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The Mexican Institute of Industrial Property has been designated as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

During the Assemblies of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) held in Geneva, the Assembly of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (the “PCT”)¹ approved, by consensus of its member states, the appointment of the Mexican Institute of Industrial Property (the “MIIP”) as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority (ISA/IPEA). This was announced in a joint press release issued by Mexico’s Ministry of Economy and the MIIP on July 13, 2026. With this recognition, the MIIP becomes the twenty-sixth international authority of its kind in the PCT system and the fourth to operate in Spanish, joining the offices of **Spain, Chile, and Brazil**.²

This designation may have significant practical implications for applicants who wish to file international patent applications through the PCT, who will now be able, at any Receiving Office, **to choose the MIIP as the competent authority to conduct the International Search and the International Preliminary Examination of patentability — procedures that until now had to be entrusted to foreign authorities such as the abovementioned patent offices, as well as the European Patent Office (EPO) or the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).**

The MIIP’s designation as an International Searching Authority (“ISA”) and International Preliminary Examining Authority (“IPEA”) under the PCT offers a significant practical and economic advantage, particularly for Mexican and Latin American applicants. These applicants will be able to file their international applications through the PCT mechanism and, if they so choose, receive both the international search report and the preliminary examination opinion in Spanish — the language in which they typically draft their applications — thereby avoiding translation costs and delays that can sometimes be substantial. Additionally, the fees set by the MIIP for these services are expected to be lower than those charged by other competent Spanish-speaking authorities, such as the patent offices of Spain, Chile, and Brazil. From a strategic perspective, having a search report and a favorable preliminary opinion issued by the MIIP could facilitate entry into the national phase in Spanish-speaking designated countries by providing local examiners with an initial technical assessment of the invention’s novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability in their own language, thereby

¹ **The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)**, administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), is an international system that allows an inventor or company to seek patent protection in multiple countries by filing a **single international application**, rather than having to file separate national applications in each country of interest. Through the PCT, the applicant is granted an extended period (generally up to 30 months from the priority date) to decide in which specific countries they wish to pursue protection; during this time, an international search is conducted and, if desired, a preliminary international examination is performed to provide guidance on the patentability of the invention. It is important to note that the PCT does not grant an “international patent” as such; the final granting of the patent remains the responsibility of each national or regional office where the applicant decides to continue the process during the national phase.

² Although the official language of the National Intellectual Property Office in Brazil is Portuguese, Brazil accepts the filing of PCT applications in Spanish and conducts international searches and preliminary examinations in Spanish (subject to the submission of a Portuguese translation within the time limits specified by the Brazilian Patent Office during the national phase).

streamlining subsequent proceedings for the adequate protection of the invention.

Pérez-Llorca Mexico will closely monitor the publication of the operational and official fees established by the MIIP in its new role in order to advise you in a timely manner on how to leverage this new avenue in your international patent protection strategy.

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