



CC/92/3

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: September 15, 2016

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**Ninety-Second Session
Geneva, October 27, 2016**

SPECIAL PROJECT FUND

*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 clarify expenditure that can be included in the Special Project Fund (SPF).

BACKGROUND

2. In 2015, 183,824 Swiss francs, representing the amount of the reserve fund exceeding 15 per cent of the total income for the 2012-2013 Biennium, were transferred to a Special Project Fund for specific projects. Of this amount, 114,151 Swiss francs were expensed in 2015, leaving a balance of 69,673 Swiss francs as at December 31, 2015.

3. The Consultative Committee, at its ninetieth session held in Geneva on October 28 and 29, 2015, considered document CC/90/3 "Special Project Fund". The Consultative Committee noted the plans for use of the Special Project Fund (SPF) in 2015 and agreed that the balance of the SPF at the end of 2015 be used in 2016 for activities in the context of the UPOV training and assistance strategy (see the Annex of document CC/90/7), according to the following purposes and in the order of priority, as considered appropriate in relation to the availability of funding from other sources:

- Standard training activities organized or co-organized by UPOV
 - Contributing data to the PLUTO database;
 - Train the trainer courses;
 - Training for tutors in UPOV distance learning programs;
- Training and assistance resources;
- Training activities developed in conjunction with UPOV;
- In situ activities organized by UPOV.

4. Part of the balance of the SPF as at December 31, 2015, has been used to support the:
- “Train the Trainer Course for Ibero-American Countries on Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV Convention and Complementary Forms of IP Protection”, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), from November 16 to 20, 2015, which was financially supported by UPOV, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID); and
 - USPTO-UPOV-WIPO Train the Trainer Course: Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV Convention, held in Geneva from May 9 to 13, 2016.

CLARIFICATION

5. An important resource requirement for the activities in the context of the UPOV training and assistance strategy specified in paragraph 3 above, is administrative support. In order to be able to support the maximum number of activities, the Office of the Union uses agency staff. For the purposes of transparency and ensuring the most effective use of the SPF, it is proposed to clarify that the SPF expenditure includes expenditure on agency staff involved in the administration of activities in the context of the UPOV training and assistance strategy.

6. The Consultative Committee is invited to clarify that the SPF expenditure approved by the Consultative Committee, at its ninetieth session, includes expenditure on agency staff involved in the administration of activities in the context of the UPOV training and assistance strategy.

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