



C/29/3

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: October 2, 1995

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

COUNCIL

Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session Geneva, October 17, 1995

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES DURING THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1995

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

I. COMPOSITION OF THE UNION

1. On September 14, 1995, Portugal deposited its instrument of accession to the 1978 Act of the Convention. That Act will enter into force with respect to Portugal on October 14.
2. As from the latter date, the Union will comprise 28 member States: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay. All are party to the 1978 Act, with the exception of Belgium and Spain, which are party to the 1961 Act as amended by the Additional Act of 1972.
3. Under Article 32(3) of the 1978 Act, "Any State which is not a member of the Union and which has not signed this Act shall, before depositing its instrument of accession, ask the Council to advise it in respect of the conformity of its laws with the provisions of this Act."
4. By letter dated January 27, Chile requested the advice of the Council in respect of the conformity of its laws with the 1978 Act of the Convention.
5. By letter dated April 19, Paraguay also requested such advice of the Council.

6. At its twelfth extraordinary session held on April 28, the Council took positive decisions in respect of both the aforementioned requests for advice.

7. At the date of this document, the Office of the Union has been informed that the Republic of Belarus is preparing a request for the advice of the Council in respect of the conformity of its laws with the 1978 and 1991 Acts of the Convention.

8. The table given in the Annex to this report summarizes the position of the various States in relation to the various Acts of the Convention as at September 30, 1995.

II. SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Council

9. The Council held its twelfth extraordinary session on April 28 under the chairmanship of Mr. Bill Whitmore (New Zealand) as a result of the requests for advice submitted by Chile and Paraguay under Article 32(3) of the 1978 Act.

Consultative Committee and Administrative and Legal Committee

10. The Consultative Committee held its forty-ninth session on April 28 under the chairmanship of Mr. Bill Whitmore. The business of the Committee included the prolongation of the appointment of the Vice Secretary-General until November 30, 2001, a report by representatives of member States on progress in implementing the 1991 Act, the proposed UPOV central CD-ROM database on plant variety protection, the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights ("TRIPS Agreement") and plant variety protection, and biodiversity, plant genetic resources and plant variety protection.

Administrative and Legal Committee, Technical Committee, Technical Working Parties and the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques and DNA Profiling in Particular

11. For the work of these bodies, reference is made to documents C/29/9, C/29/10 and C/29/10 Add.

III. SEMINARS

12. On March 13, the Office of the Union, jointly with the Ministry of Justice of Costa Rica, organized a National Seminar on Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV Convention in San José, Costa Rica. Lectures were delivered on general and technical aspects of plant variety protection, the 1991 Act, plant variety protection in the Netherlands and the implications of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights ("TRIPS Agreement") for Costa Rica.

13. On March 15, the Office of the Union, jointly with the Industrial Property Registry of the Ministry of Economy of Guatemala, organized a National Seminar on the Protection and Breeding of Plant Varieties in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Lectures were delivered on the seed production process in Guatemala, general aspects of the Industrial Property Register, general and technical aspects of plant variety protection, the 1991 Act and the protection of plant varieties in the Netherlands.

14. From May 3 to 5, the Office of the Union organized in Pretoria, South Africa, a Regional Seminar on the Protection of Plant Varieties under the UPOV Convention in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture of South Africa and with the financial assistance of the Overseas Development Administration of the United Kingdom. The Seminar was organized for the member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Lectures were delivered on general and technical aspects of plant variety protection, on the 1991 Act, on plant breeders' rights in South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe, on intellectual property rights and the seed industry, and on plant variety protection and vegetatively propagated crops in South Africa. The representatives of participating States gave reports on the current situation of the plant breeding and seed industries in their countries.

IV. RELATIONS WITH STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS

15. On January 3, the Vice Secretary-General wrote to Mr. Eugen M. Stashkov, Director General of the State Agency on Industrial Property Protection of the Republic of Moldova, with comments on a draft law for the protection of plant varieties in Moldova.

16. On January 9, the Office of the Union received a letter from the Minister of State for Agriculture, Supply and Land Reform of Brazil, announcing the organization of a national seminar on plant variety protection in May 1995 and inviting the Office of the Union to be represented.

