

Council**C/52/2****Fifty-Second Ordinary Session
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR 2017*Document prepared by the Office of the Union**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

1. This document presents the Annual Report of the Secretary-General for 2017. Annex III to this document reports on the results achieved during 2017 according to the structure of the Program and Budget for the 2016-2017 Biennium (document C/49/4 Rev.). A list of acronyms and abbreviations is provided in the Appendix.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The following is a summary of some of the key elements of the report.

Overall developments*Composition of the Union*

3. On October 10, 2017, Bosnia and Herzegovina deposited its instrument of accession to the UPOV Convention and became a member of UPOV on November 10, 2017.

4. As of December 31, 2017, the Union comprised 75 members (73 States and 2 organizations), covering 94 States. Fifty-seven members were bound by the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention, 17 members were bound by the 1978 Act and one member was bound by the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Act. Details concerning the status of the members of the Union in relation to the Convention and its various Acts, as of December 31, 2017, are provided in Annex I.

Status of other States and organizations

5. In 2017, the Council took:

- a positive decision on the conformity of the Plant Varieties Protection Order of Brunei Darussalam;
- a positive decision on the conformity of the "Draft Law for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants" of Guatemala;
- a positive decision on the conformity of the "Draft Law on New Plant Variety Protection" of Myanmar.

6. As of December 31, 2017, 16 States and one organization had initiated the procedure for acceding to the UPOV Convention.

7. As of December 31, 2017, 24 States and one organization had been in contact with the Office of the Union for assistance in the development of laws based on the UPOV Convention.

Courses, Seminars, Workshops, Missions, Important Contacts

8. In 2017, the Office undertook a total of 95 missions (81 outside Geneva and 14 in Geneva), a list of which is provided in Annex II to this document.

9. Two sessions of each of the UPOV Distance Learning Courses were organized in English, French, German and Spanish.

Results and performance indicators for 2017

Overall Policy on Plant Variety Protection (Sub-program UV.1)

10. In 2017, the Council and the Consultative Committee took a number of important decisions concerning the direction and policy of the Union, including: approval of a Strategic Business Plan to diversify UPOV's revenue portfolio to maintain and enhance the sustainability of existing activities and services; organization of a single, annual set of UPOV sessions in Geneva; development of the UPOV PRISMA PBR application tool; inter-relations with the ITPGRFA; adoption of an FAQ on how the UPOV system of plant variety protection contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and approval of a program for the use of the Russian language in UPOV.

Services to the Union for enhancing the Effectiveness of the UPOV System (Sub-program UV.2)

11. A key development in 2017 was the launch of the Electronic Application Form, now known as the UPOV PRISMA PBR Application Tool. The existence of the web-based Test Guidelines Template (TG Template) enabled the rapid expansion of UPOV PRISMA to cover all crops and species for those members of the Union that use the UPOV Test Guidelines as the basis for the technical questionnaires in their application forms. The introduction of UPOV PRISMA highlights the ongoing and increasing importance of UPOV Test Guidelines for DUS examination. In 2017, the adopted Test Guidelines covered 94% of all PBR-related entries in the PLUTO Plant Variety Database. The integration of the UPOV PRISMA, TG Template, GENIE database and PLUTO database information will be an important means of providing more efficient and effective services in the future. The adoption of revised explanatory notes on essentially derived varieties and new explanatory notes on propagating material was important for improved understanding of these provisions.

Assistance in the Introduction and Implementation of the UPOV System (Sub-Program UV.3)

12. The Office of the Union organized or participated in 105 missions/events in 2017, at which 111 States and 14 organizations were provided with information about the UPOV system. Sixteen States and one organization were provided with assistance in the development of PVP legislation and three States initiated the procedure to become a member of the Union. The UPOV distance learning courses had participants from 75 States and five organizations.

External Relations (Sub-Program UV.4)

13. Notable developments in 2017 included the adoption of an FAQ on how the UPOV system of plant variety protection contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and publication on the UPOV website of "The socio-economic benefits of UPOV membership in Viet Nam; An ex post assessment on plant breeding and agricultural productivity after 10 years" (Corresponding author: Steffen Noleppa) by HFFA Research GmbH" and of a video on "Using the UPOV system to benefit custodians of native wild germplasm in Argentina". The modest level of interest in the newly introduced stakeholder features on the UPOV website is a matter that will be considered further.

14. A detailed report on results and performance indicators is provided in Annex III.

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I. COMPOSITION OF THE UNION

Members

15. As of December 31, 2017, the Union comprised 75 members (73 States and 2 organizations), covering 94 States: African Intellectual Property Organization, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

Situation in Relation to the Various Acts of the Convention

16. On December 31, 2017, the situation of the members of the Union in relation to the Convention and its various Acts was as follows:

(a) 57 members were bound by the 1991 Act, namely: African Intellectual Property Organization, Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, European Union, France, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Oman, Panama, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam;

(b) 17 members were bound by the 1978 Act, namely: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay;

(c) Belgium was bound by the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Act.

17. Annex I provides the status of the members of the Union in relation to the Convention and its various Acts, as of December 31, 2017.

States/organizations that have initiated the procedure to become a member of the Union

18. Under Article 34(3) of the 1991 Act, “[a]ny State which is not a member of the Union and any intergovernmental organization 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 Convention.”

19. By letter dated March 20, 2017, Brunei Darussalam requested the examination of its Plant Varieties Protection Order of April 13, 2015, as amended on January 30, 2016 (the Law), for conformity with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention.

20. At its fifty-first ordinary session, held in Geneva on October 26, 2017, the Council examined the conformity of the Law of Brunei Darussalam with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention. The Council decided to:

“(a) note the analysis in document C/51/17;

“(b) take a positive decision on the conformity of the Plant Varieties Protection Order of Brunei Darussalam with the provisions of the 1991 Act of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, which allows Brunei Darussalam to deposit its instrument of accession to the 1991 Act; and

“(c) authorize the Secretary-General to inform the Government of Brunei Darussalam of the above decision.”

21. By letter dated September 8, 2017, Guatemala requested the examination of its Draft Law for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants for conformity with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention.

22. At its fifty-first ordinary session, held in Geneva on October 26, 2017, the Council examined the conformity of the Draft Law of Guatemala with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention. The Council decided to:

“(a) note the analysis in document C/51/20;

“(b) take a positive decision on the conformity of the “Draft Law for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants” (“Draft Law”) with the provisions of the 1991 Act of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, which allows Guatemala once the Draft Law is adopted with no changes and the Law is in force, to deposit its instrument of accession to the 1991 Act; and

“(c) authorize the Secretary-General to inform the Government of Guatemala of the above decision.”

23. By letter dated September 18, 2017, Myanmar requested the examination of its Draft Law on New Plant Variety Protection for conformity with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention.

24. At its fifty-first ordinary session, held in Geneva on October 26, 2017, the Council examined the conformity of the Draft Law of Myanmar with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention. The Council decided to:

“(a) note the analysis in document C/51/21;

“(b) take a positive decision on the conformity of the “Draft Law on New Plant Variety Protection” (“Draft Law”) with the provisions of the 1991 Act of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, which allows Myanmar once the Draft Law is adopted with no changes and the Law is in force, to deposit its instrument of accession to the 1991 Act; and

“(c) authorize the Secretary-General to inform the Government of Myanmar of the above decision.”

II. SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Council

25. The Council held its thirty-fourth extraordinary session on April 6, 2017, under the chairmanship of Mr. Raimundo Lavignolle (Argentina), President of the Council. The session was attended by 40 members of the Union, 2 observer States and 4 observer organizations. The report on the decisions of that session is presented in document C(Extr.)/34/7.

26. The Council held its fifty-first ordinary session on October 26, 2017, under the chairmanship of Mr. Lavignolle. The session was attended by 45 members of the Union, 7 observer States and 6 observer organizations. The report of that session is presented in document C/51/22.

27. A summary of the results achieved by the Council in 2017 is provided in Annex III to this document, under Sub-program UV.1: Overall Policy on Plant Variety Protection.

Consultative Committee

28. The Consultative Committee held its ninety-third session on April 6, 2017, under the chairmanship of Mr. Lavignolle. A report on the work of the ninety-third session is contained in document C(Extr.)/34/3.

29. The Consultative Committee held its ninety-fourth session on October 25, 2017, and on the morning of October 26, 2017, under the chairmanship of Mr. Lavignolle. A report on the work of the ninety-fourth session is contained in document C/51/18.

30. A summary of the results achieved by the Consultative Committee in 2017 is provided in Annex III to this document, under Sub-program UV.1: Overall Policy on Plant Variety Protection.

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

31. The CAJ held its seventy-fourth session on October 23 and 24, 2017.

32. The TC held its fifty-third session from April 3 to 5, 2017. The TC-EDC held meetings on January 11 and 12 and on April 3 and 4, 2017. The TWA held its forty-sixth session in Hanover, Germany, from June 19 to 23, 2017. The TWC held its thirty-fifth session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from November 14 to 17, 2017. The TWF held its forty-eighth session in Kelowna, Canada, from September 18 to 22, 2017. The TWO held its fiftieth session in Victoria, Canada, from September 11 to 15, 2017. The TWV held its fifty-first session in Roelofarendsveen, Netherlands, from July 3 to 7, 2017. The BMT held its sixteenth session in La Rochelle, France, from November 7 to 10, 2017. Each of the TWP sessions was preceded by a preparatory workshop.

33. Further information on the work of the CAJ, TC and TWPs is contained in documents C/51/9 and C/52/9 "Progress report of the work of the Administrative and Legal Committee", and C/51/10 and C/52/10 "Progress report of the work of the Technical Committee, the Technical Working Parties and the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, and DNA-Profiling in Particular".

34. A summary of the results achieved by the CAJ, TC and TWPs in 2017 is provided in Annex III to this document, under Sub-program UV.2: Services to the Union for enhancing the Effectiveness of the UPOV System.

III. COURSES, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, MISSIONS*, IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Individual activities

35. A detailed report on the activities of the Office from January 1 to September 30, 2017 is available in document [C/51/3](#) "Report on activities during the first nine months of 2017", paragraphs 17 to 97. A summary of those activities is also provided in Annex III to this document, under Sub-Program UV.3: Assistance in the Introduction and Implementation of the UPOV System.
36. A list of missions by the Office in 2017 is available in Annex II to this document.
37. The following paragraphs report on activities from October 1 to December 31, 2017.
38. On October 2, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Ms. Shira Perlmutter, Chief Policy Officer and Director for International Affairs, USPTO, to discuss cooperation activities between UPOV and USPTO.
39. On October 3, in Geneva, the Office met with Mr. Santiago Cevallos Mena, Executive Director, IEPI, to discuss possible joint activities to promote plant breeders' rights in Ecuador.
40. On October 4, in Geneva, the Office participated in a meeting of Heads of Intellectual Property Offices of Caribbean countries, organized by WIPO, with participants from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.
41. On October 4, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Ms. Olabimpe Akinkoulie, Crown Counsel, Deputy Registrar, Belize Intellectual Property Office, and discussed developments in Belize.
42. On October 4, in Brussels, Belgium, the Office attended the CPVO Administrative Council meeting.
43. On October 5, in Geneva, the Office met with Mr. Regan Asgarali, Controller, Intellectual Property Office, Trinidad and Tobago, to discuss latest developments in Trinidad and Tobago.
44. On October 5, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Ms. Khanlasy Keobounphanh, Director General, and Mr. Vilay Duangthongla, International Cooperation Officer, Department of Intellectual Property, Ministry of Science and Technology of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The purpose of the visit was to discuss proposed amendments to the national IP Law in relation to the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention and to provide documents concerning the procedure to become a UPOV member.
45. On October 5, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of a delegation of New Zealand, consisting of Mr. Ross van der Schyff, Commissioner of Patents, Trade Marks, Designs and Plant Variety Rights, Ms. Ingrid Bayliss, National Manager, Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand and Mr. Gus Charteris, Manager, Business Law, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. The delegation provided the Office with information on New Zealand's review of its plant variety rights legislation.
46. On October 5, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Ms. Lekeicha Caesar-Toney, Registrar, CIPO, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and discussed developments in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
47. On October 5, in Geneva, the Office received a courtesy visit of Ms. Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg, Director of AWARD.
48. On October 6, in Geneva, the Office met with Mr. Denis L. Bohoussou, Director General of OAPI, to discuss cooperation and options to promote plant breeders' rights in OAPI.
49. On October 6, in Geneva, the Office met with Mr. Ray Augusto Meloni Garcia, Director, Distinctive Signs, INDECOPI, to discuss possible joint activities to promote plant breeders' rights in Peru.
50. On October 6, in Geneva, the Office of the Union met with Mr. Aderito de Oliveira Bonfim, Executive Director, Industrial Property National Service (SENAPI) of Sao Tome and Principe, to discuss the possible organization of an event in Sao Tome and Principe (IP Day in April 2018), in collaboration with WIPO, in order to present UPOV and plant breeders' rights.

* Missions relate to events held outside UPOV headquarters.

