

Meeting on the development of an electronic application form

UPOV/EAF/11/2

**Eleventh Meeting
Geneva, March 28, 2018**

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DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE ELECTRONIC APPLICATION FORM

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this document is to report on developments since the tenth meeting (“EAF/10 meeting”) on the development of the electronic application form (EAF), held in Geneva on October 27, 2017, and to present proposals for future developments.
2. Participating members in the development of the electronic application form are invited to:
 - (a) note the developments concerning UPOV PRISMA, as set out in paragraphs 7 to 9;
 - (b) consider the plans for UPOV PRISMA Version 2.1, as set out in paragraphs 10 to 23;
 - (c) note the communications concerning UPOV PRISMA, as set out in paragraphs 24 and 25;
 - (d) note the developments concerning financing of UPOV PRISMA, as set out in paragraphs 26 to 30.

3. The structure of this document is as follows:

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BACKGROUND

4. The background to the development of the EAF is provided in document UPOV/EAF/10/2 “Developments concerning the electronic application form”.

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE EAF/10 MEETING

5. At the EAF/10 meeting, the participating members considered document UPOV/EAF/10/2 “Developments concerning the electronic application form” and received a presentation from the Office of the Union (see document UPOV/EAF/10/3 “Report”, paragraphs 4 to 19).

DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE EAF/10 MEETING

Versions

6. Version 2.0 of the EAF, renamed as UPOV PRISMA (see document UPOV/EAF/10/3 "Report", paragraph 5), was released on February 9, 2018.

*Version 2.0*Participating UPOV members and crops/species covered

7. The table below summarizes the participating PVP Offices and the crops supported in UPOV PRISMA Version 2.0:

Authority		Crop coverage
Argentina	AR	Apple Fruit Varieties, Potato, Rose, Soyabean, Wheat, Barley, Maize and Grapevine
Australia	AU	All genera & species
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	BO	Rice, wheat
Canada	CA	All genera & species excluding algae, bacteria and fungi
Chile	CL	All genera & species
China	CN	Lettuce, Rose
Colombia	CO	Rose, Carnation, Alstroemeria, Chrysanthemum, Gypsophila
European Union	QZ	Apple Fruit Varieties, Lettuce, Potato, Rose, Soyabean
France	FR	All genera & species
Georgia	GE	Maize, Wheat, Field Bean, French Bean, Apple (fruit varieties), Pear, Barley, Oats, Potato, Cherry (Sweet Cherry), Raspberry, Tomato, Peach, Hazelnut, Blackberry, Soya Bean, Sunflower, Walnut, Blueberry, Chick-Pea, Lentil
Kenya	KE	All genera & species
Mexico	MX	87 selected crops
Netherlands	NL	All genera & species
New Zealand	NZ	All genera & species
Norway	NO	All genera & species
Paraguay	PY	Soyabean
Republic of Moldova	MD	Maize, Wheat, Pea, Barley, European Plum, Tomato, Grapevine, Sweet Pepper, Hot Pepper, Paprika, Chili, Sunflower, Walnut, Apple Fruit Varieties, Lettuce, Potato, Rose, Soyabean
Switzerland	CH	All genera & species
Tunisia	TN	All genera & species
Turkey	TR	All genera & species
United States of America	US	Lettuce, Potato, Soyabean and Wheat
Uruguay	UY	All genera & species
Total	22	

Languages

8. UPOV PRISMA Version 2.0 presents pages and items (questions) for application forms and technical questionnaires for participating PVP Offices in English, French, German, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese ("navigation languages").

9. UPOV PRISMA Version 2.0 generates application forms and technical questionnaires in the languages required by the participating PVP Offices ("output form languages"), in English, French, German, Spanish, Chinese, Georgian, Norwegian, Romanian and Turkish (information must be completed by the applicant in an acceptable language for the PVP Office concerned, although answers selected from drop-down lists (e.g. characteristics and states of expression) will be automatically translated for output form languages).

PLANNED FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Version 2.1

Coverage

UPOV members

10. Participation in EAF Version 2.1 is possible for authorities that participated in the development of Prototype Electronic Form (PV2) or in the development of the Electronic Application Form Versions 1.0 or 1.1 (African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), Argentina, Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, China, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, European Union, France, Georgia, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, United States of America, Uruguay and Viet Nam), according to available resources.

11. Members of the Union that did not participate in the development of a Prototype Electronic Form (PV2) or in the development of the Electronic Application Form Versions 1.0 or 1.1 need to provide their forms for relevant crops (application form and technical questionnaire) in a UPOV language and, if appropriate, to provide translations of the questions of the application forms and technical questionnaires of the other languages used in the EAF. The timetable for addition of new members of the Union will be developed according to available resources and will vary according to the content of the application forms and technical questionnaires.

12. Circular E-17/264, issued on December 12, 2017, invited all UPOV members not currently participating in UPOV PRISMA PBR Application Tool and that have not already expressed a wish to participate, to indicate to the Office of the Union their wish to join in 2018.

