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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

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

ACCESS TO UPOV DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. The purpose of this document is to report on developments in relation to the following matters concerning access to UPOV documents, which were considered by the Consultative Committee at its eighty-second session, held in Geneva on October 19 and on the morning of October 20, 2011 (see documents CC/82/5 and CC/82/14 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraphs 26 to 28):

- I. UPOV website;
- II. UPOV documents;
- III. UPOV Collection;
- IV. Database of laws of members of the Union ("UPOV Lex");
- V. Webcasting of UPOV meetings;
- VI. Publication of the list of observers in UPOV bodies;
- VII. Information on Council President and Chairpersons of UPOV Bodies; and
- VIII. Publication of videos.

I. UPOV WEBSITE

2. At its eighty-second session, the Consultative Committee received a demonstration of the redesigned UPOV website and noted the plans for the website to be launched on November 1, 2011.

3. The redesigned UPOV website was launched on November 1, 2011.

II. UPOV DOCUMENTS

4. At its forty-seventh session, held in Geneva from April 4 to 6, 2011, the Technical Committee agreed that, in conjunction with the restructuring of the UPOV website to coincide with the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary, adopted Test Guidelines should also be made available in Word format on the freely accessible area of the UPOV website (see document TC/47/26 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 107). Adopted Test Guidelines in Word format were posted on the UPOV website on January 20, 2012 (Circular E-12/017).

5. At its eighty-first session, held in Geneva on April 8, 2011, the Consultative Committee agreed to the proposal for meeting documents to be posted in both Word and PDF formats following the restructuring of the UPOV website in the context of the arrangements for the Fiftieth Anniversary (see document CC/81/11 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 31).

6. From 2012, UPOV meeting documents and Test Guidelines will be posted in both Word and PDF formats.

7. At its eighty-second session, the Consultative Committee:

(a) recommended to the Council, at its forty-fifth ordinary session, that documents currently in the first restricted area of the UPOV website be made publicly accessible, by removal of the password requirement. The Consultative Committee agreed that, if possible, the removal of the password be arranged to coincide with the launching of the redesigned UPOV website on November 1, 2011;

(b) approved the disclaimer for the UPOV meeting section of the UPOV website, as set out in paragraph 11 of document CC/82/5;

(c) noted that important documents that were only available in paper format and that had not been published on the UPOV website would be scanned and posted on the UPOV website as the resources of the Office of the Union allowed; and

(d) approved the change in the font used by UPOV in its correspondence and documents from Times New Roman to Arial (see CC/82/14 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraphs 28 to 31).

8. At its forty-fifth ordinary session, held in Geneva on October 20, 2011, the Council agreed that documents currently in the first restricted area of the UPOV website be made publicly accessible, by removal of the password requirement. It also agreed that, if possible, the removal of the password be arranged to coincide with the launching of the redesigned UPOV website on November 1, 2011 (see document C/45/17 "Report on the Decisions", paragraph 9(c)).

9. The removal of the password for documents previously posted in the first restricted area was arranged to coincide with the launching of the redesigned UPOV website and the disclaimer for the UPOV meeting section of the UPOV website, as set out in paragraph 11 of document CC/82/5, was introduced on the UPOV website (see <http://www.upov.int/meetings/en/topic.jsp>).

10. The change in the font used by UPOV in its correspondence and documents from Times New Roman to Arial has been implemented for all correspondence and meeting documents from January 1, 2012. An exception has been made with regard to Test Guidelines, which had already been prepared in Times New Roman, but were awaiting final editing before publication.

11. 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.

III. UPOV COLLECTION

12. At its eighty-second session, the Consultative Committee noted the overview and content of the UPOV Collection, as set out in Annexes I and II to document CC/82/5. It approved the inclusion of document C(Extr.)/19/2 Rev. "The Notion of Breeder and Common Knowledge" and document BMT/DUS "Possible Use of Molecular Markers in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS)" in the UPOV/INF document series and in the UPOV Collection. The Consultative Committee noted the plans for the distribution of UPOV Collection Binders, as set out in paragraphs 18 to 21 of document CC/82/5 (see document CC/82/14 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraphs 32 and 33).