51. On October 6, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Ms. Peronia Browne, Registrar, Registry of Companies and Intellectual Property, Saint Lucia, and discussed developments in Saint Lucia.
52. From October 8 to 10, in Riga, Latvia, the Office participated in the ESA Annual Meeting, where it made a presentation on UPOV PRISMA PBR Application Tool and provided a booth in the exhibition hall to promote UPOV PRISMA.
53. On October 9, in Geneva, the Office met with Mr. Fernando Dos Santos, Director General, and Mr. Christopher Kiige, Director, Industrial Property, of ARIPO, to discuss developments in PVP and cooperation between UPOV and ARIPO.
54. On October 10, in Geneva, the Office received a visit from a Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, composed of Ambassador Lucija Ljubic, and Ms. Mirjana Stolica, Counsellor, which deposited the instrument of accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention, thus becoming the seventy-fifth member of UPOV.
55. On October 10, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Mr. Ngeth Vibol, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Industry and Handicraft, Cambodia, to discuss the organization of a national seminar in Cambodia in November 2017.
56. On October 12 and 13, in Incheon, Republic of Korea, the Office participated in the "International Symposium on Plant Variety Protection in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary", organized by KSVS and KSHS, where it made a presentation on "Introduction to UPOV and International Trends in PVP".
57. On October 18, in Geneva, the Office made a presentation on UPOV and PVP, via video conference, at the first Master Degree Program in Intellectual Property Law (MIP) with Specialization in Design, jointly organized by WIPO and Tongji University in Shanghai, People's Republic of China. The Program was attended by participants from Cambodia, China, Cuba, Ethiopia, Ghana, Hungary, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal and the United Republic of Tanzania.
58. On October 19, at WTO headquarters in Geneva, the Office attended the relevant parts of the meeting of the Council for TRIPS.
59. On October 19, in Geneva, the Office made a presentation on the "Implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) and New Developments" to participants of the 2017 Edition of the Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Intellectual Property, organized by WIPO and the University of Turin, in cooperation with the International Training Centre of the ILO. The presentation was attended by 37 participants from Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Croatia, Egypt, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Italy, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Samoa, Sudan, Tajikistan, United States of America, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.
60. On October 20, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Mr. Yusri Yahya, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Brunei Darussalam, to discuss the procedure for examination of legislation by the Council.
61. On October 23, in Geneva, at the fringes of the UPOV sessions, the Office received the visit of a delegation of Belarus, consisting of Mr. Vladzimir Hrakun, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus, Mr. Uladzimir Beinia, Director, Ms. Tatsiana Siamashka, Deputy Director of DUS Testing, and Ms. Maryna Saladukha, Head, International Cooperation Department, of the State Inspection for Testing and Protection of Plant Varieties, to discuss cooperation matters and the status of the procedure of the establishment of the official text of the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention in the Russian language.
62. On October 26, in Geneva, the Office participated in a meeting with a Delegation of India, and representatives from the CPVO, Germany and the Netherlands to discuss opportunities for cooperation.
63. From October 30 to November 3, in Kigali, Rwanda, the Office attended the Seventh Session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA.
64. On October 30, in Kigali, the Office made a presentation at a World Seed Partnership Side Event: "Putting farmers at the heart of seed policies".

65. On November 6 and 7, in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, the Office participated in a legal consultation with relevant government officials and in a “Seminar on the Plant Variety Protection System - challenges and opportunities of assessing the UPOV Convention”.
66. On November 7, in Geneva, the Office made a presentation, via video conference, on “UPOV and the UPOV Convention” at the “IV Plant Variety Rights Intensive Module on Plant Variety Protection”, as part of the Master of Intellectual Property (Magister Lvcentinvs) of the University of Alicante.
67. On November 10, the Office met with Mrs. Shaima Nasser Al-Akel, International Organizations Executive, Office of the United Arab Emirates to the WTO, to discuss progress on the proposed amendments to the PVP law of the United Arab Emirates and the procedure to become a member of UPOV.
68. On November 10, the Office met with Mr. Mohammed Al-Balushi, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Oman to the WTO, to discuss preparatory work for the organization of a Seminar in Oman in 2018.
69. On November 10, in Geneva, the Office met with Ms. Maria Ryazanova, Second Secretary (Legal Affairs), at the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation, to discuss cooperation between UPOV and the Russian Federation.
70. On November 13, in Qingdao, China, the Office made a presentation at the “International Seminar on Agricultural IP Rights”, and on November 15, in Beijing, participated in the ceremony and press conference concerning the launch of the UPOV PRISMA PBR Application Tool.
71. From November 15 to 17, in Casablanca, Morocco, the Office participated in a Regional Forum on “Innovation and Intellectual Property as Engines for Competitive Agribusiness: Empowering Women Researchers and Entrepreneurs in Africa”, organized by WIPO and the Japan Patent Office (JPO), in collaboration with the Moroccan Industrial and Commercial Property Office (OMPIC), the National Industrial Property Institute (INPI) of France and AWARD. The Office moderated a session on “Promoting New Plant Varieties for Enhanced Agricultural Productivity and Food Security”, and made a presentation on “Plant Variety Protection System and UPOV membership on the development of agriculture”. The Forum was attended by participants from Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comores, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, OAPI, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Zambia, Zimbabwe, African Union, AWARD and FARA.
72. On November 15, in Bangkok, Thailand, the Office attended the Asian Seed Congress 2017.
73. From November 19 to 24, in Lilongwe, Malawi, the Office attended the 41st Session of ARIPO’s Administrative Council and the 16th Session of ARIPO’s Council of Ministers.
74. On November 21, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, the Office made a presentation on “Impact of PVP and UPOV membership on the development of agriculture” at a National Awareness Raising Seminar on Plant Variety Protection.
75. On November 27, the Office participated in an electronic meeting via internet with representatives of the World Seed Partnership (WSP) Steering Committee (ISF, ISTA, OECD and UPOV) and WFO to discuss progress on the WSP.
76. On November 28, in Lausanne, Switzerland, the Office attended the Swiss Data Forum.
77. On November 29, in Brussels, Belgium, the Office attended the Conference “EPO and CPVO: Supporting innovation in the plant sector”.
78. From November 29 to December 1, in Amsterdam, Netherlands, the Office made a presentation on “UPOV update” at the Conference “Intellectual Property Protection for Plant Innovation 2017”.
79. On November 30, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Mr. Marcus Goffe, Deputy Director/Legal Counsel, Jamaica Intellectual Property Office, to discuss assistance for the development of PVP legislation.
80. On December 1, in Geneva, the Office participated in the Advanced International Training Program on “Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources - in Support of Innovation”, organized by WIPO and the Swedish

Patent and Registration Office (PRV), with the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The Office made a presentation on “Maximizing Benefits for Farmers through the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention”. The program was attended by participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

81. From December 4 to 8, in Chicago, United States of America, the Office participated in the ASTA Annual Meeting and provided a booth to promote the UPOV PRISMA PBR Application Tool. The Office made a presentation on UPOV PRISMA at the ASTA IP Committee.

82. On December 5 and 6, in Angers, France, the Office attended the Annual Meeting between the CPVO and its Examination Offices.

83. On December 11, in Niamey, Niger, the Office attended the Fifty-Seventh Session of the Administrative Council of OAPI.

84. On December 12, in Geneva, the Office met with Mr. Santiago Cevallos Mena, Executive Director, IEPI, to discuss possible activities in Ecuador.

85. On December 14 and 15, in Geneva, the Office, with the assistance of WIPO, organized an event entitled “Maximizing benefits for farmers through the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention”. The event was attended by participants from Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, China, Egypt, European Union, Guatemala, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Peru, Sweden, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, ARIPO and ISF.

86. On December 18 and 19, in Geneva, the Office organized a “Workshop on drafting legislation in accordance with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention”, which was attended by participants from Cambodia, Jamaica, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar and Viet Nam.

87. On December 20, in Geneva, the Office provided a briefing session on UPOV for Focal Points of the Permanent Missions of Bahrain, Djibouti, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. The briefing session was also attended by a representative from Palestine.

Distance Learning Courses

88. Two sessions of each of the following UPOV Distance Learning Courses were held in English, French, German and Spanish from March 5 to April 9, 2017, and from September 25 to October 29, 2017:

- DL-205 “Introduction to the UPOV System of Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV Convention”;
- DL-305 “Examination of applications for plant breeders’ rights”;
- DL-305A “Administration of Plant Breeders’ Rights (Part A of DL-305 course: Examination of applications for plant breeders’ rights)”;
- DL-305B “DUS Examination (Part B of DL-305 course: Examination of applications for plant breeders’ rights)”.

89. A breakdown of the students participating in the UPOV distance learning courses DL-205 and DL-305 is included in Annex III, Sub-Program UV.3, performance indicator 4(a) “Participation in distance learning courses”.

IV. RELATIONS WITH STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS

90. The Office provided assistance on plant variety protection legislation to the following members: Azerbaijan, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago and Viet Nam.

91. The Office provided information on the elements required for the deposit of an instrument of accession to, or ratification of the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention, to the following members: Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago.

92. The Office provided advice and assistance on the development of plant variety protection legislation according to the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention and/or on the procedure to accede to the UPOV Convention to Afghanistan, ARIPO, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Cambodia, Cuba, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ghana, Guatemala, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

93. The Office met with representatives of intergovernmental organizations to coordinate activities or to provide information on UPOV. The Office participated in meetings of, or had meetings with APEC, ARIPO, CIMMYT, European Union (CPVO), FAO, ISTA, ITC, ITPGRFA, OAPI, OECD, UNCTAD, WIPO and WTO.

94. The Office participated in events organized by the following organizations in order to follow developments in the practical application of plant variety protection at a global and regional level: AFSTA, CIOFORA, CORAF/WECARD, ESA, ISF, PIPRA, SAA and WFO.

V. PUBLICATIONS

95. The Office published:

(a) 106 updates of the PLUTO Plant Variety Database;

(b) seven documents adopted by the Council at its thirty-fourth ordinary session, held on April 6, 2017, and at its fifty-first ordinary session, held on October 26, 2017:

UPOV/EXN/EDV	Explanatory Notes on Essentially Derived Varieties under the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention (Revision)
UPOV/EXN/PPM	Explanatory Notes on Propagating Material under the UPOV Convention
UPOV/INF/6	Guidance for the preparation of laws based on the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention (Revision)
UPOV/INF/13	Guidance on how to become a member of UPOV (Revision)
UPOV/INF/16	Exchangeable Software (Revision)
UPOV/INF/22	Software and Equipment Used by Members of the Union (Revision)
UPOV/INF-EXN	List of INF-EXN Documents and Latest Issue Dates (two revisions)

96. The following Test Guidelines were adopted by the TC at its fifty-third session, held from April 3 to 5, 2017, and have been, or will be, published on the website:

TWP		Document No. No. du document Dokument-Nr. No del documento	English	Français	Deutsch	Español	Botanical name
<u>NEW TEST GUIDELINES / NOUVEAUX PRINCIPES DIRECTEURS D'EXAMEN / NEUE PRÜFUNGSRICHTLINIEN / NUEVAS DIRECTRICES DE EXAMEN</u>							
PL	TWA	TG/319/1	Scorpion Weed	Phacélie à feuilles de tanaïsie	Phazelie	Phazelia	Phacelia tanacetifolia Benth.
FR	TWO	TG/320/1	Abelia	Abelia	Abelia	Abelia	Abelia R. Br.
KE/ BR	TWA/ TWW	TG/321/1	Cassava	Manioc	Maniok	Mandioca, Yuca	Manihot esculenta Crantz

TWP		Document No. No. du document Dokument-Nr. No del documento	English	Français	Deutsch	Español	Botanical name
BR	TWA	TG/322/1	Bread Grass, Palisade Grass, Palisade Signal Grass, Signal Grass; Basilisk Signal Grass, Signal Grass, Spreading Liverseed Grass, Surinam Grass; Creeping Signal Grass, Koronivia Grass; Congo Grass, Congo Signal Grass, Ruzi Grass	Signal; Koronivia;	Palisadengras; Surinamgras;	Pasto alambre, Pasto señal, Zacate señal, Zacate signal; Zacate Surinam, Pasto chontalpo, Pasto de la palizada, Pasto de las orillas, Pasto peludo, Pasto prodigio, Zacate prodigio; Braquiaria dulce, Kikuyu de la Amazonia, Pasto humidicola, Pasto humidicola dulce; Congo señal, Gambutera, Kenia, Pasto Congo, Pasto ruzi	Urochloa brizantha (Hochst. ex A. Rich.) R. D. Webster (Brachiaria brizantha (Hochst. ex A. Rich.) Stapf); Urochloa decumbens (Stapf) R. D. Webster (Brachiaria decumbens Stapf); Urochloa dictyoneura (Fig. & De Not.) Veldkamp P. (Brachiaria dictyoneura (Fig. & De Not.) Veldkamp P.); Urochloa humidicola (Rendle) Morrone & Zuloaga (Brachiaria humidicola (Rendle) Schweick.); Urochloa ruzi (R. Germ. & C. M. Evrard) Morrone & Zuloaga (Brachiaria ruzi R. Germ. & C. M. Evrard)
JP	TWO	TG/323/1	Chinese Evergreen	Aglaonema	Aglaonema	Aglaonema	Aglaonema Schott.
REVISIONS OF TEST GUIDELINES / RÉVISIONS DE PRINCIPES DIRECTEURS D'EXAMEN ADOPTÉS / REVISIONEN ANGENOMMENER PRÜFUNGSRICHTLINIEN / REVISIONES DE DIRECTRICES DE EXAMEN ADOPTADAS							
FR	TWA	TG/3/12	Wheat	Blé	Weizen	Trigo	Triticum aestivum L.
NL	TWV	TG/13/11	Lettuce	Laitue	Salat	Lechuga	Lactuca sativa L.
NL	TWO	TG/27/7	Freesia	Freesia	Freesie	Fresia	Freesia Eckl. ex Klatt
JP	TWF	TG/124/4	Chestnut	Châtaignier	Kastanie	Castaño	Castanea sativa Mill.
CN	TWF	TG/125/7	Walnut	Noyer	Walnuß	Nogal	Juglans regia L.
IT	TWV	TG/154/4	Leaf Chicory	Chicorée à feuille (sauvage)	Blattzichorie	Achicoria de hoja	Cichorium intybus L. var. foliosum Hegi
FR	TWV	TG/173/4	Witloof, Chicory	Chicorée, Endive	Chicorée	Endivia	Cichorium intybus L. partim
DE	TWO	TG/212/2	Petunia	Pétunia	Petunie	Petunia	Petunia Juss.; xPetchoa J. M. H. Shaw
MX	TWF	TG/264/2	Papaya, Pawpaw	Papayer	Melonenbaum, Papaya	Papayo, Lechosa	Carica papaya L.

