



CC/88/6

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: July 25, 2014

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

Geneva

**CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE****Eighty-Eighth Session  
Geneva, October 15, 2014**

## 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. This document reports on developments with regard to access to UPOV documents and publication of information.

Documents on the UPOV website

2. Currently, a number of important documents are only available in paper format and are, therefore, not available on the UPOV website. The Consultative Committee, at its eighty-second session, held in Geneva on October 19, 2011, 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 (see document CC/82/15 "Report", paragraph 30).

3. The bound versions of all relevant documents have now been de-assembled, sized, indexed and scanned with the addition of the following disclaimer:

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agreed by the Council of UPOV, only documents that have been adopted by the Council of UPOV and that have not been superseded can represent UPOV policies or guidance.

"This document has been scanned from a paper copy and may have some discrepancies from the original document."

4. A total of around 7,000 documents have been scanned. The uploading of the documents will be prioritized in the following order:

- (a) Records of the diplomatic conferences on the revisions of the UPOV Convention;
- (b) Documents of meetings of UPOV with international organizations (IOM documents);
- (c) Issues of the Plant Variety Protection Gazette and Newsletter;
- (d) UPOV session documents; and
- (e) UPOV seminars.

5. Uploading of the scanned documents will require creation of the appropriate structure and indexing of the UPOV website, followed by individual uploading of each document. As a part of the process of uploading UPOV session documents, a review will be made of the existing documents posted under the UPOV "Meeting Documents" section to check for errors and omission that occurred during the migration to the redesigned website in 2011-2012. It is anticipated that the process will be completed in 2015.

6. *The Consultative Committee is invited to note the plans for the posting on the UPOV website of important documents that have not been published on the UPOV website, as set out in paragraphs 2 to 5 of this document.*

#### Publication of the list of observers in UPOV bodies

7. The Consultative Committee, at eighty-seventh session, held in Geneva on April 11, 2014, 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/87/10 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 19). 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-seventh session of the Consultative Committee.

8. *The Consultative Committee is invited to note that 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.*

#### Database of consultants

9. For the purposes of this document, consultants are the following:

- (a) speakers whose travel expenses have been covered, partly or wholly, by UPOV or a Fund-in-Trust; and
- (b) distance learning tutors who have received payment from UPOV.

10. The Consultative Committee, at its eighty-fifth session, held in Geneva on March 22, 2013, 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).

11. 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.

12. At the eighty-sixth session of the Consultative Committee, the Office of the Union reported on its initial investigation of the WIPO Roster of Consultants (see <http://www.wipo.int/roc/en/>) in document CC/86/4 "Access to UPOV Documents and Publication of Information". It was reported that the WIPO Roster of Consultants was based on the same database as that 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 to be uploaded into the database in order to enable the efficient generation of reports (e.g. graphs, maps, etc.) for purposes such as the preparation of reports to the Council. The Office of the Union is continuing to investigate the scope for WIPO databases to incorporate data from other UPOV databases.

13. At the eighty-sixth session of the Consultative Committee, the Office of the Union explained that, if it was not possible to use the WIPO database for UPOV purposes, the Office of the Union would provide a list of consultants in a different way (see document CC/86/14 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 45). Pending the outcome of the discussions on the use of the WIPO Roster of Consultants, the Annex to document CC/87/3 "Access to UPOV documents and publication of information" provided a summary of information concerning consultants that were used by UPOV in 2013 and which had given their authorization

to be included in the list. It is proposed that, in the absence of significant developments with regard to use of the WIPO Roster of Consultants by UPOV, information concerning consultants that are used by UPOV in 2014 be presented to the Consultative Committee at its ninetieth session, in October 2015, on the same basis as in the Annex to document CC/87/3.

*14. The Consultative Committee is invited to consider the proposal that, in the absence of significant developments with regard to use of the WIPO Roster of Consultants by UPOV, information concerning consultants that are used by UPOV in 2014 be presented to the Consultative Committee at its ninetieth session, in October 2015, on the same basis as in the Annex to document CC/87/3.*

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