



CC/83/7

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

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

REPORT ON THE CONCLUSIONS

*adopted by the Consultative Committee*Opening of the session

1. The Consultative Committee held its eighty-third session in Geneva on March 30, 2012.
2. The session was opened and chaired by Mr. Choi Keun-Jin (Republic of Korea), President of the Council, who welcomed the participants.
3. The list of participants is reproduced in the Annex to this document.
4. The Chair informed the Consultative Committee that Ireland, which had been a member of the Union since November 8, 1981, had deposited its instrument of ratification of the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention on December 8, 2011, and had become bound by the 1991 Act on January 8, 2012.
5. The Delegation of France informed the Consultative Committee that the legislation which gave effect to the provisions of the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention had been promulgated on December 8, 2011, and reported that the instrument of ratification would be transmitted for depositary purposes in the coming days.
6. The Vice Secretary-General reported that Mr. Raimundo Lavignolle had left the Office of the Union at the end of 2011 and expressed his appreciation for the dedicated and excellent service that Mr. Lavignolle had provided during his 13 years with the Office of the Union.

Adoption of the agenda

7. The Consultative Committee adopted the revised draft agenda, as presented in document CC/83/1 Rev. after the addition of document CC/83/3 Add. concerning the third meeting of the Working Group on Rules Concerning Observers, which had taken place on March 29, 2012, under item 6.

Documents proposed for adoption by the Council

8. The Consultative Committee considered document C(Extr.)/29/2.
UPOV/INF/4/2 Financial Regulations and Rules of UPOV (Revision)
(document C(Extr.)/29/2, Annex)
9. The Consultative Committee considered the Annex to document C(Extr.)/29/2.

10. The Consultative Committee recommended to the Council to adopt the revision of document UPOV/INF/4 “Financial Regulations and Rules of UPOV” (document UPOV/INF/4/2), on the basis of the amendments to document UPOV/INF/4/1, as presented in the Annex to document C(Extr.)/29/2.

UPOV/INF-EXN/2 List of INF-EXN Documents and Latest Issue Dates (Revision)
(document UPOV/INF-EXN/2 Draft 1)

11. The Consultative Committee considered documents C(Extr.)/29/2 and UPOV/INF-EXN/2 Draft 1.

12. The Consultative Committee recommended to the Council to adopt the revision of document UPOV/INF-EXN “List of INF-EXN Documents and Latest Issue Dates” (document UPOV/INF-EXN/2) on the basis of document UPOV/INF-EXN/2 Draft 1.

WIPO Audit Committee’s report on the WIPO Internal Audit and Oversight Division

13. The Consultative Committee considered document CC/83/2.

14. The Consultative Committee noted the information contained in the quarterly reports for 2011 of the WIPO Independent Advisory Oversight Committee, which were available in documents WO/IAOC/20/2, WO/IAOC/21/2, WO/IAOC/22/2 and WO/IAOC/23/2.

15. The Consultative Committee decided to include a standard item in the agendas of the March/April sessions of the Consultative Committee entitled “Reports of the WIPO Independent Advisory Oversight Committee”. The Consultative Committee agreed that, if a Consultative Committee session was not held in March/April, the item would be included in the relevant session of the Consultative Committee in October.

Extension of the appointment of the Vice Secretary-General

16. The Consultative Committee considered document C(Extr.)/29/3.

17. The Consultative Committee recommended to the Council to extend the appointment of the Vice Secretary-General from December 1, 2012, until November 30, 2015, and expressed its appreciation for his excellent performance.

Observers in UPOV bodies

18. The Consultative Committee considered documents CC/83/3, CC/83/3 Add., UPOV/INF/19/1 Draft 1 and UPOV/INF/20/1 Draft 1.

19. The Consultative Committee noted the report of the third meeting of the Working Group on Rules Concerning Observers (Working Group), which took place on March 29, 2012, as presented in document CC/83/3 Add.

UPOV/INF/19 Rules governing the granting of observer status to States, intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations in UPOV bodies (Revision)

20. The Consultative Committee recommended to the Council, at its forty-sixth ordinary session to be held in Geneva on November 1, 2012, to adopt the revision of the “Rules Governing the Granting of Observer Status to States, Intergovernmental Organizations and International Non-Governmental Organizations in UPOV Bodies”, on the basis of document UPOV/INF/19/1 Draft 1, amended as follows:

after paragraph 5	to add the following new paragraph: “The Consultative Committee, where it considers appropriate, may reconsider the observer status of intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations and may apply appropriate measures.” and to renumber the subsequent paragraphs.
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UPOV/INF/20 Rules governing access to UPOV documents (Revision)

21. The Consultative Committee recommended to the Council, at its forty-sixth ordinary session to be held in Geneva on November 1, 2012, to adopt the revision of the Rules Governing Access to UPOV Documents, on the basis of document UPOV/INF/20/1 Draft 1.