TWP		Document No. No. du document Dokument-Nr. No del documento	English	Français	Deutsch	Español	Botanical name
<u>PARTIAL REVISIONS OF TEST GUIDELINES / RÉVISIONS PARTIELLES DE PRINCIPES DIRECTEURS D'EXAMEN ADOPTÉS / TEILREVISIONEN ANGENOMMENER PRÜFUNGSRICHTLINIEN / REVISIONES PARCIALES DE DIRECTRICES DE EXAMEN ADOPTADAS</u>							
FR	TWO	TG/194/1 Rev.	Lavendula, Lavendar	Lavande vraie, Lavandins	Echter Lavendel, Lavendel	Lavándula, Lavenda	Lavandula L.
AU	TWO	TG/288/1 Rev.	Flax-lily, Dianella	Dianella	Flachsilie, Dianella	Dianella	Dianella Lam. ex Juss.
ES	TWV	TG/294/1 Corr. Rev.2	Tomato Rootstocks	Porte-greffe de tomate	Tomatenunterla gen	Portainjertos de tomate	Solanum lycopersicum L. x Solanum habrochaites S. Knapp & D.M. Spooner; Solanum lycopersicum L. x Solanum peruvianum (L.) Mill.; Solanum lycopersicum L. x Solanum cheesmaniae (L. Ridley) Fosberg

97. *The Council is invited to note this report.*

[Annexes follow]

ANNEX I

MEMBERS OF THE UNION

December 31, 2017

This document provides the status of the members of the Union in relation to the Convention and its various Acts, as of December 31, 2016 (see Articles 31 and 32 of the 1961 Convention, Article 32(1) of the 1978 Act and Article 34(2) of the 1991 Act).

- 1st line: International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants of December 2, 1961
- 2nd line: Additional Act of November 10, 1972
- 3rd line: Act of October 23, 1978
- 4th line: Act of March 19, 1991

Member	Date of signature	Date of deposit of instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession	Date of entry into force
African Intellectual Property Organization	- - - -	- - - June 10, 2014	- - - July 10, 2014
Albania	- - - -	- - - September 15, 2005	- - - October 15, 2005
Argentina	- - - -	- - November 25, 1994 -	- - December 25, 1994 -
Australia	- - - -	- - February 1, 1989 December 20, 1999	- - March 1, 1989 January 20, 2000
Austria	- - - -	- - June 14, 1994 June 1, 2004	- - July 14, 1994 July 1, 2004
Azerbaijan	- - - -	- - - November 9, 2004	- - - December 9, 2004
Belarus	- - - -	- - - December 5, 2002	- - - January 5, 2003
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 - -
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	- - - -	- - April 21, 1999 -	- - May 21, 1999 -
Bosnia and Herzegovina	- - - -	- - - October 10, 2017	- - - November 10, 2017

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Member	Date of signature	Date of deposit of instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession	Date of entry into force
Brazil	- - - -	- - April 23, 1999 -	- - May 23, 1999 -
Bulgaria	- - - -	- - - March 24, 1998	- - - April 24, 1998
Canada	- - October 31, 1979 March 9, 1992	- - February 4, 1991 June 19, 2015	- - March 4, 1991 July 19, 2015
Chile	- - - -	- - December 5, 1995 -	- - January 5, 1996 -
China	- - - -	- - March 23, 1999 -	- - April 23, 1999 -
Colombia	- - - -	- - August 13, 1996 -	- - September 13, 1996 -
Costa Rica	- - - -	- - - December 12, 2008	- - - January 12, 2009
Croatia	- - - -	- - - August 1, 2001	- - - September 1, 2001
Czech Republic ^{1/}	- - - -	- - - October 24, 2002	- - January 1, 1993 November 24, 2002
Denmark	November 26, 1962 November 10, 1972 October 23, 1978 March 19, 1991	September 6, 1968 February 8, 1974 October 8, 1981 April 26, 1996	October 6, 1968 February 11, 1977 November 8, 1981 April 24, 1998
Dominican Republic	- - - -	- - - May 16, 2007	- - - June 16, 2007
Ecuador	- - - -	- - July 8, 1997 -	- - August 8, 1997 -
Estonia	- - - -	- - - August 24, 2000	- - - September 24, 2000

¹ Continuation of the accession of Czechoslovakia (instrument deposited on November 4, 1991; State bound on December 4, 1991).

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Member	Date of signature	Date of deposit of instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession	Date of entry into force
European Union	- - - -	- - - June 29, 2005	- - - July 29, 2005
Finland	- - - -	- - March 16, 1993 June 20, 2001	- - April 16, 1993 July 20, 2001
France	December 2, 1961 November 10, 1972 October 23, 1978 March 19, 1991	September 3, 1971 January 22, 1975 February 17, 1983 April 27, 2012	October 3, 1971 February 11, 1977 March 17, 1983 May 27, 2012
Georgia	- - - -	- - - October 29, 2008	- - - November 29, 2008
Germany	December 2, 1961 November 10, 1972 October 23, 1978 March 19, 1991	July 11, 1968 July 23, 1976 March 12, 1986 June 25, 1998	August 10, 1968 February 11, 1977 April 12, 1986 July 25, 1998
Hungary	- - - -	- - March 16, 1983 December 1, 2002	- - April 16, 1983 January 1, 2003
Iceland	- - - -	- - - April 3, 2006	- - - May 3, 2006
Ireland	- - September 27, 1979 February 21, 1992	- - May 19, 1981 December 8, 2011	- - November 8, 1981 January 8, 2012
Israel	- - - October 23, 1991	November 12, 1979 November 12, 1979 April 12, 1984 June 3, 1996	December 12, 1979 December 12, 1979 May 12, 1984 April 24, 1998
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 November 24, 1998	- - September 3, 1982 December 24, 1998
Jordan	- - - -	- - - September 24, 2004	- - - October 24, 2004
Kenya	- - - -	- - April 13, 1999 April 11, 2016	- - May 13, 1999 May 11, 2016

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Member	Date of signature	Date of deposit of instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession	Date of entry into force
Kyrgyzstan	- - - -	- - - May 26, 2000	- - - June 26, 2000
Latvia	- - - -	- - - July 30, 2002	- - - August 30, 2002
Lithuania	- - - -	- - - November 10, 2003	- - - December 10, 2003
Mexico	- - July 25, 1979 -	- - July 9, 1997 -	- - August 9, 1997 -
Montenegro	- - - -	- - - August 24, 2015	- - - September 24, 2015
Morocco	- - - -	- - - September 8, 2006	- - - October 8, 2006
Netherlands	December 2, 1961 November 10, 1972 October 23, 1978 March 19, 1991	August 8, 1967 January 12, 1977 August 2, 1984 October 14, 1996	August 10, 1968 February 11, 1977 September 2, 1984 April 24, 1998
New Zealand	- - July 25, 1979 December 19, 1991	- - November 3, 1980 -	- - November 8, 1981 -
Nicaragua	- - -	- - August 6, 2001 -	- - September 6, 2001 -
Norway	- - - -	- - August 13, 1993 -	- - September 13, 1993 -
Oman	- - - -	- - - October 22, 2009	- - - November 22, 2009
Panama	- - - -	- - April 23, 1999 October 22, 2012	- - May 23, 1999 November 22, 2012
Paraguay	- - - -	- - January 8, 1997 -	- - February 8, 1997 -

Member	Date of signature	Date of deposit of instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession	Date of entry into force
Peru	- - -	- - July 8, 2011	- - August 8, 2011
Poland	- - -	- October 11, 1989 July 15, 2003	- November 11, 1989 August 15, 2003
Portugal	- - -	- September 14, 1995 -	- October 14, 1995 -
Republic of Korea	- - - -	- - - December 7, 2001	- - - January 7, 2002
Republic of Moldova	- - - -	- - - September 28, 1998	- - - October 28, 1998
Romania	- - - -	- - - February 16, 2001	- - - March 16, 2001
Russian Federation	- - - -	- - - March 24, 1998	- - - April 24, 1998
Serbia	- - - -	- - - December 5, 2012	- - - January 5, 2013
Singapore	- - - -	- - - June 30, 2004	- - - July 30, 2004
Slovakia ¹	- - - -	- - - May 12, 2009	- - January 1, 1993 June 12, 2009
Slovenia	- - - -	- - - June 29, 1999	- - - July 29, 1999
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 - June 18, 2007	May 18, 1980 May 18, 1980 - July 18, 2007

¹ Continuation of the accession of Czechoslovakia (instrument deposited on November 4, 1991; State bound on December 4, 1991).

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Member	Date of signature	Date of deposit of instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession	Date of entry into force
Sweden	- January 11, 1973 December 6, 1978 December 17, 1991	November 17, 1971 January 11, 1973 December 1, 1982 December 18, 1997	December 17, 1971 February 11, 1977 January 1, 1983 April 24, 1998
Switzerland	November 30, 1962 November 10, 1972 October 23, 1978 March 19, 1991	June 10, 1977 June 10, 1977 June 17, 1981 August 1, 2008	July 10, 1977 July 10, 1977 November 8, 1981 September 1, 2008
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	- - -	- - - April 4, 2011	- - - May 4, 2011
Trinidad and Tobago	- - - -	- - December 30, 1997 -	- - January 30, 1998 -
Tunisia	- - - -	- - - July 31, 2003	- - - August 31, 2003
Turkey	- - - -	- - - October 18, 2007	- - - November 18, 2007
Ukraine	- - - -	- - October 3, 1995 December 19, 2006	- - November 3, 1995 January 19, 2007
United Kingdom	November 26, 1962 November 10, 1972 October 23, 1978 March 19, 1991	September 17, 1965 July 1, 1980 August 24, 1983 December 3, 1998	August 10, 1968 July 31, 1980 September 24, 1983 January 3, 1999
United Republic of Tanzania		- - - October 22, 2015	- - - November 22, 2015
United States of America	- - October 23, 1978 October 25, 1991	- - November 12, 1980 January 22, 1999	- - November 8, 1981 February 22, 1999
Uruguay	- - - -	- - October 13, 1994 -	- - November 13, 1994 -
Uzbekistan	- - - -	- - - October 14, 2004	- - - November 14, 2004
Viet Nam	- - - -	- - - November 24, 2006	- - - December 24, 2006

Total: 75 members

[Annex II follows]

ANNEX II

LIST OF MISSIONS* AND ACTIVITIES, AND CONTRIBUTION TO PERFORMANCE INDICATORS IN 2017

Description of the Performance Indicators presented in the table below (see also Annex III):

UV.3 – 1(a) States and organizations provided with information
UV.3 – 1(d) Participation in UPOV awareness-raising activities, or activities involving UPOV staff or UPOV trainers on behalf of UPOV staff
UV.3 – 2(a) Meetings with government officials to discuss legislative matters
UV.3 – 4(b) Training of trainers
UV.3 – 4(c) Training activities developed in conjunction with UPOV
UV.3 – 4(d) Participation by observer States and organizations in the CAJ, TC, TWP and the associated preparatory workshops

UV.3 – 4(e) Participation in UPOV activities
UV.3 – 4(f) Participation in activities involving UPOV staff or UPOV trainers on behalf of UPOV staff
UV.3 – 4(g) Academic courses featuring the UPOV system of plant variety protection
UV.3 – 4(h) Implementation of projects with partner organizations and donors
UV.4 – 2(d) Participation by stakeholders in seminars and symposia
UV.4 – 2(e) Participation at meetings of, and with, relevant stakeholders
UV.4 – 3(a) Participation at meetings of, and with, relevant organizations