Crops/ species

13. Circular E-18/011, issued on February 22, 2018, invited participating members in UPOV PRISMA who do not yet cover all genera and species (Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Colombia Georgia, Mexico, Republic of Moldova and United States of America) to indicate their wish to increase the scope of coverage for genera and species for Version 2.1.

14. Circular E-18/010, issued on February 21, and March 12, 2018, invited UPOV members who have already expressed an interest to participate in UPOV PRISMA (African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), Brazil, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sweden, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam) to confirm their intention to participate in the Version 2.1 and to clarify the scope of coverage for genera and species. Other UPOV members who have already expressed interest to participate in UPOV PRISMA Version 2.1 (Costa Rica, Serbia, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan) have been contacted to clarify the scope of coverage for genera and species.

15. In UPOV PRISMA Version 2.1, technical questionnaires (TQ) from all UPOV Test Guidelines will be available with the inclusion of apple rootstocks and avocado rootstocks.

Languages

16. Additional navigation and output languages can be introduced according to available resources and if the necessary information is provided.

17. The anticipated coverage of countries crops and languages of UPOV PRISMA Version 2.1 will be presented at the EAF/11 meeting.

18. After the launch of Version 2.1, other members of the Union will be invited to indicate their wish to participate in a subsequent release.

New Functionalities

Guidance on next steps

19. It is proposed to add information on the next steps in relation to PVP Offices procedures once a submission has been made via UPOV PRISMA. This information will be sent to the applicants together with the confirmation of a successful submission. The relevant information will need to be provided to the Office of the Union by the participating PVP Offices in UPOV PRISMA. More information on this functionality will be presented at the EAF/11 meeting.

Deadline for submitting application

20. It is proposed to add information on deadlines for submitting applications in a selected authority such that an automatic reminder could be generated, if and when relevant. This information would need to be provided by authorities. More information on this functionality will be presented at the EAF/11 meeting.

Breeding Scheme

21. The breeding scheme section in Version 2.0 is available with a pre-defined list of options. Additional options for more specific breeding schemes (e.g. crop specific) might be considered for development in a subsequent version. This functionality will be presented and considered by the participants of the EAF/11 meeting.

Novelty

22. For novelty requirements, it was agreed that each participating authority should indicate, if appropriate, which of the supported crops were considered by that authority to be vines or trees in terms of novelty (see document UPOV/EAF/10/3 "Report", paragraph 15). By default, 4 years is used in the system. It is proposed to add a "novelty alert" for applicants. This functionality will be presented at the EAF/11 meeting.

Timetable for release

23. Participating members in the development of the Version 2.1 of UPOV PRISMA will be invited to test the Tool through different releases during a test campaign in July-August 2018. Subject to their validation, Version 2.1 would be released in August 2018.

COMMUNICATION

24. The EAF/10 meeting noted that the following elements were planned in 2018 (see document UPOV/EAF/10/3 "Report", paragraph 19):

- targeted communication to potential users of the UPOV EAF (e.g. agents, representatives, breeding companies, breeders' associations);
- training sessions (*in situ* and online);
- participation in international breeders' events (e.g. ISF, AOHE, CIOPORA, ASTA);
- updated communication materials (posters, flyers, tutorials) with the new name and logo and the new coverage of crops and countries;
- press articles;
- update of the UPOV EAF PBR webpage with new testimonials from breeders and PVP Offices;
- inclusion of information in existing UPOV and UPOV members' training programs.

25. Since the launch of UPOV PRISMA Version 2.0 (February 9, 2018), the following initiatives have been taken:

(a) update of the dedicated webpage on the UPOV Website available at: <http://www.upov.int/upovprisma>, containing all necessary information to access and use UPOV PRISMA;

(b) UPOV Press Release 113 concerning the launch of UPOV PRISMA Version 2.0, sent to all UPOV members and subscribers to the UPOV news feed;

(c) on February 9, 2018, the Office of the Union informed breeders' organizations and PVP Offices on the availability of the system inviting them to inform all their relevant stakeholders and potential users (e.g. breeders, representatives, agents, etc.), and to disseminate information about the special offer to use UPOV PRISMA for free until June 2018;

(d) on February 21, 2018, the Office of the Union sent electronic mails to potential users on the availability of UPOV PRISMA Version 2.0, including information on the special promotional offer;

(e) the following communication materials have been updated and disseminated to requesting UPOV members and breeders' organizations (still available on demand):

- posters and roll-up banners in English, Spanish and German (as reproduced in Annex I of this document),
- flyers in English, French, Spanish and German (as reproduced in Annex II of this document),
- a series of short videos have been created (in English) and posted on the UPOV website to explain key steps to start an application and functionalities of the system;

(f) three meetings (online sessions & webinars) have been organized since January 2018 for individual applicants or groups of applicants upon request;

(g) presentations have been made at the following meetings: AFSTA congress, AOHE Annual meeting and ASTA annual meetings;

(h) regular updating of the UPOV PRISMA LinkedIn page, available at: <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/24973258/>;

(i) creation of a Twitter account, available at: <https://twitter.com/upovprisma>.