22. The Consultative Committee granted observer status to the African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA) for the Council, the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ), the Technical Committee (TC) and the Technical Working Parties (TWPs).

Access to UPOV documents and publication of information

23. The Consultative Committee considered documents CC/83/4 and CC/83/4 Add.

24. The Consultative Committee noted the developments reported in document CC/83/4 and further noted that:

(a) the scanning and posting on the UPOV website of important documents that are only available in paper format would be planned according to available resources;

(b) relevant members of the Union had been invited, in December 2011, to provide a consolidated list of genera and species in order to include notifications by members of the Union on plant genera and species in UPOV Lex later in 2012;

(c) the posting on the UPOV website of the date of granting of observer status in the list of observers in UPOV bodies would be planned according to available resources;

(d) the publishing on the UPOV website of the information concerning the President and Vice-President of the Council and the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the UPOV bodies, with the appropriate contact information, and the publishing on the UPOV website of the photographs of the Secretary-General and of the Vice Secretary-General would be arranged as soon as possible;

(e) the establishment of a UPOV channel on YouTube for hosting of UPOV videos would be done in conjunction with the development of a coherent image for UPOV publication and presentation materials, for consistency with the redesigned UPOV website.

25. The Consultative Committee noted that the TC, at its forty-eighth session, held in Geneva from March 26 to 28, 2012, had agreed to add a cover page to all previous adopted versions of the Test Guidelines, indicating their status before those documents were published on the UPOV website. The TC had further agreed that consideration should be given to adding a disclaimer to all UPOV session documents in order to clarify the status of the documents.

26. With regard to the webcasting of UPOV meetings, the Consultative Committee noted that the TC, at its forty-eighth session, had agreed that it would be appropriate to consider broadcasting live webcasts, and to place video recordings on the UPOV website, for future sessions of the TC, subject to arrangements to be agreed by the Consultative Committee. The TC had noted that the WebEx facility for the Enlarged Editorial Committee (TC-EDC) meeting had been very effective and had endorsed the continuation of that practice. The TC had also agreed that the Office of the Union should discuss with the hosts of the TWPs in 2012 whether they would wish to arrange for WebEx to be used for selected Test Guidelines' subgroup (TG Subgroup) discussions. It had welcomed the offer of France to test WebEx for [a] selected TG Subgroup[s] at the forty-first session of the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA), to be held in Angers, France, from May 21 to 25, 2012, and had invited the host and the Chairperson of the TWA to investigate a suitable TG Subgroup, in conjunction with the Office of the Union and the relevant Leading Expert[s]. It had also noted that the Chairman of the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC) and the host of the thirtieth session of the TWC, to be held in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, from June 26 to 29, 2012, would discuss possibilities to make selected presentations via the internet. The TC had agreed to request the Office of the Union to prepare a report on the use of WebEx at the TWP session[s], in order that the TC could review how to develop that approach further.

27. The Consultative Committee noted that the CAJ, at its sixty-fifth session, held in Geneva on March 29, 2012, had noted that webcast meetings would be freely accessible on the internet. However, it had noted that it was possible to restrict access to meeting communications by Webinar and WebEx. The

Vice Secretary-General had clarified for the CAJ that questions concerning policy on access would be considered by the Consultative Committee.

28. The Consultative Committee agreed that consideration of the use of electronic communication of meetings should be considered at its eighty-fourth session, on the basis of a document to be prepared by the Office of the Union.

29. The Consultative Committee considered document CC/83/4 Add. and agreed 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.

30. The Consultative Committee approved the webcasting of the Symposium.

31. The Consultative Committee agreed the explanation of the aim of the Symposium, 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 as breeders."

32. The Consultative Committee endorsed the plans for the draft program of the Symposium, as set out in Annex I to document CC/83/4 Add., and agreed the inclusion of one speaker from those recommended by APBRES to give a presentation in accordance with the aim of the Symposium, as set out above.

33. The Vice Secretary-General recalled that the Consultative Committee, at its seventy-fourth session, held in Geneva on October 24, 2007, had endorsed the development of an advanced course "Examination of Applications for Plant Breeders' Rights" (DL-305) and had entrusted the Office of the Union to take the necessary actions to develop and implement that course, as set out in Annex II of document CC/74/4. In that regard, the Consultative Committee noted that the Office of the Union had reached agreement, in principle, to cooperate with Naktuinbouw (Netherlands) in the development of the modules in Section IV "DUS Examination". It noted that the costs for employing a consultant to draft the text would be shared equally between UPOV and Naktuinbouw and that, in addition, Naktuinbouw colleagues would be involved in the preparation and evaluation of the modules.

34. The Consultative Committee noted that the Republic of Korea proposed to change the venue for the forty-fifth session of the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO), to be held from August 6 to 10, 2012, and the preparatory workshop on August 5, 2012, from Seoul to Jeju, and agreed to recommend the change of location to the Council for the revision of the document "Calendar of Meetings in 2012" (document C/45/8 Rev.2).

