



CC/86/4

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: August 12, 2013

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

Geneva

**CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE****Eighty-Sixth Session  
Geneva, October 23, 2013**

## ACCESS TO UPOV DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION

*Document prepared by the Office of the Union**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

1. The purpose of this document is to report on developments with regard to access to UPOV documents.

## I. UPOV DOCUMENTS

Disclaimers

2. The Consultative Committee, at its eighty-fifth session, held in Geneva on March 22, 2013, approved the revised disclaimer text on the meeting section of the UPOV website, and the addition of a disclaimer to each UPOV session document, as follows (see document CC/85/10 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 29):

*Revised disclaimer text on the meeting section of the UPOV website:*

"Unless otherwise agreed by the Council of UPOV, only documents that have been adopted by the Council of UPOV and that have not been superseded can represent UPOV policies or guidance.

See [UPOV Collection](#) for guidance and information materials concerning plant variety protection."

*Disclaimer on each UPOV session document:*

"This document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance."

3. The revised disclaimer text has been posted on the meeting section of the UPOV website and the disclaimer has been incorporated in UPOV session documents.

Documents on the UPOV Website

4. The Consultative Committee, at its eighty-fifth session, noted that the resources of the Office of the Union had not yet allowed the scanning and posting on the UPOV website of all important documents that were only available in paper format and that the Office of the Union was continuing to verify the correct inclusion of documents on the redesigned UPOV website (see document CC/85/10 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 30). There have been no developments with regard to the scanning and posting on the UPOV website of important documents that are only available in paper format, since the

eighty-fourth session of the Consultative Committee. The Office of the Union is continuing to verify the correct inclusion of documents on the redesigned UPOV website.

5. *The Consultative Committee is invited to note that:*

(a) *the revised disclaimer text has been posted on the meeting section of the UPOV website and a disclaimer has been incorporated in UPOV session documents, as set out in paragraphs 2 and 3, above;*

(b) *the resources of the Office of the Union have not yet allowed the scanning and posting on the UPOV website of important documents that are only available in paper format; and*

(c) *the Office of the Union is continuing to verify the correct inclusion of documents on the redesigned UPOV website.*

## II. DATABASE OF LAWS OF MEMBERS OF THE UNION (“UPOV LEX”)

6. The Consultative Committee, at its eighty-fifth session, noted that, after verification of certain data, the new section of UPOV Lex on plant genera and species would become available on the UPOV website (see document CC/85/10 “Report on the Conclusions”, paragraph 31).

7. UPOV Lex has been modified in order to include notifications by members of the Union on the plant genera and species for which plant variety protection is applicable in their territories. In the case of members of the Union for which verification of information is pending, the information has not yet been included.

8. *The Consultative Committee is invited to note that UPOV Lex has been modified in order to include notifications by members of the Union on the plant genera and species for which plant variety protection is applicable in their territories.*

## III. PUBLICATION OF THE LIST OF OBSERVERS IN UPOV BODIES

9. The Consultative Committee, at its eighty-fifth session, noted that the resources of the Office of the Union had not allowed the posting on the UPOV website of the date of granting of observer status in the list of observers in UPOV bodies (see document CC/85/10 “Report on the Conclusions”, paragraph 32). There have been no developments with regard to the posting on the UPOV website of the date of granting of observer status in the list of observers in UPOV bodies, since the eighty-fifth session of the Consultative Committee.

10. *The Consultative Committee is invited to note that, to date, the resources of the Office of the Union have not allowed the posting on the UPOV website of the date of granting of observer status in the list of observers in UPOV bodies.*

## IV. NEW PASSWORDS FOR THE RESTRICTED AREA OF THE UPOV WEBSITE

11. In accordance with the “Rules Governing Access to UPOV Documents” (document UPOV/INF/20/1), the documents of the Consultative Committee are placed in the restricted area of the “Meeting Documents” section of the UPOV website.

12. At its seventy-eighth session held in Geneva on October 21, 2009, the Consultative Committee agreed to the issue of new individual passwords to members and observers of the Union for access to the restricted area of the UPOV Website. It was agreed that each member of the Union and observer would keep their existing usernames; however, new individual passwords would be created for each member of the Union and observer (see document CC/78/15 "Report", paragraph 63).

13. New passwords for the restricted area of the "Meeting Documents" section of the UPOV website were issued and came into force on July 1, 2013.

*14. The Consultative Committee is invited to note that new passwords have been issued for the restricted area of the "Meeting Documents" section of the UPOV website.*

## V. DATABASE OF CONSULTANTS

15. The Consultative Committee, at its eighty-fifth session, agreed that the Office of the Union should investigate the feasibility of using a database of consultants in order to produce a list of consultants and their activities (document CC/85/10 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 19).

16. In that regard, at the eighty-fifth session of the Consultative Committee, the Delegation of Bolivia reported on the creation of a WIPO database that provided a list or roster of consultants used by WIPO for the provision of technical assistance. It was explained that the database included information on the qualifications and experience of the consultants and the purposes for which they had been used. The Secretary-General suggested a study of the cost implications of adjusting for UPOV purposes the software architecture of the WIPO database of consultants.

17. The Office of the Union has made an initial investigation of the WIPO Roster of Consultants (see <http://www.wipo.int/roc/en/>) with WIPO Department for Africa and Special Projects and will provide further information on the feasibility of adapting the Roster of Consultants for UPOV purposes at the eighty-sixth session of the Consultative Committee. If it is not feasible to adapt the WIPO Roster of Consultants for UPOV purposes, the Office of the Union will present an alternative approach to producing a list of consultants and their activities.

18. The initial investigation of the WIPO Roster of Consultants has revealed that the same database is used for the WIPO IP Development Matchmaking Database (see <http://www.wipo.int/dmd/en/>) and Technical Assistance Database (see <http://www.wipo.int/tad/en/>). The Development Matchmaking Database and Technical Assistance Database perform very similar functions to the UPOV "Assistance" Webpage (see documents CC/84/4 "Assistance' Webpage on the UPOV Website" and CC/84/14 "Report", paragraphs 51 to 54). In that regard, the adaptation of the WIPO databases for UPOV purposes would have the advantage of enabling UPOV mission data that is stored in electronic management systems to be uploaded into the database, rather than requiring a manual updating process. The form in which the data is held would also enable the efficient generation of reports (e.g. graphs, maps etc.) for purposes such as the preparation of reports to the Council (see document CC/86/3 "Preparation of reports to the Council"). These features could provide substantial benefits for the provision of information to members of the Union and for the efficient use of resources by the Office of the Union and will be considered when assessing the feasibility of adapting the WIPO databases for UPOV purposes.

*19. The Consultative Committee is invited to note that information on the feasibility of adapting the WIPO Roster of Consultants and associated databases for UPOV purposes will be made at the eighty-sixth session of the Consultative Committee.*

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