	From	To	Activity/mission	City	Country	UPOV staff/representative	organized by or with UPOV	Organizers ¹	UV.3 1(a)	UV.3 1(d)	UV.3 2(a)	UV.3 4(b)	UV.3 4(c)	UV.3 4(d)	UV.3 4(e), (f)	UV.3 4(g)	UV.3 4(h)	UV.4 2(d)	UV.4 2(e)	UV.4 3(a)
1	17-01-17	18-01-17	(1) Training course on Plant Variety Protection (2) Legal consultation on the proposed amendments to the Law	Nay Piy Taw	Myanmar	Huerta	X	MOALI of Myanmar (DAR), Naktuinbouw, Wageningen University, UPOV	1	1	1							1		
2	30-01-17	03-02-17	Sixteenth Regular Session of the CGRFA	Rome	Italy	Koide		FAO												1
3	31-01-17	02-02-17	(1) OECD Ad-Hoc Working Group Meetings (2) Technical Working Group Meeting of the OECD Seed Schemes	Paris	France	Taveira		OECD												1
4	15-02-17	16-02-17	WIPO/IDB-REACH Workshop on Optimizing the Competitiveness of Geographical Indications (GIs) and Origin-Linked Products (OLPs) for Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Countries	St. Augustine	Trinidad and Tobago	Taveira	X	WIPO, IDB-REACH, UPOV	1	1								1		
5	17-02-17	17-02-17	National Seminar on Plant Variety Protection	Bridgetown	Barbados	Taveira	X	IPO Barbados, UPOV	1	1								1		
6	23-02-17	24-02-17	(1) Seminar on the benefits of the UPOV System of Plant Variety Protection for farmers and growers (2) Consultation meeting	Bangkok	Thailand	Button, Huerta	X		1	1	1							1		
7	25-02-17	25-02-17	Meeting to discuss matters concerning the procedure for Brunei Darussalam to become a UPOV member	Bandar Seri Begawan	Brunei Darussalam	Huerta	X	BruiPO, UPOV	1	1	1									
8	27-02-17	03-03-17	Thirty-third session of the WIPO IGC	Geneva	Switzerland	Huerta		WIPO												1
9	28-02-17	02-03-17	Seventeenth AFSTA Annual Congress	Dakar	Senegal	Rivoire		AFSTA											1	
10	01-03-17	01-03-17	Meeting of the Council for TRIPS (WTO headquarters)	Geneva	Switzerland	Huerta		WTO												1
11	06-03-17	06-03-17	ISF Intellectual Property Committee Meeting	Zurich	Switzerland	Button, Huerta		ISF											1	

* Missions relate to events held outside UPOV headquarters.

¹ A list of acronyms and abbreviations is provided in the Appendix.

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	From	To	Activity/mission	City	Country	UPOV staff/ representative	organized by or with UPOV	Organizers ¹	UV.3 1(a)	UV.3 1(d)	UV.3 2(a)	UV.3 4(b)	UV.3 4(c)	UV.3 4(d)	UV.3 4(e), (f)	UV.3 4(g)	UV.3 4(h)	UV.4 2(d)	UV.4 2(e)	UV.4 3(a)
12	13-03-17	13-03-17	DanSeed Annual Seminar	Copenhagen	Denmark	Button		DanSeed											1	
13	14-03-17	15-03-17	CPVO Administrative Council Meeting	Angers	France	Button		CPVO												1
14	14-03-17	17-03-17	Sixth Meeting of the ITPGRFA's Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing	Rome	Italy	Taveira, Koide		FAO												1
15	15-03-17	15-03-17	Intellectual Property Awareness Network (IPAN) High-Level Brexit IP Seminar	London	United Kingdom	Huerta		IPAN											1	
16	17-03-17	18-03-17	Special ITPGRFA event "The Enhancement of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty"	Rome	Italy	Koide		ITPGRFA												1
17	23-03-17	23-03-17	WIPO-WTO Advanced Course on Intellectual Property for Government Officials	Geneva	Switzerland	Rivoire, Taveira		WIPO, WTO	1	1						1				
18	03-04-17	05-04-17	Technical Committee (TC/54)	Geneva (UPOV HQ) (UPOV body)	Switzerland		X	UPOV	1					1						
19	06-04-17	06-04-17	Consultative Committee (CC/93)	Geneva (UPOV HQ) (UPOV body)	Switzerland		X	UPOV	1					1						
20	06-04-17	06-04-17	Council, extraordinary session (C(Extr.)/34)	Geneva (UPOV HQ) (UPOV body)	Switzerland		X	UPOV	1					1						
21	12-04-17	13-04-17	(1) Seminar on Protection of New Varieties of Plants and Celebration of the twentieth Anniversary of China's PVP Regulations (2) IP Key Roundtable Seminar entitled "Impact Study of UPOV/91 on the Protection of New Varieties of Agricultural and Forestry Plants in China"	Beijing	China	Button, Motomura		(1) MOA and SFA of China (2) IP Key, MOA and SFA of China	1	1					1				1	
22	24-04-17	28-04-17	DUS Training Course on Watermelon	Quang Ngai city	Viet Nam	Motomura	X	UPOV, MARD of Viet Nam, MAFF of Japan, JATAFF					1							
23	25-04-17	27-04-17	56th Annual General Meeting of CIOFORA	Toronto	Canada	Button		CIOFORA											1	
24	02-05-17	02-05-17	WIPO Roving Seminar IP 4 Global Business	Utrecht	Netherlands	Button		WIPO		1										
25	03-05-17	04-05-17	OAPI/WIPO IP Masters Program II	Yaoundé	Cameroon	Rivoire		OAPI, WIPO		1						1				
26	08-05-17	10-05-17	International Workshop on DNA Techniques and Variety Identification	Roelofarendsveen	Netherlands	Button, Taveira	X	Naktuinbouw, UPOV	1			1		1				1		
27	09-05-17	09-05-17	Meeting with a delegation from India	Roelofarendsveen	Netherlands	Button		Naktuinbouw		1										
28	11-05-17	11-05-17	Visit to the International Seed Federation (ISF)	Nyon	Switzerland	all UPOV staff	X	UPOV, ISF		1										
29	15-05-17	19-05-17	Train-the-Trainer Course on Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV Convention	Geneva (UPOV HQ)	Switzerland	Button, Huerta, Rivoire, Taveira, Motomura	X	UPOV, USPTO, WIPO, MEA of Netherlands	1	1		1	1					1		

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	From	To	Activity/mission	City	Country	UPOV staff/ representative	organized by or with UPOV	Organizers ¹	UV.3 1(a)	UV.3 1(d)	UV.3 2(a)	UV.3 4(b)	UV.3 4(c)	UV.3 4(d)	UV.3 4(e), (f)	UV.3 4(g)	UV.3 4(h)	UV.4 2(d)	UV.4 2(e)	UV.4 3(a)
30	22-05-17	24-05-17	KOICA Training Course on Plant Variety Protection	Gimcheon	Republic of Korea	Taveira	X	KOICA, KSVS, UPOV	1	1			1							
31	22-05-17	24-05-17	ISF World Seed Congress 2017	Budapest	Hungary	Button, Rivoire, Rovere		ISF											1	
32	31-05-17	01-06-17	(1) Seminar on Plant Variety Protection (2) Legal Consultation with officials from the Government of Kazakhstan	Astana	Kazakhstan	Huerta	X	MOA of Kazakhstan, Embassy of France, GNIS	1	1	1							1		
33	01-06-17	01-06-17	Roving Seminar on WIPO Services and Initiatives in a Digital Era	Lyon	France	Rivoire		WIPO		1								1		
34	12-06-17	16-06-17	Thirty-fourth session of the WIPO IGC	Geneva	Switzerland	Huerta		WIPO												1
35	12-06-17	13-06-17	Meetings with MAFF officials and JICA representatives	Tokyo	Japan	Motomura	X	UPOV, MAFF, JICA		1										
36	13-06-17	13-06-17	Meeting of the Council for TRIPS (WTO headquarters)	Geneva	Switzerland	Huerta		WTO												1
37	13-06-17	14-06-17	CORAF/WECARD "West Africa Seed Program Learning Event"	Accra	Ghana	Rivoire		CORAF, WECARD											1	
38	14-06-17	14-06-17	Meeting of the CPVO's Working Group for the Revision of the Variety Denominations Explanatory Notes and Guidelines	Paris	France	Button		CPVO												1
39	14-06-17	16-06-17	JICA Training Course	Tsukuba	Japan	Motomura	X	JICA, UPOV	1	1			1							
40	15-06-17	15-06-17	National Seminar on the Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants	Accra	Ghana	Rivoire		ARIPO, GNIS		1								1		
41	18-06-17	18-06-17	TWA/46 Preparatory Workshop	Hanover	Germany	Taveira, Oertel	X	UPOV, Germany	1				1					1		
42	19-06-17	23-06-17	Forty-sixth session of the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA/46)	Hanover	Germany	Taveira, Oertel	X	UPOV, Germany						1						
43	19-06-17	30-06-17	20th International Course on Plant Variety Protection	Wageningen	Netherlands	Huerta, Motomura	X	Naktuinbouw, UPOV	1	1			1							
44	26-06-17	30-06-17	Annual Meeting of the OECD Seed Schemes	Prague	Czech Republic	Taveira		OECD												1
45	27-06-17	27-06-17	WIPO-WTO Colloquium for Teachers of Intellectual Property	Geneva	Switzerland	Huerta, Rivoire		WIPO, WTO		1							1			
46	28-06-17	28-06-17	Filming of a video on plant breeding at Agroscope	Nyon	Switzerland	Rovere	X	UPOV												
47	30-06-17	30-06-17	WIPO-UNIGE Summer School on Intellectual Property	Geneva	Switzerland	Huerta, Rivoire		WIPO, UNIGE		1							1			
48	02-07-17	02-07-17	TWV/51 Preparatory Workshop	Roelofarendsveen	Netherlands	Rivoire, Motomura, Oertel	X	UPOV, Netherlands	1				1						1	
49	02-07-17	07-07-17	Fifty-first session of the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV/51)	Roelofarendsveen	Netherlands	Rivoire, Motomura, Oertel	X	UPOV, Netherlands						1						
50	17-07-17	17-07-17	Meeting between the Steering Committee of the World Seed Partnership (WSP) and WFO	Rome	Italy	Button, Rivoire	X	WSP (OECD, ISF, ISTA, UPOV), WFO										1		

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	From	To	Activity/mission	City	Country	UPOV staff/ representative	organized by or with UPOV	Organizers ¹	UV.3 1(a)	UV.3 1(d)	UV.3 2(a)	UV.3 4(b)	UV.3 4(c)	UV.3 4(d)	UV.3 4(e), (f)	UV.3 4(g)	UV.3 4(h)	UV.4 2(d)	UV.4 2(e)	UV.4 3(a)
65	14-09-17	15-09-17	Meeting with JICA officials and participation in JICA Training Course	Tokyo and Tsukuba	Japan	Button, Motomura	X	JICA, UPOV		1			1							
66	17-09-17	17-09-17	TWF/48 Preparatory Workshop	Kelowna	Canada	Rivoire, Oertel	X	UPOV, Canada	1				1					1		
67	18-09-17	22-09-17	Forty-eighth session of the Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF/48)	Kelowna	Canada	Rivoire, Oertel	X	UPOV, Canada						1						
68	18-09-17	20-09-17	Filming project on rose and maize breeders	Nairobi	Kenya	Rovere	X	UPOV												
69	19-09-17	22-09-17	Filming of the story of "Tsuyahime" rice variety	Tokyo and Yamagata prefecture	Japan	Motomura	X	UPOV, MAFF of Japan												
70	20-09-17	22-09-17	International Workshop on DNA Techniques and Variety Identification	Roelofarendsveen	Netherlands	Taveira, Madhour	X	Naktuinbouw, UPOV							1			1		
71	21-09-17	21-09-17	Seminar on Intellectual Property and Innovation in Agriculture and Food Systems	Geneva	Switzerland	Button, Taveira		Permanent Mission of Chile to the WTO, WIPO, UNCTAD & ITC, WIPO		1								1		1
72	26-09-17	28-09-17	OAPI National Seminar on Awareness raising on PVP within the OAPI region	Dakar	Senegal	Rivoire	X	OAPI, UPOV	1	1					1			1		1
73	27-09-17	27-09-17	Meeting of the World Seed Partnership Steering Committee	Geneva	Switzerland	Button, Rivoire, Rovere	X	WSP (OECD, ISF, ISTA, UPOV)									1			
74	04-10-17	04-10-17	CPVO Administrative Council meeting	Brussels	Belgium	Button		CPVO												1
75	08-10-17	10-10-17	ESA Annual Meeting	Riga	Latvia	Button, Rivoire, Rovere		ESA											1	
76	12-10-17	13-10-17	KSVS/KSHS International Symposium on Plant Variety Protection	Incheon	Republic of Korea	Button		KSVS, KSHS		1					1			1		
77	18-10-17	18-10-17	WIPO/Tongji University Master Degree Program in Intellectual Property Law (MIP) with Specialization in Design	Shanghai	China	Huerta		WIPO, Tongji University		1						1				
78	19-10-17	19-10-17	Meeting of the Council for TRIPS (WTO headquarters)	Geneva	Switzerland	Huerta		WTO												1
79	19-10-17	19-10-17	Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Intellectual Property (WIPO/University of Turin/ITC-ILO)	Geneva	Switzerland	Huerta		WIPO, University of Turin, ITC-ILO		1						1				
80	23-10-17	24-10-17	Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ/74)	Geneva (UPOV HQ) (UPOV body)	Switzerland		X	UPOV	1					1				1		
81	25-10-17	25-10-17	Consultative Committee (CC/94)	Geneva (UPOV HQ) (UPOV body)	Switzerland		X	UPOV	1					1				1		
82	26-10-17	26-10-17	Council, ordinary session (C/51)	Geneva (UPOV HQ) (UPOV body)	Switzerland		X	UPOV	1					1				1		

