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

Geneva

**CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE****Ninety-Second Session  
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## TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE STRATEGY

*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 concerning the implementation of the UPOV training and assistance strategy.

## BACKGROUND

2. The Consultative Committee, at its eighty-ninth session, held in Geneva on March 27, 2015, considered document CC/89/4 "Special Project Fund" and expressed its approval of the review of the UPOV training and assistance strategy (see document CC/89/12 "Report", paragraph 43).
3. The UPOV training and assistance strategy approved by the Consultative Committee at its eighty-ninth session is presented in the Annex to document CC/90/7 "UPOV Training and Assistance Strategy".

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UPOV TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE STRATEGY

4. This section reports on the implementation of the UPOV training and assistance strategy, since the ninetieth session of the Consultative Committee held in Geneva on October 28 and 29, 2015.

Standard training activities organized or co-organized by UPOV*Distance learning courses*

5. A report on the UPOV Distance Learning Courses is available in document C/50/3 "Report on activities during the first nine months of 2016". The schedule for the UPOV Distance Learning Courses is available at <http://www.upov.int/resource/en/training.html>.

*Train the trainer courses*

6. Since the ninetieth session of the Consultative Committee, three UPOV "Train the Trainer" courses have been organized within the framework for cooperation between UPOV and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) (see document CC/90/7 "UPOV training and assistance strategy", paragraphs 9 and 10):

- from November 16 to 20, 2015, in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), a "Train the Trainer Course for Ibero American countries on plant variety protection under the UPOV

Convention and complementary forms of intellectual property protection” was organized in Spanish by UPOV, in collaboration with AECID, the Spanish Plant Variety Office (OEVV), WIPO and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO);

- from November 30 to December 4, 2015, in Geneva, a Train the Trainer Course on Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV Convention was organized in French by UPOV, in cooperation with WIPO and the USPTO;
- from May 9 to 13, 2016, at UPOV headquarters in Geneva, the Office of the Union, with the assistance of WIPO and the USPTO, organized in English a Train the Trainer Course on Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV Convention.

7. Details of the courses are reported in documents C/50/2 “Annual report of the Secretary-General for 2015” and C/50/3 “Report on activities during the first nine months of 2016”.

#### Training activities developed in conjunction with UPOV

8. The enforcement of breeders’ rights has been identified in the strategy as a key element for the effective implementation of the UPOV system (see document CC/90/7, Annex, paragraphs 10 and 11).

9. On September 7 and 8, 2016, in Hanoi, Viet Nam, a “Seminar on the Enforcement of Plant Breeders’ Rights under the UPOV Convention”, was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) of Viet Nam, in cooperation with UPOV and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), and with the assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan. Details are provided in document C/50/3 “Report on activities during the first nine months of 2016”.

10. The program, presentations and concluding remarks have been published on the UPOV website. They are available under Quick Links “Seminars & Symposia” (see Events outside Geneva) or directly at: [http://www.upov.int/meetings/en/2016/enforcement\\_seminar\\_viet\\_nam/index.html](http://www.upov.int/meetings/en/2016/enforcement_seminar_viet_nam/index.html).

11. It is planned to prepare a publication with relevant contributions based on the presentations made at the Seminar to broaden the understanding of having effective enforcement measures in order to obtain the full benefits of the UPOV plant variety protection system.

#### Training activities to which UPOV contributes

12. The activities to which UPOV contributed are reported in document C/50/2 “Annual report of the Secretary-General for 2015” and in document C/50/3 “Report on activities during the first nine months of 2016”.

13. On April 14 and 15, 2016, in Alicante, the Office of the Union was invited to make a presentation on enforcement of plant breeders’ rights at the 2016 Annual Congress of the European Intellectual Property Institutes Network (EIPIN). The five partners of EIPIN are the following: Queen Mary Intellectual Property Research Institute (University of London), Magister Lvcentinvs (University of Alicante), Intellectual Property Law and Knowledge Management (IPKM of Maastricht University), Centre for International Intellectual Property (CEIPI of the University of Strasbourg) and the Munich Intellectual Property Law Center (MIPLC). At the fringes of the Congress, the development of PVP Modules was discussed with the Directors of the above mentioned IP Masters. For the third year, the Magister Lvcentinvs has included a PVP Module to which the Office of the Union contributes. Participants were invited to take the UPOV Distance Learning Course DL-205 in advance of the PVP Module.

14. On October 17, 2016, the Office of the Union made presentations for a PVP module at the Master’s Program of the European Plant Breeding College (EPBC). The EPBC was established by five European Higher Education Institutions: Ghent University, Ege University, Polytechnic University of Valencia, Swedish University of Agricultural Science (SLU) and Polytechnic Institute LaSalle Beauvais. Participants were invited to take the UPOV Distance Learning Course DL-205 in advance of the PVP Module.

#### In situ activities organized by UPOV

15. The *in situ* activities organized by UPOV are reported in document C/50/2 “Annual report of the Secretary-General for 2015” and in document C/50/3 “Report on activities during the first nine months of 2016”.

Resources for training and assistance

16. Materials of the Train the Trainer courses in English, French and Spanish have been made available to UPOV Trainers on a UPOV web page.

*17. The Consultative Committee is invited to note the developments concerning the implementation of the UPOV training and assistance strategy.*

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