17. On January 18, the Office of the Union wrote to Dr. R.S. Paroda, Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, concerning the possibility of organizing a Seminar in India.

18. On January 24, the Vice Secretary-General participated in a meeting in which Mr. Adrian Otten, Director, Intellectual Property and Investment, GATT/WTO, and Mr. Matthijs Geuze, Legal Affairs Officer, GATT/WTO, gave a presentation on the TRIPS Agreement for staff members of WIPO.

19. On January 26, the Office of the Union corresponded with Mrs. Margellou, Director, International Relations and Legal Affairs, Industrial Property Organization, Athens, Greece, concerning protection of plant varieties under the UPOV Convention.

20. On January 30 and 31, an official of the Union participated in the Second Meeting of the Subregional Committee for the Protection of Plant Varieties of the Andean Group in Lima, Peru.

21. On January 31, the Office of the Union wrote to Mr. Akil A. Azimov, Director of the State Committee for Science and Technology of Uzbekistan, concerning the Provisional Statement on Selection Achievements adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan.
22. On the same day, the Vice Secretary-General wrote to Mr. Luiz Antonio Barreto de Castro, Secretary for the Coordination of Programs, Ministry of Science and Technology, Brasilia, Brazil, concerning aspects of the 1978 and 1991 Acts.
23. On February 1, the Secretary-General received a Note from the Permanent Mission of Chile requesting the advice of the UPOV Council on the conformity of the Chilean law with the 1978 Act of the UPOV Convention.
24. On February 1, an official of the Union visited the Institute for the Defense of Competition and Intellectual Property of Peru (INDECOPI) where he met Mrs. Begoña Venero Aguirre, Head of the Office for Inventions and New Technologies, whose responsibilities include the implementation of Decision 345, which concerns the protection of plant varieties, of the Commission of the Cartagena Agreement in Peru.
25. On February 2, an official of the Union visited the offices of the Interamerican Institute for Agricultural Cooperation (IICA) in Quito, Ecuador, and lectured on plant variety protection. He subsequently met Mr. Diego Montalvo Escobar, Director of the National Directorate for Industrial Property, and other officials of that office.
26. Also on the same day, he visited the Ministry of Agriculture of Ecuador, where he met Mr. Eduardo Mayacela, Head of the Division of the Ministry responsible for inputs, Mr. Nelson Peñafiel, National Director of the National Directorate for Agriculture and Livestock, Mr. Manuel Santillan Vinueza of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Integration and Fisheries, and Mr. Ignacio Pérez Arteta, Under-Secretary, who indicated the wish of Ecuador to adhere to the UPOV Convention.
27. On February 3, the Secretary-General wrote to Mr. Jacques Diouf, Director General of FAO, concerning the forthcoming Sixth Session of the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.
28. On February 3, an official of the Union visited the Colombian Institute for Agriculture and Livestock (ICA) where he met Mrs. Luz Alba Cruz de Urbina, Deputy General Manager of ICA, and Mr. Jorge Suárez Corredor, Director of the Seed Division of ICA, and other officials.
29. On February 21, the Office of the Union wrote to Mr. Dacio Castello, Director General of the Directorate General for Intellectual Property of Honduras, providing information on plant variety protection.
30. On February 21 and 22, a Drafting Group comprising Mrs. Carmen Gianni (Argentina), Mr. José-M. Elena Rosselló (Spain), Mr. Bart Kiewiet (Netherlands) and Mr. Henning Kunhardt (Germany) met in the Office of the Union to discuss the draft Model Law.

31. On February 28, the Secretary-General wrote to Mr. Alexander Chikvaidze, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia, in response to a request for assistance in relation to plant variety protection matters.

32. On March 2 and 3, the Vice Secretary-General met in Port of Spain with the members of a Committee established to review intellectual property laws in Trinidad and Tobago and discussed the proposals of the Committee for the protection of plant varieties.