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	From	To	Activity/mission	City	Country	UPOV staff/ representative	organized by or with UPOV	Organizers ¹	UV.3 1(a)	UV.3 1(d)	UV.3 2(a)	UV.3 4(b)	UV.3 4(c)	UV.3 4(d)	UV.3 4(e), (f)	UV.3 4(g)	UV.3 4(h)	UV.4 2(d)	UV.4 2(e)	UV.4 3(a)	
98	29-11-17	01-12-17	Conference "Intellectual Property Protection for Plant Innovation 2017"	Amsterdam	Netherlands	Button		FORUM Institut für Management												1	
99	01-12-17	01-12-17	Advanced International Training Program on "Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources - in Support of Innovation"	Geneva	Switzerland	Huerta, Taveira		WIPO, PRV (Sweden), Sida		1											
100	03-12-17	07-12-17	ASTA Congress	Chicago	United States of America	Rivoire, Rovere		ASTA												1	
101	05-12-17	06-12-17	21st Annual Meeting between the CPVO and its Examination Offices	Angers	France	Taveira		CPVO													1
102	11-12-17	11-12-17	Fifty-Seventh Session of the Administrative Council of OAPI	Niamey	Niger	Rivoire		OAPI													1
103	14-12-17	15-12-17	Maximizing benefits for farmers through the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention", organized by UPOV with the assistance of the WIPO	Geneva (UPOV HQ)	Switzerland	Button, Huerta, Rivoire, Taveira, Motomura	X	UPOV, WIPO	1	1					1				1		
104	18-12-17	19-12-17	Workshop on drafting legislation in accordance with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention	Geneva (UPOV HQ)	Switzerland	Huerta, Motomura, Rivoire, Madhour	X	UPOV	1		1		1								
105	20-12-17	20-12-17	Briefing session on UPOV for Focal Points of the Permanent Missions in Geneva of Bahrain, Djibouti, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates	Geneva	Switzerland	Huerta	X	WIPO	1	1											
Total									37	45	8	1	15	11	10	8	2	32	14	21	

[Annex III follows]

ANNEX III

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INTRODUCTION

1. This report summarizes achievements during 2017. The report is structured to follow the 2016-2017 Program and Budget (document C/49/4 Rev.), as adopted by the Council at its forty-ninth ordinary session, held in Geneva on October 29, 2015.
2. The text offers a brief summary of the progress made towards the achievements of objectives at the level of sub-programs, followed by performance tables summarizing information on objectives, expected results and performance indicators.
3. The performance tables are presented according to the following structure:

Expected results
<i>Results Achieved: Selected Performance Indicators</i>

Details

SUB-PROGRAM UV.1: OVERALL POLICY ON PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION

This sub-program provides the framework for policy making, management and coordination of the activities within UPOV's overall program, as established by the Council with the guidance of the Consultative Committee.

In 2017, the Council and the Consultative Committee took a number of important decisions concerning the direction and policy of the Union, including: approval of a Strategic Business Plan to diversify UPOV's revenue portfolio to maintain and enhance the sustainability of existing activities and services; organization of a single, annual set of UPOV sessions in Geneva; development of the UPOV PRISMA PBR application tool; inter-relations with the ITPGRFA; adoption of an FAQ on how the UPOV system of plant variety protection contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and approval of a program for the use of the Russian language in UPOV.

- Objectives:**
- ◆ Policy direction and executive management.
 - ◆ Planning, implementation and evaluation of program and budget.

1. Organization of Council and Consultative Committee sessions

On the basis of recommendations by the Consultative Committee, the Council, at its thirty-fourth extraordinary session, held in Geneva on April 6, 2017, decided:

- to organize a single set of sessions from 2018;
- to adopt the proposals of the TC, at its fifty-third session, on contingency measures.

(a) Participation in the sessions of the Council and the Consultative Committee

Council

Thirty-fourth extraordinary session:

86 participants representing 40 members of the Union, 2 observer States and 4 observer organizations

Fifty-first ordinary session:

114 participants representing 45 members of the Union, 7 observer States and 6 observer organizations

Consultative Committee

Ninety-third session:

93 participants representing 48 members of the Union

Ninety-fourth session:

93 participants representing 45 members of the Union

2. Organize and monitor the work of UPOV committees

(a) Approve and monitor the work programs of the CAJ, TC, TWPs and ad hoc working groups

Achieved.

- See documents C/51/9 and C/52/9 "Progress report of the work of the Administrative and Legal Committee"
- See documents C/51/10 and C/52/10 "Progress report of the work of the Technical Committee, the Technical Working Parties and the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, and DNA-Profiling in Particular"

(b) Elect Chairs of the CAJ, TC, TWPs and ad hoc working groups and Vice-Chairs of the CAJ and TC

Achieved.

The Council elected, in each case for a term of three years ending with the fifty-fourth ordinary session of the Council, in 2020:

- Ms. Cheryl Turnbull (United Kingdom), Chairperson, Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA)
- Mr. Christophe Chevalier (France), Chairman, Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC)
- Mr. Jean Maison (European Union), Chairman, Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF)
- Mr. Henk de Greef (Netherlands), Chairman, Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO)
- Ms. Romana Bravi (Italy), Chairperson, Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV)
- Mr. Nik Hulse (Australia), Chairman, Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques and DNA-Profiling in Particular (BMT)

(c) Approve the annual calendars of meetings

Achieved.

See document C/50/8 Rev.3 "Revised calendar of meetings in 2017"

3. Coordination, monitoring and performance assessment of Program and Budget for the 2016-2017 Biennium

(a) Delivery of program within budget for the 2016-2017 Biennium

Achieved.

See document C/52/4 "Financial Management Report for the 2016-2017 Biennium"

(b) Approve the financial statements

See document C/52/12 "Financial statements for 2017"

(c) Approve the financial management report

See document C/52/4 "Financial Management Report for the 2016-2017 Biennium"

4. Preparation and adoption of the Program and Budget for the 2018-2019 Biennium

(a) Preparation and adoption of the Program and Budget for the 2018-2019 Biennium in accordance with the "Financial Regulations and Rules of UPOV"

Achieved.

See document C/51/4 Rev. "Program and Budget for the 2018-2019 Biennium"

5. Examination of the conformity of laws, or draft laws, with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention

(a) Recommendations by the Consultative Committee

See (b) below.

(b) Decisions by the Council

On the basis of recommendations by the Consultative Committee, the Council, at its fifty-first ordinary session, held in Geneva on October 26, 2017, took:

- a positive decision on the conformity of the Plant Varieties Protection Order of Brunei Darussalam;
- a positive decision on the conformity of the "Draft Law for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants" of Guatemala;
- a positive decision on the conformity of the "Draft Law on New Plant Variety Protection" of Myanmar.

6. Review of developments concerning applications and grants of plant breeders' rights

(a) Number of applications for plant breeders' rights

16,455 applications made with members of the Union in 2016 (15,017 in 2015; 15,511 in 2014) (see document C/51/7)

(b) Number of titles granted

12,550 titles granted by members of the Union in 2016 (12,409 in 2015; 11,566 in 2014) (see document C/51/7)

(c) Number of titles in force

117,427 titles in force with members of the Union in 2016 (112,215 in 2015; 106,575 in 2014) (see document C/51/7)

(d) Number of genera/species protected by members of the Union

At the end of 2017, a total of 64 members of the Union offered protection for all genera and species (62 in 2016; 62 in 2015), 6 members of the Union offered protection for a limited number of plant genera and species (12 in 2016; 12 in 2015) and 5 members of the Union had not notified the extension of protection to all genera and species (see information below).

Jordan provided notification that its legislation had applied to all genera and species since October 24, 2014 (see <http://www.upov.int/edocs/gendocs/en/jo/jo002.pdf>).

Uzbekistan provided notification that its legislation had applied to all genera and species since November 14, 2014 (see <http://www.upov.int/edocs/gendocs/en/uz/uz002.pdf>).

Viet Nam provided notification that its legislation had applied to all genera and species since December 24, 2016 (see <http://www.upov.int/edocs/gendocs/en/vn/vn003.pdf>).

(e) Number of genera/species for which varieties have been protected

Number of plant genera and species with PBR entries in the Plant Variety Database (PLUTO):
3,628 genera and species (3,771 taxa including subspecies) in August 2017
(3,510 genera and species in August 2016 (3,661 taxa including subspecies) and
3,562 taxa including subspecies in August 2015)

(f) Analysis by crop type

Data from PLUTO database:

Applications filed by crop type:

Year	Crop type				
	Agri-culture	Forest trees	Fruit	Orna-mental	Vege-tables
2012	27%	0.9%	12%	48%	12%
2013	25%	1.0%	12%	49%	11%
2014	30%	0.8%	11%	47%	10%
2015	33%	0.5%	14%	36%	16%
2016	37%	0.6%	11%	34%	18%
2017	33%	0.5%	11%	38%	17%

Titles issued by crop type:

Year	Crop type				
	Agri-culture	Forest trees	Fruit	Orna-mental	Vege-tables
2012	26%	0.7%	9%	48%	15%
2013	34%	0.7%	10%	42%	13%
2014	35%	0.6%	10%	43%	12%
2015	32%	0.9%	10%	44%	13%
2016	32%	1.1%	9%	40%	18%
2017	27%	0.4%	12%	45%	16%

7. Policy on facilitating applications through the development of an electronic application system and enhancing cooperation in the examination of varieties

(a) Recommendations by the Consultative Committee

The Consultative Committee, at its ninety-fourth session, held in Geneva on October 25, and on the morning of October 26, 2017:

- agreed that the name PRISMA and the logo, as set out below, be proposed for approval at the fifty-first ordinary session of the Council, to be held in Geneva on October 26, 2017:



- approved and recommended to the Council to approve the UPOV charge for the EAF at CHF150 per application for the 2018-2019 biennium, but further 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;
- requested the Office of the Union to report on developments concerning the EAF at its ninety-fifth session and further agreed to follow the use and analyze the benefits of the electronic application form for users and to review the arrangements for funding of the EAF at its ninety-fifth session.

See also (b) below.

(b) Decisions by the Council

On the basis of recommendations by the Consultative Committee, the Council, at its thirty-fourth extraordinary session, held in Geneva on April 6, 2017, decided to allow the Office of the Union to have flexibility in the charge to be made for use of the EAF in 2017, but not to make the EAF free of charge.

On the basis of recommendations by the Consultative Committee, the Council, at its fifty-first ordinary session, held in Geneva on October 26, 2017:

- approved the name PRISMA and the logo for the electronic application form (EAF);
- 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.

(c) Cooperation between members of the Union in the examination of varieties

See Sub-Program UV.2, performance indicators “4. Cooperation in DUS examination” and “5. Cooperation in examination of variety denominations”

8. Monitoring of measures to provide training and assistance in the introduction and implementation of the UPOV system

(a) Evaluation of annual reports of the Secretary-General, performance reports for the biennia and other information

- Consideration of document C/52/2 “Annual Report of the Secretary-General for 2017” (this document)

(b) States that accede to or ratify the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention; States and organizations that become members of the Union; and number of genera and species protected by members of the Union

- Consideration of document C/52/2 “Annual Report of the Secretary-General for 2017” (this document)

- See Sub-Program UV.2, performance indicator “6. Review of developments concerning applications and grants of plant breeders’ rights”, section (d)

(c) Measures to provide training and assistance in the introduction and implementation of the UPOV system

See document CC/92/7 "Training and assistance strategy"

9. Monitoring the implementation of the communication strategy

(a) Evaluation of annual reports of the Secretary-General, performance reports for the biennia and other information

- See document CC/94/7 "Communication strategy"

(b) Recommendations by the Consultative Committee on the communication strategy

On the basis of recommendations by the Consultative Committee, the Council, at its fifty-first ordinary session, held in Geneva on October 26, 2017:

- approved the draft FAQ on how the UPOV system of plant variety protection contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and recommended its approval by the Council at its fifty-first session; it further agreed that the Office of the Union should seek the assistance of a professional communication expert to prepare a new draft for consideration at its ninety-fifth session;
- requested the Office of the Union to draft an FAQ on the benefits of new varieties of plants for society, for consideration by the Consultative Committee at its ninety-fifth session;
- agreed that proposals for increasing UPOV's use of social media, including a timetable in accordance with the resourcing strategy, should be presented for consideration at its ninety-fifth session.

10. Policy direction on inter-relations with other organizations

(a) Recommendations by the Consultative Committee

See (b) below.

