

ANNEX

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the procedure adopted by the Council in 2020, the Consultative Committee considered document CC/97/10 Rev. "Policy on translation" and the proposal set out in paragraphs 10 and 11:

"10. It is proposed to run a pilot project in 2020-2021 to analyze the cost-benefit and acceptability of translating documents with the assistance of neural machine translation technologies, including the required revision and editorial support.

"11. The following steps are proposed for a pilot project and relevant considerations by the Consultative Committee and the Council:

"(a) suitable meeting documents of the UPOV sessions in 2020 would be identified in consultation with the President of the Council or Chair of the relevant UPOV body. Those documents would already have been translated into the UPOV languages and would be translated again using neural machine translation technologies as a basis for comparison;

"(b) in February 2021 members of the Union would be:

- provided with (i) the selected meeting documents in the original language, (ii) the existing translations of those documents, as posted on the UPOV website, and (iii) translations of those documents using neural machine translation technologies; and
- invited to complete a survey on the acceptability of the translation using neural machine translation technologies;

"(c) in April 2021, based on the replies to the survey, a report with the findings from the pilot project and proposals on whether to use neural machine translation technologies and, if applicable, for which purposes, would be circulated to the Consultative Committee for comment by correspondence; and

"(d) on the above basis, proposals to update the UPOV policy on translation in accordance with the findings from the pilot project would be presented for consideration by the Consultative Committee and adoption by the Council at their sessions in 2021."

The Consultative Committee agreed the following (see document CC/97/15 "Outcome of the consideration of documents by correspondence", paragraphs 64 to 66):

"64. The Consultative Committee agreed to the organization of a pilot project on the use of neural machine translation technologies, as set out in paragraphs 10 and 11 of document CC/97/10 Rev.

"65. The Consultative Committee approved the proposed UPOV policy on translation, as presented in Annex II to document CC/97/10 Rev.

"66. The Consultative Committee agreed, subject to the outcome of the pilot project and agreement by the Consultative Committee, that a draft UPOV policy on translation be presented for adoption by the Council at its session in 2021."