



**JOINT STATEMENT OF INTENT  
BETWEEN  
THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
AND  
THE MOROCCAN OFFICE OF INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTY  
TO COOPERATE IN THE FIELD OF PATENT PROSECUTION**

**USPTO No. 22143019-0000-000**

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the Moroccan Office of Industrial and Commercial Property (OMPIC) (each an Office and collectively, the Offices):

**Reaffirming** that patent protection is key to fostering technological innovation and accelerating economic development;

**Noting** the importance of adequately addressing the growing number of patent applications filed internationally in the context of globalization of the world economy;

**Acknowledging** the importance of expeditious, high quality and efficient examination of patent applications filed in both Offices;

**Recognizing** the benefits for patent applicants and offices of avoiding unnecessary duplication of work, reducing workloads, and streamlining the patent procedures in both Offices; and

**Desiring** to further enhance their significant role in cooperative efforts to be made worldwide in the field of patents,

**Recognizing** that on January 6, 2014, the USPTO began participating in the Global PPH and IP5 PPH ("Global/IP5 PPH") pilot programs, which consolidated and replaced numerous earlier PPH programs in which USPTO had participated, thereby further streamlining and simplifying the PPH process for both applicants and Global/IP5 PPH participating offices.



#### **Have Reached the Following Understandings:**

The Offices intend to start a Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) program for patent applications filed with both Offices, including those filed for purpose of the national phase of Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) processes. Under the PPH program, accelerated prosecution of patent claims in the Office of Later Examination (OLE) may be requested based on a positive ruling on corresponding patent claims in the Office of Earlier Examination (OEE). The PPH program is intended to commence on April 1, 2023 and is expected to continue unless discontinued.

The Offices intend to evaluate the PPH pilot program at regular intervals. Based on those evaluations, the Offices may decide in writing to modify the PPH program based on mutually determined guidelines. Additionally, either Office may discontinue the PPH program for any reason, including if the volume of applicant participation exceeds a manageable level. In the event an Office decides to discontinue its participation in the PPH program, that Office should endeavor to provide advance notice of 30 days to the other Office. The USPTO intends to publish a notice in the USPTO's Official Gazette in the event of the discontinuation of the PPH program.

#### **Participation in the PPH Pilot Program between the OMPIC and the USPTO**

Any request by an applicant to accelerate patent prosecution in the USPTO under the PPH program based on OMPIC work product or in OMPIC under the PPH program based on USPTO work product is subject to the guidelines, requirements and procedures exchanged between the Offices and published on their respective websites. The Offices do not intend to apply guidelines, requirements, or procedures prior to their exchange between the Offices and publication on the Offices' respective websites.

The Offices intend their respective guidelines, requirements and procedures under the PPH program to be the same as those of the Global/IP5 PPH pilot program, and to reflect any subsequent modifications thereto.

With respect to requests to USPTO for accelerated examination under the PPH program for applications, USPTO expects patent applicants to use the request form that is available on the USPTO "Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) - Fast Track Examination of Applications" portal website.



With respect to requests to the OMPIC for accelerated examination under the PPH program, OMPIC expects patent applicants to use the request form that is available on the OMPIC website.

This Joint Statement of Intent does not give rise to any rights or obligations under international or domestic law. It becomes operative on the date of the last signature by the Offices.

For the United States Patent and  
Trademark Office

**Katherine K. Vidal**  
Under Secretary of Commerce for  
Intellectual Property and Director of the  
United States Patent and Trademark Office

For the Moroccan Office of Industrial  
and Commercial Property

**Abdelaziz Babqiqi**  
General Director

Date: March 21, 2023

Place: Alexandria, Virginia

Date: 27 MARS 2023

Place: Casablanca