UPOV policy for financing speakers and participants

35. The Consultative Committee considered document CC/83/5.

36. The Consultative Committee requested the Office of the Union to prepare a document on the UPOV policy for financing speakers and participants, for consideration at its eighty-fourth session, to be held in Geneva, on October 31, 2012.

Developments of relevance to UPOV in other international fora

37. The Consultative Committee considered document CC/83/6.

38. The Consultative Committee noted the developments concerning the East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum (EAPVP Forum), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), as set out in document CC/83/6.

39. The Consultative Committee noted that the development of the World Seed Project (WSP) was supported by the Minister for Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives, in the United Republic of

Tanzania, and the Minister for Food and Agriculture, in Ghana. Discussions between the Steering Committee of the WSP and the relevant officials in those States were underway in order to define the scope of the project. Initial contacts had also been made with some potential donors for the funding of the project. The Consultative Committee noted that the Steering Committee of the WSP had also contacted Senegal.

40. The Consultative Committee noted that the Office of the Union had provided the OECD Secretariat with a brief description of the role and responsibilities of UPOV for inclusion in the OECD document "Different Regulatory Aspects Affecting World Seed Trade" on March 1, 2012.

41. The Consultative Committee approved the participation of the Office of the Union in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Framework for Designing National Intellectual Property Strategies for Development.

42. The Consultative Committee approved the contribution of the Office of the Union in the development of the WIPO Questionnaire "A tool to assess the current status of the national intellectual property system, strategic objectives and needs in line with national development priorities".

43. The Consultative Committee noted the developments in relation to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore.

44. The Consultative Committee noted the interventions made by the Delegations of Norway, Japan and the United States of America, concerning access to plant genetic resources, which would be included in the full report.

Draft press release

45. The Consultative Committee recommended to the Council to approve the draft press release reproduced in the Annex to document C(Extr.)/29/5, with the addition of the name of the Vice Secretary-General under "Extension of the appointment of the Vice Secretary-General", subject to developments in the Council.

Program for the eighty-fourth session

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Preliminary examination of the conformity of the legislation or proposed legislation of any State or organization having submitted a request under Article 34(3) of the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention
4. Documents proposed for adoption by the Council
5. Financial situation of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants as at December 31, 2011
6. Arrears in contributions as of September 30, 2012
7. Access to UPOV documents and publication of information
8. UPOV Distance Learning Course
9. Assistance webpage on the UPOV website
10. UPOV policy for financing speakers and participants
11. Observers in UPOV bodies
12. Status of the examination of laws of those States and organizations which have initiated the procedure for acceding to the UPOV Convention

13. Reports from new members of the Union
14. Developments of relevance to UPOV in other international fora
15. Preparation of the Calendar of Meetings
16. Draft press release
17. Program for the eighty-fifth session
18. Adoption of the report on the conclusions (if time permits)
19. Closing of the session

46. This report was adopted by the Consultative Committee at the close of its session, on March 30, 2012.

[Annex follows]

ANNEXE / ANNEX / ANLAGE / ANEXO

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS / LIST OF PARTICIPANTS /
TEILNEHMERLISTE / LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

(dans l'ordre alphabétique des noms français des membres/
in the alphabetical order of the names in French of the members/
in alphabetischer Reihenfolge der französischen Namen der Mitglieder/
por orden alfabético de los nombres en francés de los miembros)

MEMBRES / MEMBERS / VERBANDSMITGLIEDER / MIEMBROS

ALLEMAGNE / GERMANY / DEUTSCHLAND / ALEMANIA

Udo VON KRÖCHER, Präsident, Bundessortenamt, Osterfelddamm 80, 30627 Hannover
(tel.: +49 511 9566 5603 fax: +49 511 9566 5904 e-mail: udo.vonkroecker@bundessortenamt.de)

Michael KÖLLER, Referent, Ministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz,
Wilhelmstrasse 54, 10117 Berlin
(tel.: +49 30 18529 4044 e-mail: Michael.Koeller@bmelv.bund.de)

AUSTRALIE / AUSTRALIA / AUSTRALIEN / AUSTRALIA

Nik HULSE, Senior Examiner of PBR, Plant Breeder's Rights Office, IP Australia, 47 Bowes Street, Phillip
ACT 2606
(tel.: +61 2 6283 7982 fax: +61 2 6283 7999 e-mail: nik.hulse@ipaaustralia.gov.au)

BELGIQUE / BELGIUM / BELGIEN / BÉLGICA

Camille VANSLEMBROUCK (Madame), Responsable droits d'obteneurs et brevets, Office de la propriété
intellectuelle, North Gate III, 16, Boulevard du Roi Albert II, B-1000 Bruxelles
(tel.: +32 2 277 8275 fax: +32 2 277 5262 e-mail: camille.vanslembrouck@economie.fgov.be)