(b) Decisions by the Council

On the basis of recommendations by the Consultative Committee, the Council, at its fifty-first ordinary session, held in Geneva on October 26, 2017:

- agreed the following concerning interrelations with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA):
 - (i) to review the FAQ on the interrelations between the UPOV Convention and the ITPGRFA; and
 - (ii) exchange of experience and information on the implementation of the UPOV Convention and the ITPGRFA, with the involvement of stakeholders.

As a next step, the Consultative Committee would consider the need for a revision of the current guidance in the "Explanatory Notes on Exceptions to the Breeder's Right under the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention" (document UPOV/EXN/EXC/1);

The Council further agreed to report the decision above at the Seventh Session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA to be held in Kigali, Rwanda, from October 30 to November 3, 2017, accordingly.

11. Policy on other matters

(a) Recommendations by the Consultative Committee

The Consultative Committee, at its ninety-fourth session, held in Geneva on October 25, and on the morning of October 26, 2017:

- agreed the inclusion of the regular item “Internal oversight and the WIPO Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC)” in the agenda of the October/November sessions of the Consultative Committee;
- approved a Strategic Business Plan to diversify UPOV’s revenue portfolio to maintain and enhance the sustainability of existing activities and services;
- decided to extend the observer status of the International Commission for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants (ICNCP) to the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ) and the Technical Committee (TC);

See also (b) below.

(b) Decisions by the Council

On the basis of recommendations by the Consultative Committee, the Council, at its fifty-first ordinary session, held in Geneva on October 26, 2017, approved the program for use of the Russian language in UPOV and proposed resourcing.

(c) Adoption of information and position papers by the Council

The adoption of information materials by the Council is reported in Sub-Program UV.2.

SUB-PROGRAM UV.2: SERVICES TO THE UNION FOR ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UPOV SYSTEM

This sub-program covers the provision of guidance, information and resources for the operation of the UPOV system of plant variety protection, support for cooperation between members of the Union, the work of the relevant UPOV bodies and measures to facilitate applications for plant breeders' rights.

A key development in 2017 was the launch of the Electronic Application Form, now known as the UPOV PRISMA PBR Application Tool. The existence of the web-based Test Guidelines Template (TG Template) enabled the rapid expansion of UPOV PRISMA to cover all crops and species for those members of the Union that use the UPOV Test Guidelines as the basis for the technical questionnaires in their application forms. The introduction of UPOV PRISMA highlights the ongoing and increasing importance of UPOV Test Guidelines for DUS examination. In 2017, the adopted Test Guidelines covered 94% of all PBR-related entries in the Plant Variety Database. The integration of the UPOV PRISMA, TG Template, GENIE database and PLUTO database information will be an important means of providing more efficient and effective services in the future. The adoption of revised explanatory notes on essentially derived varieties and new explanatory notes on propagating material was important for improved understanding of these provisions.

- Objectives:**
- ◆ To maintain and improve the effectiveness of the UPOV system.
 - ◆ To provide and develop the legal, administrative and technical basis for international cooperation in plant variety protection according to the UPOV Convention.

1. Participation by members of the Union and observers in the work of the UPOV bodies

Participation in the Administrative and Legal Committee

CAJ/74: 95 participants representing 38 members of the Union, 3 observer States and 9 observer organizations

Participation in the Technical Committee

TC/53: 100 participants representing 41 members of the Union, 3 observer States and 7 observer organizations

Participation in Technical Working Party Sessions

373 experts representing 46 members of the Union (members), 2 observer States (obs) and 7 observer organizations (org) participated in the Technical Working Parties as follows:

- TWA (Germany):
28 members (50 participants) / 0 obs (0) / 3 org (4)
- TWC (Argentina):
9 members (31 participants) / 0 obs (0) / 0 org (0)
- TWF (Canada):
19 members (32 participants) / 0 obs (0) / 1 org (4)
- TWO (Canada):
14 members (25 participants) / 1 obs (2) / 1 org (3)
- TWV (Netherlands):
18 members (47 participants) / 0 obs (0) / 3 org (11)
- BMT (France):
19 members (49 participants) / 1 obs (2) / 6 org (13)

Participation in Preparatory Workshops for the Technical Working Party Sessions

148 experts representing 25 members of the Union (members), 2 observer States (obs) and 3 observer organizations (orgs) participated in the Preparatory Workshops as follows:

- TWA: 12 members (20 participants) / 0 obs (0) / 2 org (2)
- TWC: 5 members (23 participants) / 0 obs (0) / 0 org (0)
- TWF: 12 members (19 participants) / 0 obs (0) / 1 org (2)
- TWO: 13 members (22 participants) / 1 obs (2) / 1 org (3)
- TWV: 8 members (19 participants) / 0 obs (0) / 0 org (0)
- BMT: 14 members (33 participants) / 1 obs (2) / 1 org (1)

2. Guidance on the UPOV Convention and its implementation and information on its application

UPOV Collection: visits to the UPOV website¹ in 2017¹

Pageviews: 7,827
(9,525 in 2016, 9,044 in 2015)

Unique pageviews: 5,023
(6,091 in 2016, 5,653 in 2015)

Language	Pageviews	Unique pageviews
English	5,434	3,609
Spanish	1,630	916
French	464	300
German	293	195

(a) Adoption of new or revised information materials concerning the UPOV Convention

Information materials concerning the UPOV Convention adopted by the Council in 2017:

- UPOV/EXN/EDV/2 Explanatory Notes on Essentially Derived Varieties under the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention (Revision)
- UPOV/EXN/PPM/1 Explanatory Notes on Propagating Material under the UPOV Convention
- UPOV/INF/6/5 Guidance for the preparation of laws based on the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention (Revision)
- UPOV/INF/16/7 Exchangeable Software (Revision)
- UPOV/INF/22/4 Software and equipment used by members of the Union (Revision)
- UPOV/INF-EXN/10
and
UPOV/INF-EXN/11 List of INF-EXN Documents and Latest Issue Dates (Revision)

(b) Publication of the UPOV Gazette and Newsletter

There was no issue of the UPOV Gazette and Newsletter in 2017.

(c) Inclusion of laws and relevant notifications of members of the Union in UPOV Lex

- Poland, Viet Nam

UPOV Lex database: visits to the UPOV Website in 2017

Pageviews: 82,861
(85,374 in 2016, 80,460 in 2015;)

Unique pageviews: 59,166
(60,294 in 2016, 55,991 in 2015)

Language	Pageviews	Unique pageviews
English	56,661	40,492
Spanish	17,633	12,279
French	6,331	4,563
German	2,197	1,807

(d) Availability of UPOV documents and materials in languages other than the UPOV languages (English, French, German and Spanish)

Translation of the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention in Vietnamese.

¹ The methodology in Google Analytics for calculating the exclusion of internal traffic & 'bots' changed in January 2017. The new methodology was used to produce the website statistics for 2017.

3. Guidance on the examination of varieties

(a) Adoption of new or revised TGP documents and information materials

No new or revised TGP documents or information materials on guidance on the examination of varieties were adopted in 2017.

(b) Adoption of new or revised Test Guidelines

18 Test Guidelines adopted by the TC, comprising:

- 5 new Test Guidelines: TWA (2.5), TWO (2), TWV (0.5)
- 9 revised Test Guidelines: TWA (1), TWF (3), TWO (2), TWV (3)
- 4 partially revised Test Guidelines: TWO (2), TWV (2)

Total number of adopted Test Guidelines at the end of 2017: 321

Test Guidelines: visits to the UPOV Website in 2017

Pageviews: 66,567
(61,966 in 2016, 64,425 in 2015)

Unique pageviews: 38,621
(38,054 IN 2016; 38,144 in 2015)

Language	Pageviews	Unique pageviews
English	53,266	31,116
Spanish	9,175	4,970
French	2,806	1,726
German	1,301	793

(c) Number of PBR applications covered by adopted Test Guidelines

In 2017, the adopted Test Guidelines covered 94% of all PBR-related entries in the Plant Variety Database (280,687 of 299,031) (in 2016, 93%: 262,422 of 281,634)

(d) Number of Test Guidelines under development in the Technical Working Parties

54 draft Test Guidelines advanced by the Technical Working Parties, comprising

- 23 new Test Guidelines: TWA (7), TWF (4), TWO (9), TWV (3)
- 21 revisions: TWA (8), TWF (4), TWO (5), TWV (4)
- 10 partial revisions: TWF (1), TWO (2), TWV (7)

(e) Participation in the development of Test Guidelines

Test Guidelines adopted in 2017:

- 5 new Test Guidelines: TWA (2.5), TWO (3) TWV (0.5) drafted by Leading Experts from:
 - Africa: KE (0.5)
 - Americas: BR (1.5)
 - Asia/Pacific: JP (1)
 - Europe: FR (1), PL (1)
- 9 revised Test Guidelines: TWA (1), TWF (3), TWO (2); TWV (3)
 - Americas: MX (1)
 - Asia/Pacific: CN (1), JP (1)
 - Europe: DE (1), FR (2), IT (1), NL (2)
- 4 partially revised Test Guidelines: TWO (2), TWV (2)
 - Asia/Pacific: AU (1)
 - Europe: ES (1), FR (1), QZ (1)

Test Guidelines under development in 2017:

23 new Test Guidelines: TWA (7), TWF (4), TWO (9), TWV (3) drafted by Leading Experts from:

Africa: KE (0.5), MA (1), ZA (2)
Americas: AR (1), BR (1.5), MX (2)
Asia/Pacific: AU (1), JP (5)
Europe: DE (1), DK (1), ES (1), FR (1), GB (3), PL (1), QZ (1)

– 21 revisions: TWA (8), TWF (4), TWO (5), TWV (4)

Africa: ZA (3)
Americas: AR (1)
Asia/Pacific: AU (3), JP (1), KR (1)
Europe: DE (1), ES (2), FR (4), GB (1), NL (3), QZ (1)

– 10 partial revisions: TWF (1), TWO (2), TWV (7)

Asia/Pacific: JP (1)
Europe: ES (1), FR (1), NL (4), QZ (3)

Total of 17 members of the Union involved in drafting Test Guidelines (AR, AU, BR, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, JP, KE, KR, MA, MX, NL, PL, QZ, ZA).

(f) Development of web-based Test Guidelines Template (TG Template) with facility for:

1. Translation in UPOV languages

In 2017, a translation interface was developed to allow exporting and importing translation content in Excel format. This interface was also used to insert adopted TG characteristics and corresponding states of expression in UPOV languages and in Chinese, Georgian, Japanese, Romanian and Turkish.

The reporting tool was extended to support French, German and Spanish in order to produce TG documents in those languages.

2. Use by members of the Union in the preparation of individual authorities' test guidelines

No developments in 2017.

4. Cooperation in DUS examination

GENIE database: visits to the UPOV Website in 2017

	2017	2016	Language	Pageviews	Unique pageviews
Sessions	14,861	16,930	English	50,811	28,534
Users	9,991	9,528	Spanish	12,750	6,540
Pageviews	72,756	76,990	French	4,910	3,024
New Visitors	69.8%	46.6%	German	2,818	1,858
Returning Visitors	30.2%	53.4%			

Top 10 countries visiting the GENIE database in 2017

Country / Territory	Sessions	New Users
France	1,027	439
Spain	986	472
Japan	813	195
Germany	796	571
United States of America	691	491
India	603	447
Mexico	589	307
Switzerland	589	318
Australia	503	127
Turkey	463	261

(a) Plant genera and species for which members of the Union have practical experience

On March 28, 2017, there were 3,416 genera and species (3,561 taxa including subspecies) for which members of the Union had reported practical experience in DUS examination (see document TC/53/4). There were 3,326 genera and species in 2016 (3,461 taxa including subspecies) and 3,255 genera and species in 2015 (3,382 taxa including subspecies).

(b) Plant genera and species for which members of the Union cooperate in DUS examination, as indicated in GENIE database

On October 25, 2017, there were 1,974 genera and species (2,038 taxa including subspecies) for which there were agreements between members of the Union for cooperation in DUS examination (see document C/51/5). There were 1,968 genera and species in 2016 (2,031 taxa including subspecies) and 2,002 taxa including subspecies in 2015.

5. Cooperation in examination of variety denominations

PLUTO database: visits to the UPOV Website in 2017

	2017	2016	Language	Pageviews	Unique pageviews
Sessions	45,638	58,673	English	59,551	41,560
Users	15,875	16,145	Spanish	5,089	3,169
Pageviews:	69,457	90,630	French	3,529	2,525
New Visitors	67.4%	25.5%	German	1,288	854
Returning Visitors	32.6%	74.5%			

Top 10 countries visiting the PLUTO database in 2017

Country / Territory	Sessions	New Users
United States of America	6,340	1,726
France	3,389	925
Netherlands	3,352	651
Brazil	2,431	615
Ukraine	2,290	324
Australia	2,131	386
Japan	2,031	301
Germany	1,863	625
United Kingdom	1,455	299
Switzerland	1,440	347

(a) Quantity and quality of data in PLUTO database

1. *Number of contributors*

- Number of contributors included in the PLUTO database at the end of 2017: 62 (60 in 2016)
- Number of members of the Union that contributed data in 2017: 48 (48 in 2016)

2. *Number of new submissions*

- Number of submissions of new data in 2017: 222 (255 in 2016)
- Number of members of the Union that contributed data for the first time in 2017: 2 (2 in 2016)

3. *Number of records*

- Total number of records included in the PLUTO database at the end of 2017: 797,669 (765,070 at the end of 2016)

(b) Development and approval by the Council of a UPOV similarity search tool for variety denominations and inclusion in PLUTO database

Under discussion in the Working Group on Variety Denominations (WG-DEN).

