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Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 11:57 PM
To: HumanitarianProgram
Cc: Patent Practice; Pappas, Peter C. (U-S Office)
Subject: Request for Comments on Incentivizing Humanitarian Technologies and Licensing
Through the Intellectual Property System - Docket No. PTO–P–2010–0066]

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 underprivileging 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 crisises 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 crisises often involved imposition of "western values" onto their
indigenous societies? Who will determine the definition of "human crisises" 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
crisises" 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 crisises 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