33. On March 6, the Vice Secretary-General met Mr. Juan Manual Ramírez Pérez, General Manager of the Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA), Mr. Jorge E. Suárez Corredor, Head of the ICA Seed Division, Mrs. Ana Luisa Diaz Jiménez, Head of the Seed Certification and Registration Unit of that Division, and Mr. Alejandro Mendoza Osorio, Head of the Seed Quality Unit in that Division, for discussions on the steps being taken to implement the Colombian law on plant variety protection. Also present during the discussions as observer was Mrs. Begoña Venero Aguirre, Head of the Office of Inventions and New Technology in the Institute for the Defense of Competition and Intellectual Property (INDECOPI) in Peru, who is responsible, *inter alia*, for the implementation of Decision 345 in Peru.

34. The Vice Secretary-General subsequently met officials from the Office for International Cooperation of the Ministry of the Environment of Colombia and answered questions on the 1978 Act of the UPOV Convention.

35. On March 7 and 8, the Vice Secretary-General participated in an international seminar in Santa Fe de Bogotá organized by the Inter-American Institute for Agricultural Cooperation (IICA) and the University of Amsterdam on the theme "The effects of intellectual property rights on agriculture in developing countries." During the seminar, a report was presented of a study on the impact of plant breeders' rights in developing countries based upon the experience of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Uruguay.

36. In the course of the seminar, the Vice Secretary-General met Professor Nora Olembo, Head of the Kenya Industrial Property Office, who passed to him a copy of the Regulations that had been made to implement the Seeds and Plant Varieties Act 1971 of Kenya, so far as plant breeders' rights are concerned.

37. On March 9, the Vice Secretary-General and Mr. Huib Ghijsen, Head of the Department for Registration and Plant Breeders' Rights, Wageningen, Netherlands, met the General Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Panama, Mr. José Donoso, the National Director of Commerce in the said Ministry, Mr. Rodolfo Espino, and Mrs. Luz Celeste Ríos de Davis, General Director of the Industrial Property Register of Panama, together with senior staff from the Registry, and discussed the protection of plant varieties under the UPOV Convention and the possibility of organizing a national seminar on the subject in the future.

38. On March 10, the Vice Secretary-General and Mr. Ghijsen met officials of the Research Institute for Agriculture and Livestock of Panama.

39. On March 13, on the occasion of the National Seminar on the Protection of Plant Varieties under the UPOV Convention, the Vice Secretary-General and Mr. Ghijsen met the

Vice-Minister of Justice of Costa Rica, Dr. Monica Blanco, and Mrs. Liliana Alfaro, Director of the Intellectual Property Registry of Costa Rica, in San José.

40. On March 14, the Vice Secretary-General and Mr. Huib Ghijsen visited the Ministry for Foreign Trade of Costa Rica where they met Fernando Ocampo, Advisor to the Minister. They subsequently called upon Mr. Ricardo Garrón, the Vice-President of the National Assembly, and paid a brief visit to the Intellectual Property Registry situated within the National Registry of the Ministry of Justice.

41. Later, they visited the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica where they were received by Oscar Campos Chavarria, Vice-Minister. Also present were Dr. Bernardo Mora Brenes, Director of Agriculture and Livestock Research in the Ministry, Ing. José Manuel Rodríguez, President of the Board of Directors of the National Seed Office, and Ing. Ana Corina Guevara Fernandez, Executive Director of the National Seed Office, and other officials. They discussed the plant variety protection situation in Costa Rica and the draft regulations, made under the existing national seed law and intended to create a system of plant variety protection in Costa Rica.

42. On March 15, the Vice Secretary-General and Mr. Huib Ghijsen participated in Guatemala City, Guatemala, in a National Seminar on the Protection and Breeding of Plant Varieties which was jointly organized by UPOV together with the Chamber of Commerce of Guatemala and the Industrial Property Office of the Ministry of Economy. The Seminar was opened by Irma Luz Toledo Peñate, Vice-Minister of Economy, and by Fernando Vargas, Vice-Minister of Agriculture.