6. Facilitating applications for plant breeders' rights

(a) Development and approval by the Council of an electronic application system for selected species and languages, enabling breeders to provide information for PBR applications for participating members of the Union, via the UPOV website

See Sub-Program UV.1, performance indicator 7 "Policy on facilitating applications through the development of an electronic application system and enhancing cooperation in the examination of varieties", section (b)

Introduction of the UPOV PRISMA PBR Application Tool

Version 1.0 (Launched in January 2017)

		Total
Crops	Soya Bean, Lettuce, Apple fruit varieties, Rose, Potato	5
Members of the Union	Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, Kenya, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Tunisia, United States of America, Uruguay	12
Languages		
- Navigation languages:	English, French, German, Spanish	4
- Output form languages:	English, French, German, Spanish, Norwegian	5

Version 1.1 (Launched in July 2017)

		Total
Crops	Soya Bean, Lettuce, Apple fruit varieties, Rose, Potato	5
Members of the Union	Argentina, Australia, Chile, China, Colombia, France, Kenya, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, United States of America, Uruguay	16
Languages		
- Navigation languages:	English, French, German, Spanish, Chinese	5
- Output form languages:	English, French, German, Spanish, Chinese, Norwegian, Romanian, Turkish	8

Use of UPOV PRISMA in 2017

Number of applications received in 2017	14
Number of countries in which applications were submitted	6 (AU, CH, CL, NO, NL, NZ)
Number of applicants	4
Number of crops	3 (apple, lettuce, potato)
Number of breeder administrators registered	7

(b) Allocation of crop type(s) for UPOV codes and modification of the GENIE and PLUTO databases to enable statistics to be provided by crop type (agriculture, fruit, ornamentals, vegetables and forest trees)

See Sub-Program UV.1, performance indicator 6 "Review of developments concerning applications and grants of plant breeders' rights", section (e)

SUB-PROGRAM UV.3: ASSISTANCE IN THE INTRODUCTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UPOV SYSTEM

This sub-program covers the assistance provided in response to requests by members of the Union and potential members of the Union. Satisfying the demand for assistance in the introduction and implementation of the UPOV system within available resources relies on the use of distance-learning courses, the prioritization of assistance by the Office of the Union and the use of external resources for administration, training and assistance according to available finances. This sub-program is supported by the regular budget, but extra-budgetary funds and support in kind provide a substantial proportion of the resources deployed for assistance. In order to utilize the available resources in the most effective way, the Office of the Union will continue to prioritize its activities and to explore synergies in its activities with members of the Union and other partners. The Training and Assistance Strategy provides the direction and the basis for overall coordination of this work.

The Office of the Union organized or participated in 105 missions/events in 2017, at which 111 States and 14 organizations were provided with information about the UPOV system. Sixteen States and one organization were provided with assistance in the development of PVP legislation and three States initiated the procedure to become a member of the Union. The UPOV distance learning courses had participants from 75 States and five organizations.

The priority for providing assistance by the Office of the Union is as follows:

- (i) assistance to existing members of the Union;
- (ii) assistance to States and certain organizations that are not members of the Union, particularly governments of developing countries and countries in transition to a market economy, in the development of legislation in line with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention and their accession to the UPOV Convention; and
- (iii) assistance to States and certain organizations that are not members of the Union, in the implementation of legislation that has received a positive decision of the Council, according to their commitment to accede to the UPOV Convention.

Objectives:

- ◆ To raise awareness of the role of plant variety protection according to the UPOV Convention.
- ◆ To assist States and organizations, particularly governments of developing countries and countries in transition to a market economy, in the development of legislation in accordance with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention.
- ◆ To assist States and organizations in their accession to the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention.
- ◆ To assist States and organizations in implementing an effective plant variety protection system in accordance with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention.

1. Raising awareness of the role of plant variety protection in accordance with the UPOV Convention

(a) States and organizations provided with information

Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zambia, AIPH, APBEBES, APSA, ARIPO, CIMMYT, CIOFORA, CPVO (European Union), CropLife International, ECVC, ESA, ISF, OAPI, OECD, SAA, WTO (110 States and 15 organizations) (see also Annex II to this document)

(b) States and organizations that contacted the Office of the Union for assistance in the development of legislation on plant variety protection

Members of the Union: Azerbaijan, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago and Viet Nam

Non-members of the Union: ARIPO, Barbados, Cambodia, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar and Nigeria

(c) States and organizations that initiated with the Council of UPOV the procedure for becoming members of the Union

Brunei Darussalam, Guatemala (new Draft Law) and Myanmar

(d) Participation in UPOV awareness-raising activities, or activities involving UPOV staff or UPOV trainers on behalf of UPOV staff

See Annex II to this document.

2. Assistance in drafting legislation on plant variety protection in accordance with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention

(a) Meetings with government officials to discuss legislative matters

Members of the Union: Mexico, New Zealand, Trinidad and Tobago and Viet Nam

Non-members of the Union: ARIPO, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

(b) States and organizations provided with comments on laws

Members of the Union: Azerbaijan, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago and Viet Nam

Non-members of the Union: ARIPO, Barbados, Cambodia, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar and Nigeria.

(c) States and organizations which received a positive advice from the Council of UPOV

Brunei Darussalam, Guatemala (new Draft Law) and Myanmar

3. Assistance to States and organizations in the accession to the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention

(a) States that acceded to or ratified the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention

Bosnia and Herzegovina

(b) States and organizations that became members of the Union

Bosnia and Herzegovina

4. Assistance in implementing an effective plant variety protection system in accordance with the UPOV Convention

(a) Participation in distance learning courses

List of countries and organizations from which there were participants
in the UPOV distance learning courses (in 2017)

Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Zambia, CPVO (European Union), EPO, FAO, OAPI, WTO (75 countries and 5 organizations).

Total number of participants in main sessions of UPOV distance learning courses
by category (2 sessions in 2017)

Category	Number of students			
	DL-205	DL-305	DL-305A	DL-305B
Category 1: Government officials of members of the Union	249	96	88	71
Category 2: Officials of observer States / intergovernmental organizations	34	7	7	6
Category 3: Others (Fee: CHF1,000)	15	2	1	0
Category 4: Discretionary waiving of fee for selected students	10	4*	2*	1*
Total:	308	109	98	78

* Including post-training participants as part of the UPOV training and assistance strategy.

Total number of participants in main sessions of UPOV distance learning courses
by language (in 2017)

Language	Number of students			
	DL-205	DL-305	DL-305A	DL-305B
English	186	58	63	62
French	31	13	8	5
German	3	2	1	0
Spanish	88	36	26	11
Total:	308	109	98	78

Special sessions of DL-205 (in 2017)

DL-205 special sessions for:	Participants from	Number of participants
OAPI Masters IP Training Course	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, Guinea, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo	29
Train the Trainer Course on Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV Convention, Geneva	Barbados, Egypt, Indonesia, Mexico	4
Naktuinbouw International Course on Plant Variety Protection Course (Netherlands)	Australia, China, France, Ghana, India, Myanmar, Netherlands, Tunisia	13
KOICA Training Course on Plant Variety Protection	Costa Rica, Ghana, Guatemala, Philippines	8
JICA Training Course on "Internationally Harmonized Plant Variety Protection System"	Burkina Faso, Egypt, India, Kenya, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Spain	7
Máster Lvcentinvs in Plant Variety Protection, Alicante University, Spain	Belgium, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Germany, Italy, Panama, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, United States of America	42
TOTAL		61

	English	French	German	Spanish
DL-205 special sessions, 2017: Total by language	65	29	0	9

(b) Training of trainers

- Train-the-Trainer Course on Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV Convention, Geneva, Switzerland (May 2017)

(c) Training activities developed in conjunction with UPOV

- DUS Training Course on Watermelon, Quang Ngai city, Viet Nam (April 2017)
- International Workshop on DNA Techniques and Variety Identification, Roelofarendsveen, Netherlands (May 2017)
- Train-the-Trainer Course on Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV Convention, Geneva, Switzerland (May 2017)
- KOICA Training Course on Plant Variety Protection, Gimcheon, Republic of Korea (May 2017)
- JICA Training Course, Tsukuba, Japan (June 2017)
- TWA/46 Preparatory Workshop, Hanover, Germany (June 2017)
- 20th International Course on Plant Variety Protection, Wageningen, Netherlands (June 2017)
- TWV/51 Preparatory Workshop, Roelofarendsveen, Netherlands (July 2017)
- Training course on Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV Convention, Lima, Peru (August 2017)
- TWO/50 Preparatory Workshop, Victoria, Canada (September 2017)
- Meeting with JICA officials and participation in JICA Training Course, Tokyo and Tsukuba, Japan (September 2017)
- TWF/48 Preparatory Workshop, Kelowna, Canada (September 2017)
- BMT/16 Preparatory Workshop, La Rochelle, France (November 2017)
- TWC/35 Preparatory Workshop, Buenos Aires, Argentina (November 2017)
- Workshop on drafting legislation in accordance with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention, Geneva, Switzerland (December 2017)

(d) Participation by observer States and organizations in the CAJ, TC, TWPs and the associated preparatory workshops

Participation in the Administrative and Legal Committee

CAJ/74: 9 observer organizations (AIPH, ARIPO, APBEBES, CIOPORA, CropLife International, ECVC, ESA, ISF, WTO)

Participation in the Technical Committee

TC/53: 3 observer States (Guatemala, Saudi Arabia, Thailand)
7 observer organizations (APBEBES, APSA, CIOPORA, CropLife International, ESA, ISF, ISTA, OECD)

Participation in Technical Working Party Sessions

TWA/46: 3 observer organizations (CropLife International, ESA, ISF)
TWC/35: 0 observer State/organization
TWF/48: 1 observer organization (CIOPORA)
TWO/50: 1 observer State (Thailand); 1 observer organization (CIOPORA)
TWV/51: 3 observer organizations (CropLife International, ESA, ISF)
BMT/16: 1 observer State (Saudi Arabia); 6 observer organizations (CIOPORA, CropLife International, ESA, ISF, OECD, SAA)

Participation in Preparatory Workshops for the Technical Working Party Sessions

TWA/46/Prep: 2 observer organizations (ESA, ISF)
TWC/35/Prep: 0 observer State/organization
TWF/48/Prep: 1 observer organization (CIOPORA)
TWO/50/Prep: 1 observer State (Thailand); 1 observer organization (CIOPORA)
TWV/51/Prep: 0 observer State/organization
BMT/16/Prep: 1 observer organizations (ISF)

See also Annex II.

(e) Participation in UPOV activities

See Annex II.

(f) Participation in activities involving UPOV staff or UPOV trainers on behalf of UPOV staff

See Annex II.

(g) Academic courses featuring the UPOV system of plant variety protection

- WIPO-WTO Advanced Course on Intellectual Property for Government Officials, Geneva, Switzerland (March 2017)
- OAPI/WIPO IP Masters Program II, Yaoundé, Cameroon (May 2017)
- WIPO-WTO Colloquium for Teachers of Intellectual Property, Geneva, Switzerland (June 2017)
- WIPO-UNIGE Summer School on Intellectual Property, Geneva, Switzerland (June 2017)
- UPOV speaker at Master of IP Law, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia (July 2017)
- WIPO/Tongji University Master Degree Program in Intellectual Property Law (MIP) with Specialization in Design, Shanghai, China (October 2017)
- Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Intellectual Property (WIPO/University of Turin/ITC-ILO), Geneva, Switzerland (October 2017)
- IV Plant Variety Rights Intensive Module on Plant Variety Protection, Master of Intellectual Property (Magister Lvcentinvs) of the University of Alicante, Spain (November 2017)

(h) Implementation of projects with partner organizations and donors

World Seed Partnership: 7 electronic meetings, 1 face-to-face meeting of the Steering Committee

SUB-PROGRAM UV.4: EXTERNAL RELATIONS

UPOV's mission is to provide and promote an effective system of plant variety protection, with the aim of encouraging the development of new varieties of plants, for the benefit of society. The aim of this Sub-program is to explain how the UPOV system encourages the development of new varieties of plants, how new varieties benefit society and the role of the UPOV system in relation to agriculture and economic policy.

Notable developments in 2017 included the adoption of an FAQ on how the UPOV system of plant variety protection contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and publication on the UPOV website of "The socio-economic benefits of UPOV membership in Viet Nam; An ex post assessment on plant breeding and agricultural productivity after 10 years" (Corresponding author: Steffen Noleppa) by HFFA Research GmbH" and of a video on "Using the UPOV system to benefit custodians of native wild germplasm in Argentina". The modest level of interest in the newly introduced stakeholder features on the UPOV website is a matter that will be considered further.

- Objectives:**
- ◆ To broaden and enhance the understanding of the UPOV system of plant variety protection.
 - ◆ To provide information on the UPOV Convention to other intergovernmental organizations, with the aim of achieving mutual supportiveness with other international treaties.