Françoise DE SCHUTTER (Madame), Attaché, Office belge de la Propriété intellectuelle (OPRI), 16, bvd Roi
Albert II, B-1000 Bruxelles
(tel. : + 32 2 277 9555 e-mail: francoise.deschutter@economic.fgov.be)

BRÉSIL / BRAZIL / BRASILIEN / BRASIL

Fabício SANTANA SANTOS, Federal Agricultural Inspector, Coordinator of National Plant Variety Protection
Office (SNPC), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply, Esplanada dos Ministerios, Bloco 'D',
Anexo A, Sala 250, CEP 70043-900 Brasilia , D.F.
(tel.:+55 61 3218 2549 fax: +55 61 3224 2842 e-mail: fabricio.santos@agricultura.gov.br)

CANADA / CANADA / KANADA / CANADÁ

Michel CORMIER, A/Commissioner, Plant Breeders' Rights Office, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
(CFIA), Room 59-2E-330, 59, Camelot Drive, Ottawa Ontario K1A 0Y9
(tel.:+1 613 773 7135 fax: +1 613 773 7261 e-mail: michel.cormier@inspection.gc.ca)

Ashley BALCHIN (Ms.), Examiner, Plant Breeders' Rights Office, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA),
Room 59-2E-323, 59, Camelot Drive, Ottawa Ontario
(tel.:+1 613 773 7137 fax: +1 613 773 7261 e-mail: ashley.balchin@inspection.gc.ca)

CHINE / CHINA / CHINA / CHINA

LÜ Bo, Director, Division of Variety Management, Bureau of Seed Management, Ministry of Agriculture, No. 11 Nongzhanguannanli, Beijing
(tel.:+86 10 59193150 fax: +86 10 59193142 e-mail: lvbo@agri.gov.cn)

QI Wang, Director, Division of Protection of New Varieties of Plants, State Forestry Administration, No. 18, Hepingli East Street, Beijing 100714
(tel.:+86 10 84239104 fax: +86 10 84238883 e-mail: wangqihq@sina.com)

Xinming ZHANG, Director, Division for Plant Variety Testing, Development Centre for Science & Technology, Ministry of Agriculture, Room 709, Nongfeng Building, No. 96 Dong San Huan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District, 100122 Beijing
(tel.:+86 10 59199395 fax: +86 10 59199393 e-mail: zhangxinming@agri.gov.cn)

Yan ZHONG, Project Administrator, Division 2, State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO), 6 Xitucheng Road, Haidian District, Beijing
(tel.:+86 10 62086884 fax: +86 10 62019615 e-mail: zhongyan@sipo.gov.cn)

COLOMBIE / COLOMBIA / KOLUMBIEN / COLOMBIA

Ana Luisa DÍAZ JIMÉNEZ (Sra.), Directora Técnica de Semillas, Dirección Técnica de Semillas, Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA), Carrera 41 No. 17-81, Zona Industrial de Puente Aranda, Bogotá D.C.
(tel.:+57 1 3323700 fax: +57 1 3323700 e-mail: ana.diaz@ica.gov.co)

Juan Camilo SARETZKI-FORERO, Primer Secretario, Misión Permanente, Chemin Champ d'Anier 17-19, CH-1209 Geneva
(tel.: +41 22 789 4718 fax: +41 22 791 0787 e-mail: juan.saretzki@cancilleria.gov.co)

Catalina GAVIRIA BRAVO (Sra.), Consejera Comercial, Misión de Colombia ante la OMC, Rue de lausanne 80 – 82, CH-1202 Geneva
(tel.: +41 22 919 05 14 fax: +41 22 734 60 94 e-mail: catalina.gaviria@colombiaomc.ch)

DANEMARK / DENMARK / DÄNEMARK / DINAMARCA

Gerhard DENEKEN, Head, Department of Variety Testing, The Danish AgriFish Agency, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Teglvaerksvej 10, Tystofte, DK-4230 Skaelskoer
(tel.:+45 5816 0601 fax: +45 58 160606 e-mail: gde@naturerhverv.dk)

ESPAGNE / SPAIN / SPANIEN / ESPAÑA

Luis SALAICES, Jefe de Área del Registro de Variedades, Oficina Española de Variedades Vegetales (OEVV), Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, Calle Alfonso XII, No. 62, 2a Planta, E-28014 Madrid
(tel.: +34 91 3476712 fax: +34 91 3476703 e-mail: luis.salaices@magrama.es)

ESTONIE / ESTONIA / ESTLAND / ESTONIA

Laima PUUR (Ms.), Head, Variety Department, Estonian Agricultural Board, Vabaduse sq. 4, EE-71020 Viljandi
(tel.:+372 4351240 fax: +372 4351241 e-mail: laima.puur@pma.agri.ee)

Renata TSATURJAN (Ms.), Chief Specialist, Plant Production Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, 39/41 Lai Street, EE-15056 Tallinn
(tel.: +372 625 6507 fax: +372 625 6200 e-mail: renata.tsaturjan@agri.ee)

ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE / UNITED STATES OF AMERICA /
VEREINIGTE STAATEN VON AMERIKA / ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA

Kitisri SUKHAPINDA (Ms.), Patent Attorney, Office of Policy and External Affairs, United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Madison Building, West Wing, 600 Dulany Street, MDW 10A30, Alexandria VA 22313

(tel.: +1 571 272 9300 fax: + 1 571 273 0085 e-mail: kitisri.sukhapinda@uspto.gov)

Karin L. FERRITER (Ms.), Intellectual Property Attaché, United States Mission to the WTO, 11, route de Pregny, 1292 Chambesey

(tel.: +41 22 749 5281 e-mail: karin_ferriter@ustr.eop.gov)

FINLANDE / FINLAND / FINNLAND / FINLANDIA

Tapio LAHTI, Senior Officer, Legal Affairs, Finnish Food Safety Authority (EVIRA), Mustialankatu 3, FIN-00790 Helsinki

(tel.: +358 400 640 881 fax: +358 20 77 25195 e-mail: tapio.lahti@evira.fi)

FRANCE / FRANCE / FRANKREICH / FRANCIA

Robert TESSIER, Sous-Directeur de la Qualité et de la protection des végétaux, Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation, de la pêche, de la ruralité et de l'aménagement du territoire, 251, rue de Vaugirard, F-75732 Paris Cédex 15

(tel.: +33 1 49555030 fax: +33 1 49554959 e-mail: robert.tessier@agriculture.gouv.fr)

Joël GUIARD, Expert études des variétés Relations internationales OCVV UPOV, Groupe d'étude et de contrôle des variétés et des semences (GEVES), Rue Georges Morel, BP 90024, F-49071 Beaucozé Cedex

(tel.: +33 241 228637 fax: +33 241 228601 e-mail: joel.guiard@geves.fr)

Jean PERCHET, Seed Policy Officer, Direction générale de l'alimentation, Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation, de la pêche, de la ruralité et de l'aménagement du territoire, 251, rue de Vaugirard, F-75732 Paris Cédex 15

(tel.: +33 1 49 55 81 45 fax: +33 1 49 55 59 49 e-mail: jean.perchet@agriculture.gouv.fr)

HONGRIE / HUNGARY / UNGARN / HUNGRÍA

Szenci ÁGNES GYÖZÖNÉ (Mrs.), Senior Chief Advisor, Agricultural Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Kossuth Tér. 11, H-1055 Budapest, Pf. 1

(tel.: +36 1 7953826 fax: +36 1 7950498 e-mail: gyozone.szenci@vm.gov.hu)

Szabolcs FARKAS, Head, Patent Department, Hungarian Intellectual Property Office (HIPO), 2, Garibaldi utca, H-1054 Budapest

(tel.: +36 1 4745902 fax: +36 1 474 5596 e-mail: szabolcs.farkas@hipo.gov.hu)

IRLANDE / IRELAND / IRLAND / IRLANDA

Donal COLEMAN, Controller of Plant Breeders' Rights, Department of Agriculture, National Crops Centre, Backweston Farm, Leixlip, Co. Kildare

(tel.: +353 1 630 2902 fax: +353 1 628 0634 e-mail: donal.coleman@agriculture.gov.ie)

JAPON / JAPAN / JAPAN / JAPÓN

Mitsutaro FUJISADA, Senior Policy Advisor: Intellectual Property, New Business and Intellectual Property Division, Food Industry Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), 1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, 100-8950 Tokyo

(tel.: +81 3 6738 6445 fax: +81 3 3502 5301 e-mail: mitutarou_fujisada@nm.maff.go.jp)

Kenji NUMAGUCHI, Examiner, Plant Variety Protection Office, New Business and Intellectual Property Division, Seeds and Seedlings Division Agricultural Production Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, 100-8950 Tokyo

(tel.: +81 3 6738 6449 fax: +81 3 3502 6572 e-mail: kenji_numaguchi@nm.maff.go.jp)

KENYA / KENYA / KENIA / KENYA

James M. ONSANDO, Managing Director, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS),
P.O. Box 49592, 00100 Nairobi
(tel.: +254 20 3584088 fax: +254 20 3536175 e-mail: director@kephis.org)

LITUANIE / LITHUANIA / LITAUEN / LITUANIA

Sigita JUCIUVIENE (Mrs.), Head, Division of Plant Variety, Registration and Legal Protection, State Plant Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, Ozo St. 4a, LT-08200 Vilnius
(tel.:+370 5 234 3647 fax: +370 5 237 0233 e-mail: sigita.juciuviene@vatzum.lt)

MAROC / MOROCCO / MAROKKO / MARRUECOS

Amar TAHIRI, Chef de la Division du contrôle des semences et plants, Office National de Sécurité sanitaire des Produits alimentaires (ONSSA), Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche maritime, Rue Hafiane Cherkaoui, B.P. 1308, Rabat
(tel. : + 212 537 771085 fax: +212 537 779852 e-mail: amar.tahiri@gmail.com)