43. On March 16, the Vice Secretary-General and Mr. Huib Ghijsen visited agricultural research centers in Guatemala.

44. From March 19 to 23, an official of the Union participated in a meeting of the Council of the WANA (West Asia and North Africa) Seed Network in an observer capacity. The WANA Seed Network is organized by the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). The Council meeting was convened by ICARDA with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture of Turkey. The meeting was opened by Mr. Refaeddin Sahin, Minister for Agriculture of Turkey, who mentioned the promulgation of a plant variety protection law in Turkey in 1994. Further information concerning developments and the preparation of laws for the protection of plant varieties was obtained from participants from Cyprus, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

45. On March 27, the Office of the Union received a visit from Mr. Saparbay A. Eminov, Head of the Intersectorial Committee for Techniques and Information Processing of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, and Mr. Bayram O. Kazakov, Head of the Department of New Technology and Education in the same office, to whom information concerning plant variety protection was passed.

46. On April 3, the Office of the Union received a letter from Ing. Agr. Carlos Alberto Pflingst, Acting Director of the Seed Directorate of Paraguay, requesting that the conformity of the law of Paraguay with the UPOV Convention be considered by the Council of UPOV at its extraordinary session on April 28, 1995.

47. On April 6, the Vice Secretary-General discussed in a telephone conversation with Mr. Roman O. Omorov, Head of the Patent Department of Kyrgyzstan, the possibility of organizing a UPOV Regional Seminar for the countries of Central Asia in Bishkek.

48. On April 6, the Vice Secretary-General received the visit of Mr. Rigoberto Gauto, Chargé d'affaires, Permanent Mission of Paraguay in Geneva, to discuss the request from his Government for the Council to advise on the conformity of the laws of Paraguay with the UPOV Convention.

49. On April 26, the Vice Secretary-General received a visit from the observer delegation of the Republic of Korea which was participating in the thirty-fifth session of the Administrative and Legal Committee. They explained the situation concerning the introduction of plant variety protection in their country and asked various questions.

50. Also on April 26, the Vice Secretary-General met with Dr. Kristo Iliev, President of the Patent Office of Bulgaria, who told him of the plans to legislate on plant variety protection in his country.

51. On April 27, the Vice Secretary-General received a visit from Mr. Yuriy Rogovsky, Deputy Chairman, State Commission for Selection Achievements, Tests and Protection, Moscow, and Mrs. Tatjana Gorpichenko, Director, Center for Quality Control of Plant Varieties, Moscow, Russian Federation, who discussed with him arrangements concerning the possible accession of their country to the UPOV Convention.

52. On the same day, the Vice Secretary-General received a visit from Mr. Ramarao Nuthakki, Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi, and Dr. Mangala Rai, Assistant Director General, Indian Council for Agricultural Research, who described the preparation of legislation on plant variety protection in their country.

53. On May 10, the Vice Secretary-General received the visit of Mr. Taufik M.E. Maroef of the Bureau of Laws and Legislation in the Cabinet Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia, who described the role of his office in legislation for protection of plant varieties.

54. On the same day, the Vice Secretary-General received the visit of Mr. Howard Mann, a Consultant on International and Environmental Law and Policy, who was working for the Canadian Department of the Environment and sought information concerning the implementation of the Convention for the Conservation of Biological Diversity.

55. Also on May 10, the Vice Secretary-General received the visit of Mr. Carlos Eduardo Illescas Rivera, Director, Industrial Property Registry, Guatemala, who inquired concerning the possibility of UPOV cooperating in holding a second national seminar in his country.

56. On May 10, the Office of the Union received the visit of Mrs. Begoña Venero Aguirre, Head, Office for Inventions and New Technology in INDECOPI, Peru, and discussed a draft decree for the application of Decision 345 of the Commission of the Cartagena Agreement.

57. On May 11, the Vice Secretary-General received the visit of Mr. Valery Kudashov, Head, Belarus Patent Office, who handed over the Russian text of the Plant Variety Protection Law of Belarus, which entered into force on July 7.

58. On the same day, the Vice Secretary-General received the visit of Mrs. Mioara Radulescu, Director General, State Office for Inventions and Trademarks, Bucharest, who discussed the status of the proposed plant variety protection law of Romania.

59. Also on May 11, the Vice Secretary-General received a visit from Mr. Rolando Miguel Hernández Vigaud, Head of the Legal Department of the National Office of Inventions, Havana, Cuba, who stated that his country was preparing a plant variety protection law in conformity with the 1978 Act.

