of IP law and practice,

Further observing that an “IP5 Industry” group has been created that mainly represents large industry from the jurisdictions of the IP5 Offices and provides input to the IP5,

Emphasizing that FICPI members are known for representing the whole range of users of the IP system, including individuals, SMEs, universities and large companies, and that, taken individually, the IP offices of these groups have welcomed the input of FICPI as the practitioners’ point of view when discussing law and practice issues and contemplated changes,

Further emphasizing that there is no reason that such input would be of lesser value in the framework of the cooperation between these same IP offices,

Urges the IP offices involved in the IP5, TM5 and ID5 groups to ensure a proper balance in the user input they receive by having FICPI systematically involved in their discussions with users.