FINANCING OF UPOV PRISMA

26. At the EAF/10 meeting, it was noted that a proposal for the financing of the EAF had been made to the Consultative Committee at its ninety-fourth session, held in Geneva, on October 25, 2017, and, agreed by the Council at its fifty-first ordinary session, held in Geneva on October 26, 2017 (see document C/51/22 "Report"), as follows.

27. The Council at its fifty-first ordinary session, held in Geneva on October 26, 2017 approved the UPOV charge for the EAF at CHF150 per application for the 2018-2019 biennium, but agreed that the EAF could be made free of charge for an introductory period if the budgeted costs of the EAF were funded by means other than the regular budget. In that regard, the Council noted that the Office of the Union had received a letter from the Secretary General of the International Seed Federation (ISF) offering to contribute CHF20,000 in order to increase the use of the EAF during the launch period and to extend the system to a larger number of crops and UPOV members. It further noted that Canada and Australia would be interested to explore the possibility of funding the EAF in the form of an annual subscription (see document C/51/22 "Report", paragraph 20(d)).

28. Since the fifty-first ordinary session of the Council, the Office of the Union received the following contributions:

- 20,000 Swiss francs from the ISF;
- 2,500 Swiss francs from the International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Ornamental and Fruit-Tree Varieties (CIOPORA);
- 10,000 Swiss francs from CropLife International.

29. At the launch of Version 2.0, in January 2018, UPOV PRISMA was made free of charge for an initial period to encourage users to test the system. The initial free-of-charge period was announced until June 2018, and will be extended until December 2018.

30. Any further proposals concerning the financing of the UPOV PRISMA will be considered by the Council at its fifty-second ordinary session, to be held in Geneva on November 2, 2018. Any decision taken will be reported to the subsequent EAF meeting.

31. Participating members in the development of the electronic application form are invited to:

(a) note the developments concerning UPOV PRISMA, as set out in paragraphs 7 to 9;

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(d) note the developments concerning financing of UPOV PRISMA, as set out in paragraphs 26 to 30.

[Annexes follow]

POSTER AND ROLL-UP BANNERS ON UPOV PRISMA PBR APPLICATION TOOL

UPOV PRISMA 

UPOV PRISMA
PBR Application Tool

Quick and easy online tool for
transmission of application data
for Plant Breeders' Rights

www.upov.int/upovprisma

START NOW!
Use UPOV PRISMA for free until June 2018

FLYER ON THE UPOV PRISMA PBR APPLICATION TOOL

How it works

Breeders can now:

- Access the tool online
- Select PVP Office and crop
- Choose the language in which the questions are displayed
- Provide the information to PVP Office online, in an acceptable language and format.

Visit our website to learn how the tool can help your business grow:
www.upov.int/upovprisma

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UPOV PRISMA PBR Application Tool

Quick and easy online tool for transmission of application data for Plant Breeders' Rights

START NOW!
Use UPOV PRISMA for free until June 2018

UPOV PRISMA 

Developing new plant varieties takes time and effort; make sure you get a return on your investment

Thanks to UPOV PRISMA you can more easily protect your plant varieties in all your target markets.

We understand how difficult and time-consuming it is to obtain protection in different countries. For this reason, the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) has developed an innovative tool to simplify your application process.

UPOV members and regional organizations grant intellectual property rights in the form of plant breeders' rights (PBR). If you have rights over a plant variety, you can control the commercial exploitation of the variety.

**UPOV offers a major breakthrough:
UPOV PRISMA online application tool.**

Why use UPOV PRISMA

Use our online tool to apply for plant variety protection in different countries and regions.

Find all application forms at the end of a click!

UPOV Prisma will help you to submit your application data to each Plant Variety Protection (PVP) Office in the required format.

The interface is available in a choice of languages (many of your answers will be automatically translated into the language in the PVP Office you select), with the possibility to assign different user roles such as drafter, signatory, translator, agent and procedural representative.

Store your data securely and confidentially and reuse it for subsequent applications, saving you valuable time.

Our experts are working on the development of UPOV PRISMA by adding new functionalities – more PVP Offices are joining, and it is constantly expanding to cover more crops.

Who benefits

Breeders

- Online application tool to submit application data to participating PVP Offices in required format (hard copy, e-mail notification, system-to-system)
- Application forms can be displayed in a range of languages (answers must be provided in acceptable language for PVP Office – most of the information provided in the Technical Questionnaire will be automatically translated)
- Much of your data can be re-used in subsequent applications
- Different user roles can be specified (e.g. drafter, signatory, translator, agent, procedural representative)
- Controlled access, secure and confidential
- Easy access to PVP application forms [and next steps in procedure from mid-2018]
- Track your applications

Plant Variety Protection Offices

- Offer breeders an accessible online tool
- Receive application data in an acceptable format and language
- Create the potential to receive more applications

UPOV PRISMA 