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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

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

UPOV POLICY FOR FINANCING SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. The Consultative Committee, at its eighty-second session, held in Geneva on October 19, 2011, requested the Office of the Union to prepare a document on the UPOV policy for financing speakers and participants, for consideration at its eighty-third session. This document proposes that a review of the UPOV policy for financing speakers and participants be deferred until the eighty-fourth session of the Consultative Committee, to be held in Geneva on October 31, 2012.

BACKGROUND

2. In implementing the Program and Budget, the Office of the Union organizes a number of activities for which funding is provided for speakers and/or participants. This is reflected in the Program and Budget as "Third Party Travel" as follows (see document C/45/4 Rev.2 "Program and Budget for the 2012-2013 Biennium", Annex III "Definitions of Budget Headings"):

"Third Party Travel

"Travel expenses and daily subsistence allowances for government officials, participants and lecturers attending UPOV-sponsored meetings."

POLICY FOR FINANCING SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS

3. The Staff Regulations and the Staff Rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on official travel by WIPO staff members apply *mutatis mutandis* to the staff of the Office of the Union. With regard to third party travel, in general, the policy of WIPO is followed. However, there are certain aspects where the UPOV practice on third party travel has differed from WIPO practice. For example, UPOV has a practice of not paying honoraria to lecturers.

4. At its eighty-second session, held in Geneva on October 19 and on the morning of October 20, 2011, the Consultative Committee considered document CC/82/7, which explained that WIPO was in the process of reviewing its policy for financing speakers and participants. On that basis, the Consultative Committee requested the Office of the Union to prepare a document on the policy for financing speakers and participants, for consideration at its eighty-third session (see document CC/82/14 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 45).

5. Subsequent to the eighty-second session of the Consultative Committee, WIPO have begun to introduce a number of cost-efficiency measures destined to ensure the smooth running of the Organization. Matters concerning staff travel, third party travel, meetings and events, and experts and lecturers are included in those measures. The implementation of all aspects of those measures has not yet been finalized

and, on that basis, it is proposed to defer a review of the UPOV policy for financing speakers and participants.

6. The Consultative Committee is invited to request the Office of the Union to present a document on the UPOV policy for financing speakers and participants, for consideration at its eighty-fourth session.

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