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| INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS  |
| Geneva |

Technical Committee

Fifty-First Session
Geneva, March 23 to 25, 2015

Electronic application systems

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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 The purpose of this document is to report on developments concerning the development of a prototype electronic form.

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# Background

 The aim of the project is to develop a multilingual, electronic form containing questions relevant for plant breeders’ rights (PBRs) applications. As a first step, a prototype electronic form will be developed, covering all relevant information required for a PBR application in the members of the Union concerned and with questions translated in the relevant languages for the members of the Union concerned (see document CAJ/66/5 “Electronic Application Systems”, paragraph 2).

 The background to the development of a prototype electronic form and developments prior to the fiftieth session of the Technical Committee (TC) are provided in document TC/50/9 “Electronic Application Systems”.

# Developments in 2014

## The Technical Committee (TC)

 The TC, at its fiftieth session held in Geneva on April 7 to 9, 2014, considered document TC/50/9 “Electronic Application Systems” and noted the developments concerning the development of a prototype electronic form.

## The Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ)

 The CAJ, at its seventieth session held in Geneva on October 13, 2014, considered documents CAJ/69/8 “Electronic application systems” and CAJ/69/11 “Report on developments in the Technical Committee” and noted the developments concerning the development of a prototype electronic form (see document CAJ/69/13 “Report”, paragraphs 49 to 55).

 The CAJ received a report of the meeting on the prototype electronic form, held in Geneva on April 9, 2014. It noted that the following features had been agreed for inclusion in the prototype:

* All the features presented in the mock-up,
* An administration interface with a dashboard to edit, submit or delete information,
* A possibility to import facility and export XML information.

 The CAJ noted that the following aspects would not be included in the prototype but would be included in the final version:

* Payment authorization
* Different languages
* Possibility for introducing or modifying questions in the form
* Technical aspects such as business support for applicants; routine maintenance provisions; compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG); legal aspect and disclaimer.

 The CAJ noted that the following timetable had been agreed on the development of the prototype:

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| Participating members to send their database structure, XML format or interface tables (requirement for participation in the project)Circular to be sent, requesting input from participants (PVP Offices + Breeders) | By May 30, 2014 |
| Analysis of databases of participating members, design of the database structure and data interface tables | By September 2014 |
| Consolidation of questions (bi/multilateral communication) | By September 2014 |
| Finalization of project brief and request for cost estimate from approved supplier | June 2014 |
| Agreement on the database structure/ import-export option/ interface tables format | October 2014 |
| Start of the project  | October 2014 |
| Presentation of the prototype to the CAJ and Council | October 2015 |

 The CAJ noted the request of the Delegation of Ecuador to participate in the meetings on the development of a prototype electronic form, and to provide information on its PVP platform project, which would be launched in July 2014 (see document CAJ/69/13 “Report”, paragraph 54).

 The CAJ, at its seventieth session, considered document CAJ/70/7 “Electronic application systems” and noted the confirmation of the Delegations of France, Germany and the Netherlands that they wished to participate in the meetings on the development of a prototype electronic form. It further noted the developments concerning the development of a prototype electronic form and that a report of the fourth meeting on the development of a prototype electronic form, held in Geneva on October 14, 2014, would be made to the CAJ at its seventy-first session in March 2015 (see document CAJ/70/10 “Report on the Conclusions”, paragraphs 32 and 33).

## Fourth meeting on the development of a prototype electronic form

### Participating members

 At the fourth meeting on the development of a prototype electronic form held in Geneva on October 14, 2014 (“EAF/4 meeting”), it was noted that France, Germany and the Netherlands had requested to participate in the development of the prototype. On that basis, it was recalled that the participating members of the Union were: Argentina; Australia; Brazil; Canada; Colombia; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; European Union; France, Germany, Japan; Mexico; New Zealand; Paraguay; Republic of Korea; Switzerland; Netherlands, United States of America and Viet Nam.

### Consultation process

 It was reported at the EAF/4 meeting that a collaborative platform had been created for the project (wiki space UPOV\_EAS), where participating members were invited, through several rounds of discussions, to provide their comments.

### XML Schema

 It was noted that the XML Schema to be used for the project (i.e. PVP-XML) would, as far as possible, reuse and refer to relevant components of the WIPO Standard ST.96 (“common components”). It was agreed that components that were not covered by the ST.96 standard would be described and developed on the basis of the ST.96 Annex I (Design Rules and conventions) and UPOV XML Design Rules and Conventions (DRCs). It was agreed that the PVP-XML would be updated in line with ST.96, as appropriate; however, it was not planned for the PVP-XML to be prepared for adoption as a WIPO standard. The meeting was informed that participating members would be invited to provide data in order to test the PVP-XML Schema to ensure compatibility with their systems.

### Data exchange

 In relation to data exchange, it was noted that the system would provide an import (via online form or bulk upload) and export facility (under HTML format or PVP-XML format via PVP office’s system) through web services (web interface).

### Online form

 The meeting was informed that, as agreed at the third meeting of the meeting on the development of a prototype electronic form held in Geneva on April 9, 2014, the focus of the work had been on the development of the data model and it was confirmed that there had been no developments since the third meeting in relation to the online electronic form.

### Future program of work

 At the EAF/4 meeting, the following timetable for work was agreed:

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| Participating members to comment via the wiki space UPOV\_EAS on the draft PVP-XML schema, data exchange and technical specifications: | * First round discussion by October 31, 2014
* Second round discussion by November 21, 2014
* First test campaign by December 12 , 2014
* Second test campaign by February 13, 2015
 |
| Participating members to comment on the Issue Register:* Issue ID-1: Relationship between PVP-XML schema and existing components for Patents and Trademarks;
* Issue ID-2: Data exchange: Schema to be used for data exchange in case of import/export process;
* Issue ID-3: Manual or automatic bulk upload.
 | By November 28, 2014 |
| Finalization of project brief for the electronic form and choice of the outsourced supplier (UPOV Office) | By March 2015 |
| Agreement on the data model, database structure/ import-export option/ interface tables format | March 2015 |
| Presentation of the prototype to the CAJ and Council | October 2015 |

 The fifth meeting on the prototype electronic form will be held in Geneva on March 25, 2015.

## Two-letter code to represent UPOV

 If considered appropriate in the future, it would be possible to provide an international reference number for applications that used data provided via a UPOV electronic from. On that basis, and without pre­judging any future decisions in that regard, the Office of the Union has made a request to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for a two-letter code (XU) to represent the name of UPOV within WIPO ST.3 “Recommended Standard on Two­Letter Codes for the Representation of States, Other Entities and Intergovernmental Organizations” (see <http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/standards/en/pdf/03-03-01.pdf>).

 The TC is invited to note the developments concerning the development of a prototype electronic form as set out in this document.

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