60. On May 12, the Vice Secretary-General received the visit of Mr. Rolando J. Vega Méndez, Director and Registrar of Industrial Property in Venezuela, who expressed the wish of his country to accede to the UPOV Convention.

61. On May 22, the Office of the Union received the visit of Mrs. Jayashree Watal, Senior Consultant, and of Mr. C. Niranjan Rao, Associate Fellow, of the International Council for Research on International Economic Relations, who asked questions concerning the UPOV Convention and the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement concerning plant varieties.

62. On May 22 and 23, the Vice Secretary-General took part in a seminar on the “Draft Law for the Protection of Plant Varieties in the Light of the 1978 Version of UPOV,” organized jointly by the Brazilian Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization (EMBRAPA) and by the Brazilian Seed Trade Association (ABRASAM), and delivered two lectures.

63. On May 24, the Vice Secretary-General visited the headquarters of EMBRAPA in Brasilia, Brazil, where he met its President, Dr. Alberto Duque Portugal.

64. On the same day, in the afternoon, the Vice Secretary-General visited the Chamber of Deputies of the Brazilian Congress, where he met the President of the Agricultural Committee, Deputy Alcides Modesto.

65. On May 29, the Office of the Union received the visit of Mr. Edwin H. Baker, Associate Resident Counsel of the Office of Technology Transfer, University of California, who was interested in the plant variety protection system.

66. On May 30, the Office of the Union received the visit of Mrs. Emilia Lara Diaz, Head of Patents in the National Office of Inventions, Technical Information and Marks of Cuba, who sought information on plant variety protection.

67. From May 29 to June 2, the Vice Secretary-General participated in the World Congresses of the International Federation of the Seed Trade (FIS) and the International Association of Plant Breeders for the Protection of Plant Varieties (ASSINSEL), in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

68. On June 6, the Secretary-General received the visit of Mr. Yuan Ke Xing, Director General, Department of Rural Science and Technology, Beijing, China, and of Mrs. Li Xiaolin, Deputy Director General of the same Department, together with other officials of that Department, who asked for information concerning the UPOV system of plant variety protection.

69. On June 8, the Vice Secretary-General visited the Offices of the National Seed Council of Bolivia in La Paz and subsequently called on the National Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock, Ing. Edgar Talavera Soliz.

70. On June 9, the Vice Secretary-General visited the Regional Seed Office of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, and met with Mr. Jorge Suárez, National Director of the National Seed Council, and Mr. Jorge Rosales King, President of Prosemillas, with whom he discussed proposed national implementing regulations for Decision 345.

71. On June 11, the Vice Secretary-General participated in a meeting organized by Ing. Alejandro Trueba Carranza, Director General of Agricultural Policy in the Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development of Mexico, and the Mexican Seed Trade Association. A broad cross-section of persons interested in the intellectual property protection of plant varieties was present in the meeting, which the Vice Secretary-General addressed on the subject of protection under the UPOV Convention.

72. On June 12 and 13, an official of the Office of the Union participated in the twenty-fourth Congress of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) in Copenhagen, Denmark, and gave information concerning developments in UPOV.

73. From June 14 to 16, the Vice Secretary-General participated in an international symposium on the protection of industrial property in the field of biotechnology, organized by the Mexican Institute for Industrial Property, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the European Patent Office. He gave a paper on the protection of plant varieties under the UPOV Convention and was a member of a discussion panel.

74. On June 19, an official of the Office of the Union participated in the Annual Meeting of Representatives of Designated National Authorities of OECD in Paris, France, and gave information on recent developments in UPOV.

75. From June 19 to July 2, an official of the Office of the Union participated in the sixth session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources of FAO in Rome, Italy.

76. On June 27, the Vice Secretary-General visited the office of Mr. Eugeniu I. Revenco, Director of Research in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Moldova in Chisinau, where he also met Mr. Dimitri Brynzila, President of the State Commission for Crop Variety Testing and Registration. He subsequently visited the offices of the State Agency on Industrial Property Protection of Moldova, where he met its Director General, Mr. Eugen Stashkov, and the Research Institute for Selection and Technology in Horticulture, where he met its Director Mr. Feodor C. Popovich.