MEXIQUE / MEXICO / MEXIKO / MÉXICO

Enriqueta MOLINA MACÍAS (Srta.), Directora General, Servicio Nacional de Inspección y Certificación de Semillas (SNICS), Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación (SAGARPA), Av. Presidente Juárez, 13, Col. El Cortijo, Tlalnepantla, Estado de México 54000
(tel.:+52 55 3622 0667 fax: +52 55 3622 0670 e-mail: enriqueta.molina@sagarpa.gob.mx)

Eduardo PADILLA VACA, Subdirector, Registro y Control de Variedades Vegetales, Servicio Nacional de Inspección y Certificación de Semillas (SNICS), Av. Presidente Juárez 13, Col. El Cortijo, 54000 Tlalnepantla, Estado de México
(tel.:+52 55 3622 0667 fax: +52 55 3622 0670 e-mail: eduardo.padilla@snics.gob.mx)

Alejandro F. BARRIENTOS-PRIEGO, Professor-Investigator, Departamento de Fitotecnia, Universidad Autónoma Chapingo (UACH), Km. 38.5 Carretera México-Texcoco, CP 56230, Chapingo, Estado de México
(tel.:+52 595 9521559 fax: +52 595 9521642 e-mail: abarrien@gmail.com)

NORVÈGE / NORWAY / NORWEGEN / NORUEGA

Tor Erik JØRGENSEN, Head of Section, Norwegian Food Safety Authority, Felles postmottak, P.O. Box 383, N-2381 Brumunddal
(tel.: +47 6494 4393 fax: +47 6494 4411 e-mail: tor.erik.jorgensen@mattilsynet.no)

Bell Batta TORHEIM (Mrs.), Programme Coordinator, The Development Fund, Grensen 9b, Miljøhuset, N-0159 Oslo
(tel.: +47 23 109600 fax: +47 23 109601 e-mail: bell@utviklingsfondet.no)

NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE / NEW ZEALAND / NEUSEELAND / NUEVA ZELANDIA

Christopher J. BARNABY, Assistant Commissioner / Principal Examiner, Plant Variety Rights Office, Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand, Private Bag 4714, Christchurch 8140
(tel.:+64 3 9626206 fax: +64 3 9626202 e-mail: Chris.Barnaby@pvr.govt.nz)

PARAGUAY / PARAGUAY / PARAGUAY / PARAGUAY

América Ramona GONZÁLEZ SANABRIA (Sra.), Directora General, Dirección General de Semillas, Servicio Nacional de Calidad y Sanidad Vegetal y de Semillas (SENAVE), Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia No. 685, Ruta Mariscal Estigarribia, San Lorenzo
(tel.:+595 21 584645 fax: +595 21 584645 e-mail: america.gonzalez@senave.gov.py)

Blanca Julia NÚÑEZ TEIXIDÓ (Sra.), Ingeniero Agrónomo, Jefa del Departamento de Protección y Uso de Variedades, Dirección General de Semillas, Servicio Nacional de Calidad y Sanidad Vegetal y de Semillas (SENAVE), Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia No. 685, Ruta Mariscal Estigarribia, San Lorenzo
(tel.: +595 21 584645 fax: +595 21 584645 e-mail: dpuv@senave.gov.py)

PAYS-BAS / NETHERLANDS / NIEDERLANDE / PAÍSES BAJOS

Marien VALSTAR, Sector Manager Seeds and Plant Propagation Material, Ministerie van Economische Zaken, Landbouw en Innovatie, P.O. Box 20401, NL-2500 EK Den Haag
(tel.: +31 70 379 8911 fax: +31 70 378 6153 e-mail: m.valstar@mineleni.nl)

Krieno Adriaan FIKKERT, Secretary, Plant Variety Board (Raad voor Plantenrassen), Postbus 40, NL-2370 AA Roelofarendsveen
(tel.: +31 71 3326310 fax: +31 71 3326363 e-mail: k.fikkert@naktuinbouw.nl)

POLOGNE / POLAND / POLEN / POLONIA

Edward S. GACEK, Director, Research Centre for Cultivar Testing (COBORU), PL-63-022 Slupia Wielka
(tel.: +48 61 285 2341 fax: +48 61 285 3558 e-mail: e.gacek@coboru.pl)

Alicja RUTKOWSKA-ŁOŚ (Mrs.), Head, National Listing and Plant Breeders' Rights Protection Office, Research Centre for Cultivar Testing (COBORU), PL-63-022 Slupia Wielka
(tel.: +48 61 285 2341 fax: +48 61 285 3558 e-mail: a.rutkowska@coboru.pl)

Marcin KRÓL, Head, DUS Testing Department, Research Centre for Cultivar Testing (COBORU), PL-63022 Slupia Wielka
(tel.:+48 61 285 2341 fax: +48 61 285 3558 e-mail: m.krol@coboru.pl)

