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To: HumanitarianProgram
Cc: Patent Practice; Pappas, Peter C. (U-S Office)

I'm writing anonymously to comment on Docket No. PTO–P–2010–0066]. I think that this idea of incentivizing technologies that address humanitarian needs through the US intellectual property system is a potentially good idea; however, I believe that this idea is fraught with philosophical puzzles. By using the American US intellectual property system to incentivize the development of technologies to address humanitarian needs, is this necessarily privileging technologies from certain parts of the globe, and underprivileged the diffusion of inventions and technologies from other parts of the globe that do not routinely use the US intellectual property system for protection of their indigenous knowledge and inventions? Will these incentives also promote definitions of humanitarian crises which may not be universally shared across human societies, particularly in some of the developing nations, who may have felt in the past that Western definitions of humanitarian crises often involved imposition of "western values" onto their indigenous societies? Who will determine the definition of "human crises" and will this involve some value judgement on the part of the USPTO regarding the worth of some inventions in comparison to other inventions? From a humanitarian perspective, I think that technologies which address humanitarian concerns concerning the issue of gender issues (violence against women and girls, gender stereotyping) should be included. There are also humanitarian issues in the treatment of ethnic and racial minorities and other groups in the US and other parts of the globe that could be considered; however, addressing these issues in the US and in other parts of the globe could prove to be contentious where certain definitions of "humanitarian crises" are not universally acknowledged or accepted. In the State Department's first ever Report to the U. N. Human Rights Council on conditions in the US, it is stated that: "Although we have made great strides, work remains to meet our goal of ensuring equality before the law for all." See http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/146379.pdf The report notes that, large segments of American society suffer from unfair policies and practices and that high unemployment rates, hate crime, poverty, poor housing, lack of access to health care and discriminatory hiring practices are among the challenges the report identified as affecting blacks, Latinos, Muslims, South Asians, Native Americans and gays and lesbians in the United States. Women and other groups who’ve suffered from these practices noted in this UN report have been impoverished here in the US as a result of discriminatory pay, high rates of unemployment and other unequal employment practices as documented in this report to the UN. In my opinion, technologies which address the humanitarian crises suffered by large segments in American society that suffer from unfair policies and practices, including discriminatory hiring and employment practices, and particularly under or unenforcement of the civil rights laws that occurred from 2001 to 2008, should be eligible under this proposed program, if they are not already.

Signed Anonymous Humanitarian