77. In the afternoon, on the same day, the Vice Secretary-General visited the Parliament of Moldova where he met the Chairman and Members of the Committee for Agriculture and the Processing Industry of the Parliament and discussed the passage of plant variety protection legislation. He later visited the National Institute of Vine and Wine of Moldova.

78. On June 28, the Vice Secretary-General participated in a meeting of plant breeders from the agricultural research institutes of Moldova, held in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and spoke on the UPOV Convention and answered questions. He subsequently visited the Offices of the President of the Republic of Moldova where he met the Agricultural Advisor to the President, who told him of the intention of the Moldovan Government to enact legislation on the protection of plant varieties and to become a member State of UPOV. He later visited the Maize and Sorghum Research Institute of Moldova and met its Director Vasile E. Micu.

79. On June 29, the Vice Secretary-General visited the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks of Romania in Bucharest and met its Director General, Mrs. Mioara Radulescu, and Dr. Nicolae Pirvu, President of the State Committee for the Testing of Plant Varieties, and other officials.

80. On June 30, the Vice Secretary-General met with Iulian Pusca, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, and Nikolae Pogorevici, Director of the Horticulture Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, and discussed the timetable for legislating on the protection of plant varieties.

81. On July 11, the Vice Secretary-General received a telephone call from Mr. Carlos Pereira Godhino of the Plant Variety Protection Office of Portugal, who told him that the law authorizing the accession of Portugal to the 1978 Act of the UPOV Convention had been published in the Official Gazette.

82. At various dates between July 14 and August 8, the Office of the Union corresponded with officials of the Government of India in connection with the possible organization of an international seminar in that country.

83. On July 24, the Vice Secretary-General met in Sofia the Minister for Agriculture and Food Industry of Bulgaria, Mr. V. Chichibaba, together with Dr. Maria Lazarova, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Prof. Dr. Hristo Karjin, President of the Agricultural Academy of Bulgaria, and Mr. Cheleev Dimiter, Director of the State Variety Testing Commission and other officials, and discussed the proposed legislation of Bulgaria for the protection of new plant varieties and animal breeds and, in particular, the desire of the Bulgarian Government that the new Bulgarian law should conform with the 1991 Act.

84. On July 25, the Vice Secretary-General met in the Ministry of Agriculture with the group of experts responsible for drafting the proposed new plant variety protection law of Bulgaria.

85. On July 27, the Vice Secretary-General met with Dr. Kristo Iliev, President of the Bulgarian Patent Office, and Professor Stefan Stefanov of the Technical University of Sofia, who expressed interest in including plant variety protection material in the courses studied by students in the Technical University.

86. On July 28, the Vice Secretary-General received the visit of Mr. Gustavo Anda Sevilla, Second Secretary in the Permanent Mission of Ecuador in Geneva, who sought information concerning the procedure for accession to the 1978 Act of the Convention.
87. On August 2, the Office of the Union wrote to Mrs. Liljana Varga, Assistant Director, Industrial Property Protection Office of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in Skopje to provide information which she had requested on plant variety protection.
88. On August 8, the Secretary-General wrote to Mr. Stuart Harbinson, Chairman of the Council for TRIPS of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in response to a request from the TRIPS Council for information concerning UPOV technical and financial cooperation with developing countries.
89. On August 17, the Office of the Union wrote to Dr. Grant A. Mwakatundu, Commissioner for Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture of Tanzania, with comments on a draft law for the protection of new plant varieties in Tanzania.
90. On August 23, the Vice Secretary-General received the visit of Mr. Piers Trehane, Editor of the International Code for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants, with whom he and other officials of the Union discussed the relationship between this code and the UPOV rules for denominations.
91. On August 28, the Vice Secretary-General received an invitation from the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China to visit China in the context of a seed industry project of the World Bank to discuss proposals for the introduction of a law for the protection of new plant varieties with Chinese officials.
92. On August 29, Mr. Manuel Santillan Vinueza of the National Directorate of Industrial Property of Ecuador visited the Office of the Union and reported that the Directorate had received 250 applications for protection for plant varieties.
93. On September 1, the Secretary-General sent an invitation addressed to Mr. Renato Ruggiero, Director General of the World Trade Organization, inviting him to designate a representative of the World Trade Organization to participate in an observer capacity in the twenty-ninth ordinary session of the Council of UPOV.
94. On September 19, an official of the Office of the Union participated in the General Assembly in Grenoble, France, of SEPROMA (the Association of French Maize Seed Businesses) and spoke on developments in UPOV.
95. On September 21, the Council for TRIPS of the World Trade Organization invited the Office of the Union to be represented in an observer capacity in the meeting of the Council for TRIPS held on that day and at its next meeting proposed to be held in November. The Vice Secretary-General attended the meeting of the Council for TRIPS held on September 21.

