

Consultative Committee

CC/97/12

Ninety-Seventh Session
Geneva, October 29, 2020Original: English
Date: October 15, 2020**PROVIDING SUPPORT TO NEW MEMBERS OF THE UNION***Document prepared by the Office of the Union**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

1. The Consultative Committee, at its ninety-sixth session, held in Geneva on October 31, 2019, agreed to include an item for “Providing support for new members of the Union” (see document CC/96/14 “Report”, paragraph 96).
2. The Consultative Committee agreed in 2019 not to invite presentations by new members of the Union at future sessions. The intention of that change was to develop a more effective means of enabling the Consultative Committee to identify and address matters of particular relevance to new members. In accordance with that approach, it was agreed to include an item for “Providing support for new members of the Union”.
3. On the basis of feedback from members of the Union, it became apparent that it could be useful to further broaden the agenda item “Providing support for new members of the Union” to “New developments in members of the Union” to identify and consider possibilities to address relevant developments in members of the Union, rather than just new members of the Union.
4. During the preparation of this document, the European Union reported that the EU had a “Green Deal strategy and under its umbrella also a Farm to Fork strategy” on sustainable food along the whole value chain (see https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf and https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork_en). The European Union reported that, in the context of that strategy, “sustainable food systems also rely on seed security and diversity” and thus plant breeding and protected varieties have been identified to play an essential role towards ensuring better yields for food production, adaptation to changing climatic and environmental conditions and thereby contributing to long-term food security”. The European Union proposed the organization of a seminar in the week of the UPOV sessions in 2021 to exchange information and experiences on strategies involving plant breeding and plant variety protection that address such broad policy issues.
5. *The Consultative Committee is invited to consider:*
 - (a) *broadening the agenda item “Providing support for new members of the Union” to “New developments in members of the Union”, to identify and consider possibilities to address relevant developments in members of the Union; and*
 - (b) *the organization of a seminar in the week of the UPOV sessions in 2021 to exchange information and experiences on strategies involving plant breeding and plant variety protection that address broad policy issues.*

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