13. The UPOV Collection, as set out in Annexes I and II to document CC/82/5, including document C(Extr.)/19/2 Rev. "The Notion of Breeder and Common Knowledge" and document UPOV/INF/18/1 "Possible use of Biochemical and Molecular Markers in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS)", was published on the UPOV website to coincide with the launching of the redesigned UPOV website (see http://www.upov.int/upov_collection/en/).

14. The distribution of UPOV Collection Binders, as set out in paragraphs 18 to 21 of document CC/82/5, took place in February 2012.

* To maintain a sequential numbering for information materials, the code for document BMT/DUS was changed to UPOV/INF/18.

IV. DATABASE OF LAWS OF MEMBERS OF THE UNION ("UPOV LEX")

15. At its eighty-second session, the Consultative Committee noted the plans to launch UPOV Lex in conjunction with the launch of the restructured UPOV website and the plans to include notifications by members of the Union on plant genera and species in accordance with the UPOV Convention, as set out in paragraph 29 of document CC/82/5 (see document CC/82/14 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 34).

16. The launch of UPOV Lex took place in conjunction with the launching of the redesigned UPOV website (see <http://www.upov.int/upovlex/en/>).

17. It is planned to modify UPOV Lex in order to include notifications by members of the Union on plant genera and species later in 2012. In preparation for that modification, relevant members of the Union were invited in December 2011 to provide a consolidated list of genera and species (Circular E-1730 of December 12, 2011).

V. WEBCASTING OF UPOV MEETINGS

18. At its eighty-second session, the Consultative Committee agreed to request the Technical Committee (TC) and the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ) to consider whether it would be appropriate to introduce the possibility to webcast sessions of the TC, CAJ and Technical Working Parties (TWPs) with the opportunity to participate in such sessions by electronic means (see document CC/82/14 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 35).

19. The TC will be invited to consider the possibility to webcast sessions of the TC and TWPs at its forty-eighth session, to be held in Geneva from March 26 to 28, 2012. The CAJ will be invited to consider the possibility to webcast sessions of the CAJ at its sixty-fifth session, to be held on March 29, 2012. An initial, oral report on the conclusions of the TC and CAJ, will be made to the Consultative Committee at its eighty-third session.

VI. PUBLICATION OF THE LIST OF OBSERVERS IN UPOV BODIES

20. At its eighty-second session, the Consultative Committee approved the inclusion of a list of observers in UPOV bodies on the UPOV website. It agreed that the Office of the Union would also include the date of granting observer status as resources allowed (see document CC/82/14 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 36).

21. A list of observers in UPOV bodies was published on the UPOV website in January 2012 (see <http://www.upov.int/members/en/observers.html>). To date, the resources of the Office of the Union have not allowed the date of granting of observer status to be provided with the list of observers in UPOV bodies.

VII. INFORMATION ON COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND CHAIRPERSONS OF UPOV BODIES

22. At its eighty-second session, the Consultative Committee agreed to the posting of the name, appropriate contact information, photograph and member of the Union of the President and Vice-President of the Council and the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the UPOV bodies on the UPOV website (see document CC/82/14 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 37).

23. In conjunction with the publishing of the information concerning the President and Vice-President of the Council and the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the UPOV bodies, the appropriate contact information and photograph of the Secretary-General and of the Vice Secretary-General will also be published on the UPOV website.

VIII. PUBLICATION OF VIDEOS

24. At its eighty-second session, the Consultative Committee approved the establishment of a UPOV channel on YouTube for hosting of UPOV videos (see document CC/82/14 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 38).

25. A report on progress towards the creation of a UPOV channel on YouTube for hosting of UPOV videos will be made to the Consultative Committee at its eighty-third session.

26. The Consultative Committee is invited to note the report on developments concerning access to UPOV documents and publication of information, as set out in this document.

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