96. On September 22, the Vice Secretary-General received the visit of Mr. José Esquinas-Alcazar, Secretary of the Commission for Plant Genetic Resources of FAO, and Mr. Arturo Purcell, Senior Liaison Officer of FAO in Geneva.

97. On September 27, the Vice Secretary-General received the visit of Mr. Akil A. Azimov, Director of the State Patent Office of Uzbekistan, who discussed legal developments concerning plant variety protection in his country and invited a representative of the Office of the Union to visit his country.

98. On the same day, the Vice Secretary-General received the visit of Mr. David Gabunia, Chairman of the Georgian Patent Office, and of Mr. Nureddin M.A. Babirly, Director of the Department of Patents and Licenses of the State Committee of Science and Technology of Azerbaijan, and discussed with them the interest of their countries in plant variety protection.

99. On September 28, the Vice Secretary-General received the visit from Mrs. Connie Matos de Guerrero, Foreign Trade Advisor of the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic, who inquired concerning the compatibility of protection under the UPOV Convention with her country's obligations under the TRIPS Agreement.

100. On the same day, the Vice Secretary-General received the visit of Mr. Valery I. Kudashov, Head of the Belarus Patent Office, and Mr. Alexander Chenado, Deputy Head, Patent Examination Division of that office, and discussed with them the law for plant variety protection of Belarus and the wish of Belarus to receive the advice of the Council of UPOV on the conformity of that law with the UPOV Convention.

101. Also on September 28, the Vice Secretary-General received the visit of Mr. Eugen Stashkov, Director General, State Agency on Industrial Property Protection of Moldova, who told him that a Bill introducing a law for the protection of plant varieties was currently before the Parliament of Moldova.

102. On September 29, the Vice Secretary-General received the visit of Mr. Khabiboulo F. Fayazov, Director of the National Center for Patents and Information of Tajikistan, and discussed the interest of his country in introducing a law for the protection of plant varieties.

103. Also on September 29, the Vice Secretary-General received the visit of Mr. Roman Omorov, Head, and Mr. Abdikalil T. Tokoev, Deputy Head, of the General Department of Intellectual Property of Kyrgyzstan, and discussed the regulation for the protection of plant varieties in Kyrgyzstan which is already in force. They invited the Office of the Union to cooperate with their country in organizing an international seminar on plant variety protection in Kyrgyzstan in 1996.

V. PUBLICATIONS

104. The Office of the Union published:

(a) a new 1995 edition of the General Information Brochure on UPOV in English, French, German and Spanish;

- (b) a new 1995 edition of the information leaflet on UPOV and plant variety protection in English, French, German and Spanish;
- (c) three issues of the periodical “Plant Variety Protection”;
- (d) one supplement to Part I of the Collection of Important Texts and Documents in English, French, German and Spanish and one trilingual supplement to Part II (Test Guidelines);
- (e) one supplement and an index to the “Collection of Laws and Treaties.”

105. *The Council is invited to take note of this report.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNION
(as of September 30, 1995)

State	Date of Signature ¹	Date of Deposit of Instrument ^{1,2}	Date Upon Which State Became Bound ¹
Argentina	- - - -	- - November 25, 1994 -	- - December 25, 1994 -
Australia	- - - -	- - February 1, 1989 -	- - March 1, 1989 -
Austria	- - - -	- - June 14, 1994 -	- - July 14, 1994 -
Belgium	December 2, 1961 November 10, 1972 October 23, 1978 March 19, 1991	November 5, 1976 November 5, 1976 - -	December 5, 1976 February 11, 1977 - -
Canada	- - October 31, 1979 March 9, 1992	- - February 4, 1991 -	- - March 4, 1991 -
Czech Republic	- - - -	- - - -	- - January 1, 1993 -
Denmark	November 26, 1962 November 10, 1972 October 23, 1978 March 19, 1991	September 6, 1968 February 8, 1974 October 8, 1981 -	October 6, 1968 February 11, 1977 November 8, 1981 -
Finland	- - - -	- - March 16, 1993 -	- - April 16, 1993 -

