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**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS**  
Geneva

**CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Eighty-Third Session**  
**Geneva, March 30, 2012**

ADDENDUM TO  
ACCESS TO UPOV DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION

*Document prepared by the Office of the Union*

1. At its forty-fifth ordinary session, held in Geneva on October 20, 2011, the Council approved the organization of a "Symposium on the benefits of plant variety protection for farmers and growers" (Symposium), to be held on November 2, 2012 (see document C/45/17 "Report on the Decisions", paragraph 35). A copy of the draft program is attached as Annex I to this document.
2. On March 8, 2012, the Office of the Union received a letter from Ms. Sangeeta Shashikant, President of the Association for Plant Breeding for the Benefit of Society (APBREBES), requesting that participation in the Symposium be open to the public. A copy of the letter is attached as Annex II to this document.
3. It is proposed that the Symposium be open for attendance to the public, subject to room capacity, with priority being given to participants from members of the Union, observer States and observer organizations. In order to ensure that the Symposium is made available to a wider audience, it is also proposed that the Symposium be webcast.
4. With regard to the suggestions of APBREBES for the content and title of the Symposium to be amended to cover a range of issues related to plant variety protection, it is proposed to explain that the aim of the Symposium is as follows:

"The aim of the 'Symposium on the benefits of plant variety protection for farmers and growers' (Symposium) is to provide illustrations of how plant variety protection can improve incomes for farmers and growers by supporting the development and supply of new, improved varieties that are suited to their needs. The Symposium will also provide examples of how farmers and growers can use plant variety protection in order to become breeders."

5. *The Consultative Committee is invited to:*

*(a) approve that the "Symposium on the benefits of plant variety protection for farmers and growers" be open for attendance to the public, subject to room capacity, with priority being given to participants from members of the Union, observer States and observer organizations;*

*(b) approve the webcasting of the Symposium;  
and*

*(c) agree the explanation of the aim of the Symposium and the draft program, as set out in paragraph 4 and Annex I to this document.*

[Annexes follow]

DRAFT PROGRAM

SYMPOSIUM ON THE BENEFITS OF PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION FOR FARMERS AND GROWERS  
(Speakers subject to confirmation)

8.30 Registration

9.30 Welcome address by Mr. Francis Gurry, Secretary-General, UPOV

9.40 Opening by the President of the Council of UPOV

9.50 Key Note Speech: The importance of new plant varieties for farmers and growers  
*Mr. Thor Gunnar Kofoed (Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations (COPA)–  
General Committee for Agricultural Cooperation in the European Union (COGEPa))*

Session I: The Role of PVP in Improving Incomes for Farmers and Growers

10.10 Introduction

*Mr. Peter Button, Vice Secretary-General, UPOV*

10.25 The experience of small-holder flower growers in Kenya

*Mr. Stephen Mbithi, Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya (FPEAK)*

10.45 The use of plant variety protection to add value for apple growers

*Pink Lady Organization*

11.05 **Coffee**

11.30 Investing to deliver the varieties that farmers and growers need

*Mr. Stephen Smith, Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc.*

11.50 Adding value for grower cooperatives

*Cooperative grower (Spain)*

12.10 The use of plant variety protection to add value for farmers in Brazil

*Speaker from Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (EMBRAPA)*

12.30 **Lunch**

14.30 Delivering high performance varieties to subsistence/small-holder farmers

*Mr. Vuyisile Phehane, Agricultural Research Council (South Africa)*

Session II: The Role of PVP in Enabling Farmers and Growers to Become Breeders

14.50 The Breeders' Exemption

*UPOV*

15.10 The Ashiro Rindo Story

*Mr. Yoshiteru Kudo (Japan)*

15.30 A farmer-breeder experience in the Republic of Korea

15.50 The importance of plant variety protection for farmer-breeders of potato

*Mr. Derk Gesink (Netherlands)*

- 16.10      **Coffee**
- 16.40      Discussion
- 17.20      Closing remarks by the President of the Council of UPOV
- 17.30      End of Symposium

[Annex II follows]

ANNEX II

LETTER FROM THE ASSOCIATION FOR PLANT BREEDING  
FOR THE BENEFIT OF SOCIETY (APBREBES)

**APBREBES**

The Association for plant breeding for the benefit of society

6th March 2012

To: Mr. Peter Button  
Vice-Secretary General  
International Union for the Protection of New Varieties (UPOV)  
34, chemin des Colombettes,  
CH-1211 Geneve 20  
Switzerland

Cc: Mr. Francis Gurry  
Secretary-General  
International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
CH-1211 Genève 20  
Switzerland

**INPUTS ON SYMPOSIUM ON THE BENEFITS OF PVP FOR FARMERS AND  
GROWERS**

Dear Mr. Peter Button,

We understand that UPOV is planning to organize a symposium on the benefits of plant variety protection for farmers and growers on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012. In this letter we would like to highlight our concerns with regard to the symposium and provide certain suggestions to facilitate a more inclusive symposium on plant variety protection.

The current title suggests a one-sided symposium where only the alleged benefits for farmers and growers of plant variety protection will be discussed. Such an approach to PVP issues is narrow, unbalanced and misleading. It also undermines the credibility of UPOV.

As an intergovernmental organization UPOV needs to ensure that the full range of views that exist on the topic of plant variety protection including critical views relating to the adverse impacts for food security or agro-biodiversity are presented and discussed. Farmer organizations as well as prominent personalities such as Mr. Olivier de Schutter, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food have articulated these impacts.

Further we are of the view that the symposium would greatly benefit from an exchange of views and experiences of farmer organizations particularly those that have critical views on plant variety protection. We are of the view that these inputs are essential to better understanding PVP systems and their impacts as well as for developing national and international law and policy that promotes food security and sustainable use of genetic resources.

To ensure a diversity of views we propose that the following persons be invited as speakers at the symposium:

- Guy Kastler, French farmer from the south of France, Coordinator of the seed policy work for Via Campesina, an international movement which brings together millions of peasants,

**APBREBES**

The Association for plant breeding for the benefit of society

small and medium-size farmers, landless people, women farmers, indigenous people, migrants and agricultural workers from around the world. It comprises about 150 local and national organizations in 70 countries from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. Altogether, it represents about 200 million farmers. It defends small-scale sustainable agriculture as a way to promote social justice and dignity. Email: [guy.kastler@wanadoo.fr](mailto:guy.kastler@wanadoo.fr)

- Mr. Olivier de Schutter, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food.
- Andrew Mushita, Community Technology Development Trust, Zimbabwe. CTD T is a development organisation focused on issues such as biodiversity conservation and use, crop production & food security, policy and advocacy issues for the poor as well as other activities that seek to reduce poverty, hunger, malnutrition and environmental degradation. Email: [andrew@ctdt.co.zw](mailto:andrew@ctdt.co.zw)
- Nori Ignacio, Executive Director of South East Asia Regional Initiatives of Community Empowerment (SEARICE). Ms. Ignacio has several years of field experience working with farming communities in several countries in South East Asia on local conservation of plant genetic resources, sustainable agriculture and climate adaptation. Email: [nori\\_ignacio@searice.org.ph](mailto:nori_ignacio@searice.org.ph)

We would also suggest that the title of the symposium be modified to reflect a more balanced approach to issues relating to plant variety protection.

Finally we urge that participation in the Symposium be open to the public. This will enable enhanced participation in the Symposium and a more lively and interactive discussion on plant variety protection.

We hope you will give due consideration to our inputs in planning for the Symposium. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require further information, clarification and input on the matter.

Yours sincerely,



Sangeeta Shashikant  
President  
APBREBES