RÉPUBLIQUE DE CORÉE / REPUBLIC OF KOREA / REPUBLIK KOREA / REPÚBLICA DE COREA

CHOI Keun-Jin, Director of Variety Testing Division, Korea Seed & Variety Service (KSVS), Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MFAFF), 39 Taejangro Yongtonggu Suwon, Gyeonggi-do 443-400
(tel.:+82 31 8008 0200 fax: +82 31 203 7431 e-mail: kjchoi1001@korea.kr)

Hyun-Joo SHIN (Mrs.), Deputy Director, Plant Variety Protection Division, Korea Seed & Variety Service (KSVS), Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MFAFF), Jungang-ro 328, Manan-gu, Anyang-Si, Gyeonggi-do 430-016
(tel.:+82 31 467 0190 fax: +82 31 467 0160 e-mail: shjnew@korea.kr)

Oksun KIM (Ms.), Plant Variety Protection Division, Korea Seed & Variety Service (KSVS) / MFAFF, 328, Jungang-ro, Manan-gu, Anyang, 430-016 Gyeonggi-do
(tel.:+82 31 467 0191 fax: +82 31 467 0160 e-mail: oksunkim@korea.kr)

LEE Jeong-Ho, Examiner, Korea Forest Seed and Variety Center (KFSV), Korea Forest Service, 670-4 Suhoe-ri, Suanbo-myeon, Chungju-Si, Chungcheongbuk-Do 380-941
(tel.:82 43 850 3321 fax: 82 43 850 3390 e-mail: mtmac@korea.kr)

RÉPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA / REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA / REPUBLIK MOLDAU / REPÚBLICA DE MOLDOVA

Mihail MACHIDON, President, State Commission for Crops Variety Testing and Registration (SCCVTR), Bd. Stefan cel Mare, 162, C.P. 1873, MD-2004 Chisinau
(tel.:+373-22-220300 fax: +373-22-211537 e-mail: mihail.machidon@yahoo.com)

Ala GUŞAN (Mrs.), Director, Inventions and Plant Varieties Department, State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI), 24/1 Andrei Doga str., MD-2024 Chisinau
(tel.:+373 22 400582 fax: +373 22 440119 e-mail: office@agepi.md)

RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE / CZECH REPUBLIC / TSCHECHISCHE REPUBLIK / REPÚBLICA CHECA

Martin PRUDEL, Head, Special Crops Unit, Plant Commodities Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Tesnov 17, 117 05 Prague 1
(tel.: +420 221 813046 fax: +420 221 812951 e-mail: martin.prudel@mze.cz)

Radmila SAFARIKOVA (Mrs.), Head of Division, Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture (UKZUZ), National Plant Variety Office, Hroznová 2, 656 06 Brno
(tel.:+420 543 548 221 fax: +420 543 212 440 e-mail: radmila.safarikova@ukzuz.cz)

ROYAUME-UNI / UNITED KINGDOM / VEREINIGTES KÖNIGREICH / REINO UNIDO

Andrew MITCHELL, Controller of Plant Variety Rights, The Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA), Whitehouse Lane, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0LF
(tel.: +44 1223 342 384 fax: +44 1223 342 386 e-mail: andy.mitchell@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

Elsbeth NICOL (Mrs.), Policy Advisor, Plant Variety Rights Office, Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA), Whitehouse Lane, Huntingdon Road, CB3 0LF Cambridge
(tel.: +44 1223 342322 fax: +44 1223 342386 e-mail: elspeth.nicol@fera.gsi.gov.uk)

SUÈDE / SWEDEN / SCHWEDEN / SUECIA

Olof JOHANSSON, Head, Crop Production Department, Swedish Board of Agriculture, S-551 82 Jönköping
(tel.: +46 36 155703 fax: +46 36 710517 e-mail: olof.johansson@jordbruksverket.se)

SUISSE / SWITZERLAND / SCHWEIZ / SUIZA

François PYTHOUD, Head, International Sustainable Agriculture Unit, Office fédéral de l'agriculture, Mattenhofstrasse 5, CH-3003 Berne
(tel.: +41 31 323 4445 fax: +41 31 322 2634 e-mail: francois.pythoud@blw.admin.ch)

Manuela BRAND (Frau), Leiterin, Büro für Sortenschutz, Fachbereich Zertifizierung, Pflanzen- und Sortenschutz, Bundesamt für Landwirtschaft, Mattenhofstrasse 5, CH-3003 Bern
(tel.: +41 31 322 2524 fax: +41 31 322 2634 e-mail: manuela.brand@blw.admin.ch)

TUNISIE / TUNISIA / TUNESIEN / TÚNEZ

Kacem CHAMMAKHI, Chef, Service de l'évaluation, de l'homologation, de la protection des obtentions végétales et des relations extérieures, Direction générale de la protection et du contrôle de la qualité des produits agricoles, Ministère de l'Agriculture, des ressources hydrauliques et de la pêche, 30, rue Alain Savary, 1002 Tunis
(tel.: +216 71 788979 fax: +216 71 784419 e-mail: kacemchammakhi@ymail.com)