¹ *First line:* International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants of December 2, 1961
Second line: Additional Act of November 10, 1972
Third line: Act of October 23, 1978
Fourth line: Act of March 19, 1991.

² of ratification where the State has signed the Convention or the Additional Act, as the case may be; of ratification, acceptance or approval if the State has signed the Act of 1978; of accession where it has not signed the text concerned.

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State	Date of Signature ¹	Date of Deposit of Instrument ^{1,2}	Date Upon Which State Became Bound ¹
France	December 2, 1961 November 10, 1972 October 23, 1978 March 19, 1991	September 3, 1971 January 22, 1975 February 17, 1983 -	October 3, 1971 February 11, 1977 March 17, 1983 -
Germany	December 2, 1961 November 10, 1972 October 23, 1978 March 19, 1991	July 11, 1968 July 23, 1976 March 12, 1986 -	August 10, 1968 February 11, 1977 April 12, 1986 -
Hungary	- - - -	- - March 16, 1983 -	- - April 16, 1983 -
Ireland	- - September 27, 1979 February 21, 1992	- - May 19, 1981 -	- - November 8, 1981 -
Israel	- - - October 23, 1991	November 12, 1979 November 12, 1979 April 12, 1984 -	December 12, 1979 December 12, 1979 May 12, 1984 -
Italy	December 2, 1961 November 10, 1972 October 23, 1978 March 19, 1991	June 1, 1977 June 1, 1977 April 28, 1986 -	July 1, 1977 July 1, 1977 May 28, 1986 -
Japan	- - October 17, 1979 -	- - August 3, 1982 -	- - September 3, 1982 -
Mexico (not yet member)	- - July 25, 1979 -	- - - -	- - - -
Netherlands	December 2, 1961 November 10, 1972 October 23, 1978 March 19, 1991	August 8, 1967 January 12, 1977 August 2, 1984 -	August 10, 1968 February 11, 1977 September 2, 1984 -
New Zealand	- - July 25, 1979 December 19, 1991	- - November 3, 1980 -	- - November 8, 1981 -
Norway	- - - -	- - August 13, 1993 -	- - September 13, 1993 -
Poland	- - - -	- - October 11, 1989 -	- - November 11, 1989 -

State	Date of Signature ¹	Date of Deposit of Instrument ^{1,2}	Date Upon Which State Became Bound ¹
Portugal	- - - -	- - September 14, 1995	- - October 14, 1995
Slovakia	- - - -	- - - -	- - January 1, 1993 -
South Africa	- - October 23, 1978 March 19, 1991	October 7, 1977 October 7, 1977 July 21, 1981 -	November 6, 1977 November 6, 1977 November 8, 1981 -
Spain	- - - March 19, 1991	April 18, 1980 April 18, 1980 - -	May 18, 1980 May 18, 1980 - -
Sweden	- January 11, 1973 December 6, 1978 December 17, 1991	November 17, 1971 January 11, 1973 December 1, 1982 -	December 17, 1971 February 11, 1977 January 1, 1983 -
Switzerland	November 30, 1962 November 10, 1972 October 23, 1978 March 19, 1991	June 10, 1977 June 10, 1977 June 17, 1981 -	July 10, 1977 July 10, 1977 November 8, 1981 -
United Kingdom	November 26, 1962 November 10, 1972 October 23, 1978 March 19, 1991	September 17, 1965 July 1, 1980 August 24, 1983 -	August 10, 1968 July 31, 1980 September 24, 1983 -
United States of America	- - October 23, 1978 October 25, 1991	- - November 12, 1980 -	- - November 8, 1981 -
Uruguay	- - - -	- - October 13, 1994 -	- - November 13, 1994 -

[End of document]