2. Each Party shall use a classification for patents and utility models in accordance with the Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification, of March 24, 1971, as amended. Each Party shall use a classification of goods and services in accordance with the Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks, of June 15, 1957, as amended.

Article 171
Acquisition and Maintenance of Intellectual Property Rights

1. Where the acquisition of an intellectual property right is subject to the right being granted or registered, each Party shall ensure that, irrespective of whether an application for the granting or registration of an intellectual property right is filed as a national or as an international application under the applicable international agreement, the procedures for granting or registration of the right, subject to compliance with the substantive conditions for acquisition of the right, are conducive to the granting or registration within a reasonable period of time so as to avoid unwarranted curtailment of the period of protection.

2. Each Party shall provide a system for the registration of trademarks, industrial designs and patents which shall include:

(a) a requirement to provide to the applicant a communication in writing, which may be electronic, of the decision with reasons for a refusal of the application;

(b) an opportunity for the applicant to appeal against administrative refusal;

(c) an opportunity for the applicant to ask for judicial review of the final administrative refusal; and

(d) an opportunity for interested parties:

(i) to petition to oppose, if so provided in its laws and regulations, an application or a registration; and

(ii) to seek cancellation or invalidation of the registration.

Article 172
Transparency

For the purposes of further promoting transparency in the administration of its intellectual property system, each Party shall take appropriate measures available to the extent possible under its laws and regulations to publish or make available to the public information on applications and/or registrations of intellectual property rights where applicable in its laws and regulations and other relevant information on its intellectual property system.

Article 173
Promotion of Public Awareness Concerning Protection of Intellectual Property

The Parties shall take necessary measures to enhance public awareness of protection of intellectual property including educational and dissemination projects on the use of intellectual property as well as on the enforcement of intellectual property rights.

Article 174
Patents

Each Party shall ensure that any application for a patent is not rejected solely on the ground that the subject matter claimed in the application is related to a computer program. Nevertheless, the provision of this Article shall not prejudice the autonomy of each Party to exclude from patentability computer programs as such.