

**UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



Procedural Harmonization

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Why we collaborate internationally

- **Benefits for external stakeholders**
 - Advocate for strong IP policies, enforcement, and protection globally
 - Lead efforts to assist inventors and businesses in protecting their patent rights worldwide
- **Benefits for offices and examiners**
 - Improve office practices and procedures
 - Explore ways to harmonize processes, systems, and practices to increase efficiencies, certainty, and reliability

Procedural harmonization efforts

- Worksharing
 - USPTO vision
 - Classification
 - Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)
 - Collaborative search

Procedural harmonization efforts (cont.)

- Multilateral forums
 - Trilateral
 - E-signature*
 - Current status
 - Next steps
 - IP5

*work also occurring in IP5

Procedural harmonization efforts (cont.)

- Patent Harmonization Expert Panel (PHEP)
 - Global assignment
 - Current status
 - Next steps
 - Allowable features in drawings
 - Current status
 - Next steps

Procedural harmonization efforts (cont.)

- New emerging technologies/artificial intelligence (NET/AI)
 - IP5 activities
 - AI-related inventions examination guidelines
 - Other activities



Questions



THANK YOU