UKRAINE / UKRAINE / UKRAINE / UCRANIA

Petro VASYLIUK, Director, Ukrainian Institute for Plant Variety Examination, 15, Heneral Rodimtseva Str., 03041 Kiev
(tel.: +380442582846 fax: +380442582846 e-mail: sops@sops.gov.ua)

Nataliya YAKUBENKO (Mrs.), Head, Department of International Cooperation, Ukrainian Institute for Plant Variety Examination, 15, Heneral Rodimtseva str, 03041 Kyiv
(tel.: +380 44 258 2846 fax: +380 44 258 2846 e-mail: nataliya@sops.gov.ua)

UNION EUROPÉENNE / EUROPEAN UNION / EUROPÄISCHE UNION / UNIÓN EUROPEA

Päivi MANNERKORPI (Mrs.), Chef de section – Unit E-2, Direction Générale Santé et Protection des Consommateurs, Commission européenne (DG SANCO), Rue Froissart 101, 2/180, 1040 Bruxelles
(tel.: +32 2 299 3724 fax: +32 2 296 0951 e-mail: paivi.mannerkorpi@ec.europa.eu)

Martin EKVAD, President, Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO), 3, boulevard Maréchal Foch, B.P. 10121, 49101 Angers Cedex 02
(tel.: +33 2 4125 6415 fax: +33 2 4125 6410 e-mail: ekvad@cpvo.europa.eu)

Carlos GODINHO, Vice-President, Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO), 3, boulevard Maréchal Foch, B.P. 10121, 49101 Angers Cedex 02
(tel.: +33 2 4125 6413 fax: +33 2 4125 6410 e-mail: godinho@cpvo.europa.eu)

Isabelle CLEMENT-NISSOU (Mrs.), Policy Officer, Direction Générale Santé et Protection des Consommateurs, Commission européenne (DG SANCO), rue Froissart 101, 1040 Bruxelles
(tel.: +32 229 87834 fax: +32 2 2960951 e-mail: isabelle.clement-nissou@ec.europa.eu)

Delphine LIDA (Mme), Conseillère à la délégation de l'UE à Genève, Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva, rue du Grand-Pré 64-66, Caste postale 107, 1211 Geneva 7, Switzerland
(tel.: +41 22 919 7442 fax: +41 22 7342236 e-mail: delphine.lida@eeas.europa.eu)

Antonio ATAZ, EU Official, General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 175, rue de la Loi, B-1048 Bruxelles, Belgique
(tel.: +32 2 281 4964 fax: +32 2 281 6198 e-mail: antonio.ataz@consilium.europa.eu)

Paul RUOTTE, Intern, Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva, Rue du Grand-Pré 64-66, Caste postale 107, 1211 Genève 7
(tel.: +41 22 919 7443 e-mail: paul.ruotte@eeas.europa.eu)

URUGUAY / URUGUAY / URUGUAY / URUGUAY

Gerardo CAMPS, Gerente Evaluación y Registro de Cultivares, Instituto Nacional de Semillas (INASE), Cno. Bertolotti s/n R-8 Km 29, Barros Blancos, Canelones
(tel.:+598 2 288 7099 fax: +598 2 288 7077 e-mail: gcamps@inase.org.uy)

VIET NAM / VIET NAM / VIETNAM / VIET NAM

Thanh Minh NGUYEN, Examiner / International Relation Affairs on Plant Variety Protection, Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO), Department of Crop Production (DCP), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Room 405, Building A6B No. 2 Ngocha Str., Ba Dinh District, Hanoi 844
(tel.:+84 4 38435182 fax: +84 4 37342844 e-mail: minh_pvp@yahoo.com)

Tadao MIZUNO, JICA, Expert on PVP, Plant Variety Protection Office, Room 405 A6B Building, No 2 Ngoc Ha Str. Badminh, Hanoi
(tel.:+844 38435182 fax: +844 37342844 e-mail: tadao.mizuno@gmail.com)

BUREAU / OFFICE / VORSITZ / OFICINA

Keun-Jin CHOI, President of the Council of UPOV

Kitisri SUKHAPINDA (Ms.), Vice-President of the Council of UPOV

BUREAU DE L'OMPI / OFFICE OF WIPO / BÜRO DER WIPO / OFICINA DE LA OMPI

Philippe FAVATIER, Chief Financial Officer (Controller), Department of Finance and Budget, Administration and Management Sector

BUREAU DE L'UPOV / OFFICE OF UPOV / BÜRO DER UPOV / OFICINA DE LA UPOV

Francis GURRY, Secretary-General

Peter BUTTON, Vice Secretary-General

Yolanda HUERTA (Mrs.), Legal Counsel

Julia BORYS (Mrs.), Senior Technical Counsellor

Fuminori AIHARA, Counsellor

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