1. Broaden public understanding of UPOV's role and activities

(a) Availability of suitable information and materials for the general public, on UPOV website and through other media

- FAQ on how the UPOV system of plant variety protection contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- publication on the UPOV website of "The socio-economic benefits of UPOV membership in Viet Nam; An ex post assessment on plant breeding and agricultural productivity after 10 years" (Corresponding author: Steffen Noleppa) by HFFA Research GmbH"
- publication of a video on "Using the UPOV system to benefit custodians of native wild germplasm in Argentina"
- 5 press releases

(b) Visits to UPOV website

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<i>Number of Sessions:</i>	177,469	200,539	191,534	187,125	178,732
<i>Unique Users:</i>	84,393	88,906	86,366	86,291	84,336
<i>Number of pageviews:</i>	857,442	1,153,307	1,087,382	1,127,786	1,129,052
<i>Number of pages/visit:</i>	4.83	5.75	5.68	6.03	6.32
<i>Average visit duration:</i>	00:04:30	00:05:13	00:05:15	00:06:00	00:06:35
<i>Percentage of new visits:</i>	79.4%	42.70%	43.21%	44.19%	54.6%

Website Overview – Global Coverage



Sessions by country:

1.	United States of America	(7.30%)
2.	France	(6.16%)
3.	India	(5.11%)
4.	Mexico	(4.88%)
5.	Japan	(4.71%)
6.	Netherlands	(4.42%)
7.	Spain	(4.05%)
8.	Germany	(3.99%)
9.	Switzerland	(3.29%)
10.	China	(2.87%)

Language of visitor's browser	2017		2016		2015		2014		2013	
	Sessions	%	Sessions	%	Sessions	%	Sessions	%	Sessions	%
1. en-us	48,128	27.12	60,689	42.11	66,347	39.58	72,248	38.61	70,706	39.56
2. es	16,708	11.64	18,164	58.21	17,765	59.03	18,154	9.70	18,669	10.45
3. en-gb	10,062	5.78	8,639	45.87	6,743	3.52	4,508	2.41	3,028	1.69
4. fr	9,471	5.34								
5. ru	6,768	3.81	7,292	19.83	6,608	3.45	6,824	3.65	6,596	3.69
6. ja-jp	6,545	3.69	6,915	24.09	5,277	2.76	5,729	3.06	6,444	3.61
7. es-419	6,542	3.69	5,605	57.38						
8. es-es	6,091	3.43	7,273	49.06	7,972	4.16	9,180	4.91	9,234	5.17
9. zh-cn	5,349	3.01								
10. fr-fr	5,185	2.92	5,502	42.31						
Total:	177,469		200,539		191,534		187,125		178,732	

1. en-us: American English; 2. es: Spanish; 3. en-gb: British English; 4. fr: French 5. ru: Russian; 6. ja-jp: Japanese (Japan); 7. es-419: Spanish (Latin America and the Caribbean); 8. es-es: Castilian Spanish; 9. zh-cn: Chinese; 10. fr-fr (France)

2. Enhance understanding of UPOV's role and activities for stakeholders

(a) Availability of suitable information and materials for breeders, seed producers / plant propagators, farmers, processors/wholesalers/retailers and policy-makers, on UPOV website and through other media

See Sub-Program UV.4, performance indicator "1. Broaden public understanding of UPOV's role and activities", section (a)

(b) Articles in relevant publications to which UPOV has contributed

- Contribution by the UPOV Office to ICARDA's Newsletter "Seed Info", Issue No 52 of January 2017 (see https://apps.icarda.org/wsInternet/wsInternet.aspx/DownloadFileToLocal?filePath=Tools_and_guidelines/SeedInfo_52.pdf&fileName=SeedInfo_52.pdf)
- Contribution by the UPOV Office to ICARDA's Newsletter "Seed Info", Issue No 53 of July 2017 (see http://www.icarda.org/sites/default/files/Seed_Info_53.pdf)
- Interview during the SAA Sixth Seed Congress of the Americas, from September 5 to 7, 2017, in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, for Seed World online magazine. The video is available on the following link: <http://seedworld.com/leontino-rezede-taveira-upov-farmers-benefit-variety-protection-facilitating-breeders/>
- Interview during ASTA Annual Meeting, held in Chicago, United States of America, from December 4 to 8, 2017. The video is available on the following link: <http://seedworld.com/ben-rivoire-upov-world-seed-partnership-pbr-application-tool-75-countries-growing/>
- Contribution by the UPOV Office to "Chapter 11: Plant Varieties: The International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (1991 Act)" to the book by WIPO "Introduction to Intellectual Property: Theory and Practice", Wolters Kluwer, Second Edition, 2017, 624 pages ISBN: 978-90-411-6093-5

(c) Stakeholder-focused features on the UPOV website

Visits to the UPOV Website in 2017

Language	Pageviews	Unique pageviews
English	1,546	1,199
Spanish	796	580
French	372	284
German	99	66

2,813 pageviews (0.33% of total pageviews on UPOV website (857,442 pageviews))

(d) Participation by stakeholders in seminars and symposia

No seminar/symposium was held in 2017.

(e) Participation at meetings of, and with, relevant stakeholders

- Seventeenth AFSTA Annual Congress, Dakar, Senegal (March 2017)
- ISF Intellectual Property Committee Meeting, Zurich, Switzerland (March 2017)
- DanSeed Annual Seminar, Copenhagen, Denmark (March 2017)
- Intellectual Property Awareness Network (IPAN) High-Level Brexit IP Seminar, London, United Kingdom (March 2017)
- 56th Annual General Meeting of CIOPORA, Toronto, Canada (April 2017)
- ISF World Seed Congress 2017, Budapest, Hungary (May 2017)
- CORAF/WECARD "West Africa Seed Program Learning Event", Accra, Ghana (June 2017)
- II Paraguayan Seed Congress, Obligado, Paraguay (August 2017)
- III Bolivian Seed Congress, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (August 2017)
- SAA Sixth Seed Congress of the Americas, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia (September 2017)
- ESA Annual Meeting, Riga, Latvia (October 2017)
- Asian Seed Congress 2017, Bangkok, Thailand (November 2017)
- Conference "Intellectual Property Protection for Plant Innovation 2017", Amsterdam, Netherlands (December 2017)
- ASTA Congress, Chicago, United States of America (December 2017)

3. Enhance understanding of UPOV's role and activities with other organizations

(a) Participation at meetings of, and with, relevant organizations

- Sixteenth Regular Session of the CGRFA, Rome, Italy (January 2017)
- OECD Ad-Hoc Working Group Meetings and Technical Working Group Meeting of the OECD Seed Schemes, Paris, France (January 2017)
- Thirty-third session of the WIPO IGC, Geneva, Switzerland (February 2017)
- Meeting of the Council for TRIPS (WTO headquarters), Geneva, Switzerland (March 2017)
- CPVO Administrative Council Meeting, Angers, France (March 2017)
- Sixth Meeting of the ITPGRFA's Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing, Rome, Italy (March 2017)
- Special ITPGRFA event "The Enhancement of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty", Rome, Italy (March 2017)
- Thirty-fourth session of the WIPO IGC, Geneva, Switzerland (June 2017)
- Meeting of the Council for TRIPS (WTO headquarters), Geneva, Switzerland (June 2017)
- Meeting of the CPVO's Working Group for the Revision of the Variety Denominations Explanatory Notes and Guidelines, Paris, France (June 2017)
- Annual Meeting of the OECD Seed Schemes, Prague, Czech Republic (June 2017)
- APEC-IPEG Workshop on Opportunities/Challenges in Commercialization of Plant Varieties in the APEC Region and National Seminar on Opportunities/Challenges in Commercialization of New Plant Varieties, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam (August 2017)
- Seminar on Intellectual Property and Innovation in Agriculture and Food Systems, Geneva, Switzerland (September 2017)
- OAPI National Seminar on Awareness raising on PVP within the OAPI region, Dakar, Senegal (September 2017)
- CPVO Administrative Council meeting, Brussels, Belgium (October 2017)
- Meeting of the Council for TRIPS (WTO headquarters), Geneva, Switzerland (October 2017)
- Seventh Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Kigali, Rwanda (November 2017)
- 41st Session of ARIPO's Administrative Council and 16th Session of ARIPO's Council of Ministers, Lilongwe, Malawi (November 2017)
- Conference "EPO and CPVO: Supporting innovation in the plant sector", Brussels, Belgium (November 2017)
- 21st Annual Meeting between the CPVO and its Examination Offices, Angers, France (December 2017)
- Fifty-Seventh Session of the Administrative Council of OAPI, Niamey, Niger (December 2017)

[Appendix follows]

APPENDIX

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

UPOV terms

BMT	Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, and DNA-Profiling in Particular
CAJ	Administrative and Legal Committee
DL-205	UPOV distance learning course "Introduction to the UPOV System of Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV Convention"
DL-305	UPOV distance learning course "Examination of Applications for Plant Breeders' Rights"
DL-305A	UPOV distance learning course "Administration of Plant Breeders' Rights" (part A of DL-305)
DL-305B	UPOV distance learning course "DUS Examination" (part B of DL-305)
DUS	Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability
EAF (see also UPOV PRISMA)	UPOV Electronic Application Form
EDV	essentially derived variety
Office	Office of the Union
PBR	Plant Breeder's Right
TC	Technical Committee
TC-EDC	Enlarged Editorial Committee
TWA	Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops
TWC	Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs
TWF	Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops
TWO	Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees
TWP(s)	Technical Working Party(ies)
TWV	Technical Working Party for Vegetables
UPOV PRISMA	UPOV PRISMA PBR Application Tool
WG-DEN	Working Group on Variety Denominations
WG-ISC	Working Group on a Possible International System of Cooperation
WSP	World Seed Partnership

Acronyms

AFSTA	African Seed Trade Association
Agroscope	Swiss centre of excellence for agricultural research
APEC-IPEG	Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APROSEMP (SAA)	Association of Seed Producers of Paraguay (SAA member)
APSA	Asia and Pacific Seed Association
ARIPO	African Regional Intellectual Property Organization
AWARD	African Women in Agricultural Research and Development
BrulPO	Brunei Darussalam Intellectual Property Office
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CGRFA	Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
CIMMYT	International Consortium for the Improvement of Maize
CIOPORA	International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Ornamental and Fruit Varieties
CIPO	Commerce and Intellectual Property Office (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)
CORAF (see also WECARD)	<i>Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour la Recherche et le Développement Agricoles</i>
CPVO	Community Plant Variety Office of the European Union
DanSeed	Danish Centre for Seed Science and Technology
DAR (see also MOALI) of Myanmar	Department of Agricultural Research of Myanmar
EAPVP Forum	East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum
EPO	European Patent Office
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GEVES (France)	<i>Groupe d'Étude et de contrôle des Variétés Et des Semences</i>
GNIS (France)	<i>Groupement National Interprofessionnel des Semences et plants</i>
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
IDB-REACH	Caribbean Regional Entrepreneurial Asset Commercialization Hub of the Inter-American Development Bank
IEPI	Ecuadorian Institute of Intellectual Property
INDECOPI	National Institute for the Defense of Free Competition and the Protection of Intellectual Property (Peru)
INIAF of Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	National Institute for Innovation in Agriculture, Livestock and Forestry of Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
IPAN	Intellectual Property Awareness Network
IP Key	IP Key is co-financed by the European Union and the European Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). It is implemented by EUIPO in cooperation with EPO.
IPO	Intellectual Property Office
ISF	International Seed Federation
ISRA	Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles
ISTA	International Seed Testing Association
ITC	International Trade Center
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
JATAFF	Japan Association for Techno-innovation in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
KSHS	Korean Society for Horticultural Science
KSVS	Korea Seed and Variety Service
MAFF of Japan	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan
MAGA of Guatemala	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala
MARD of Viet Nam	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam
MDRT of Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Ministry of Rural Development and Land of Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
MEA of Netherlands	Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
MIH of Cambodia	Ministry of Industry and Handicraft of Cambodia
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOALI of Myanmar	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation of Myanmar
Naktuinbouw	The Netherlands Inspection Service for Horticulture
NARO of Japan	National Agriculture and Food Research Organization
OAPI	African Intellectual Property Organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development
PIPRA	Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture
PRV (Sweden)	Swedish Patent and Registration Office
QUT of Australia	Queensland University of Technology of Australia
SAA	Seed Association of the Americas
SFA of China	State Forestry Administration of China
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SPCRI of Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Seed and Plant Certification and Registration Institute (SPCRI) of Iran (Islamic Republic of)
TRIPS	Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNIGE	University of Geneva
USPTO	United States Patent and Trademark Office
WECARD (see also CORAF)	West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development
WFO	World Farmers' Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WIPO IGC	WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore
WTO	World Trade Organization

ⁱ Definitions used in Website statistics in this report:

- "Users" are individuals who have had at least one session within the selected date range.
- A "session" is the period of time a user is actively engaged with your website. "Sessions" are the total number of sessions within the given date range.
- "Unique Pageviews" are the number of visits during which the specified page was viewed at least once.
- "Pageviews" are the total number of times that a page was viewed. Repeated views of a single page by the same user during the same session are counted.

[End of Appendix and of document]