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to be considered by correspondence

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR 2019*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 2019. Annex III to this document reports on the results achieved during 2019 according to the structure of the Program and Budget for the 2018-2019 Biennium (document C/51/4 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 situation in UPOV at the end of 2019***Composition of the Union***

3. As of December 31, 2019, the Union comprised 76 members (74 States and 2 organizations), covering 95 States. Fifty-nine members were bound by the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention and 17 members were bound by the 1978 Act. Details concerning the status of the members of the Union in relation to the Convention and its various Acts, as of December 31, 2019, are provided in Annex I.

Status of other States and organizations

4. In 2019, the Council took a positive decision on the conformity of four draft laws with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention, allowing, once the respective draft law is adopted with no changes and the law is in force, the deposit of the instrument of accession to the 1991 Act by the States concerned:

- (a) the "Plant Variety Protection Bill of Nigeria";
- (b) the "Plant Breeders' Protection Bill 2019 of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines";
- (c) the "Draft Law of Mongolia on Crop Seed and Variety"; and
- (d) the "Draft Plant Variety Protection Act of Afghanistan".

In 2019, the Council also noted the developments and reaffirmed its decision on conformity with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention in respect of the following laws:

- (i) Book Four "Plant Varieties" of Law Pertaining to the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights of Egypt, as last amended in 2019; and
- (ii) the New Plant Variety Protection Law of Myanmar, adopted by the Parliament on September 17, 2019 and published in the Official Gazette on September 24, 2019.

5. As of December 31, 2019, 19 States and one organization had initiated the procedure for acceding to the UPOV Convention.
6. As of December 31, 2019, 23 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.

Results and performance indicators for 2019 by Sub-program

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

7. In 2019, the Council approved the Draft Program and Budget for the 2020-2021 Biennium, including the amount of contributions from members of the Union, the maximum ceiling of expenditure in the regular budget and the total number of posts. In accordance with the aim of UPOV's Strategic Business Plan to diversify UPOV's revenue portfolio to maintain and enhance the sustainability of existing activities, the Council decided to introduce a UPOV PRISMA fee per application at 90 Swiss Francs, starting in January 2020 and to introduce a "freemium" approach for the PLUTO Plant Variety Database. The freemium approach for PLUTO would provide two options:

- (i) free option: the PLUTO database with a search function would be free to all users. Search results would be limited to an on-screen display of a single page of results. There would be no facility to download search results or data from the PLUTO database;
- (ii) premium option: users paying a fee would have access to all PLUTO database features and would be able to download data without restrictions. The fee would be CHF 750 per annum;

8. With regard to interrelations with other organizations, the Council agreed to invite the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) to become a full partner in the World Seed Partnership (WSP) and approved the draft joint paper "Benefits of the WSP for farmers". The Council further requested the Office of the Union to cooperate with FAO in relation to the request of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) to carry out, in coordination with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and in consultation with UPOV, in-depth case studies to consider the effects of seed policies, laws and regulations.

9. As a part of the Communication Strategy, the Council agreed a revised text of the FAQ "What are the benefits of new varieties of plants for society?".

10. As a part of the measures to enable the organization of a single set of sessions, the Council used, for the first time, a procedure by correspondence to take positive decisions on the conformity of the "Plant Variety Protection Bill of Nigeria" and the "Plant Breeders' Protection Bill 2019 of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines" with the 1991 Act of UPOV Convention.

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

11. The introduction of UPOV PRISMA in 2017 was a major development in facilitating applications for plant breeders' rights. By the end of 2019, 35 members of the Union, covering 74 States, were participating in UPOV PRISMA. Use of UPOV PRISMA continued to grow in 2019, with 214 applications made for PBR via UPOV PRISMA, compared to 77 in 2018 and 14 in 2017.

12. The effectiveness of the UPOV system is enhanced by the provision of guidance and information materials. In 2019, the "Seminar on the impact of policy on essentially derived varieties (EDVs) on breeding strategy", led the CAJ to agree to open up the "Explanatory Notes on Essentially Derived Varieties under the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention" (document UPOV/EXN/EDV/2). The CAJ is also working on the revision of the "Explanatory notes on variety denominations under the UPOV Convention", with a view to increasing harmonization in the examination of variety denominations.

13. Cooperation between members of the Union is a key benefit of UPOV membership. In 2019, the TC discussed technical concerns that can prevent cooperation in the examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability ("DUS") and agreed to invite the Office of the Union to develop a coherent plan, based on specified proposals, to address the concerns and to propose how to assess the impact of the plan. The TC also agreed to report to the CAJ the related policy or legal issues that can prevent cooperation in DUS examination.

14. The work of the Technical Working Parties (TWPs) and the Technical Committee (TC) on the development and revision of Test Guidelines (TG) continues to be a cornerstone for cooperation between members of the Union in DUS examination. At the same time, the harmonization provided by TG and the availability of TG data in 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. In 2019, the adopted Test Guidelines covered 94% of all PBR-related entries in the Plant Variety Database.

15. The UPOV Code System was developed to overcome the problem of synonyms for plant taxa and is essential for the functioning of UPOV PRISMA and the PLUTO database. However, the TC will now explore a new approach that would enable UPOV codes to provide additional information on variety groups or types for DUS testing purposes, while continuing to enable the UPOV code system to be based on taxonomic criteria.

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

16. The Office of the Union organized or participated in 115 missions/events in 2019, at which 115 States and 11 organizations were provided with information about the UPOV system. Assistance in the development of PVP legislation was provided to 18 States and six States requested the advice of the UPOV Council for the procedure to become a UPOV member. The UPOV distance learning courses had 634 participants from 89 States and two organizations.

17. Twenty-seven States (6 members of the Union and 21 non-members of the Union) contacted the Office of the Union for assistance in the development of legislation on plant variety protection. A total of 21 States (4 members of the Union and 17 non-members of the Union) were provided with comments on their laws. Three States initiated with the Council of UPOV the procedure for becoming members of the Union. The Council of UPOV provided a positive advice to six States on the conformity of their laws with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention. One member of the Union (Belgium) ratified the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention. One State (Egypt) became a member of the Union.

External Relations (Sub-Program UV.4)

18. A significant development in 2019 was the introduction of the @UPOVint and @vsgupov Twitter accounts, combined with the use of the UPOV LinkedIn account (including UPOV PRISMA Showcase page). From March 2019 to May 2020, UPOV posted more than 1,000 tweets and gained more than 1,000 followers on Twitter. During that same period, the combined UPOV Twitter accounts registered more than: 500,000 "impressions"; 10,000 "engagements"; 2,000 "likes" and 1,000 "retweets". The number of UPOV website visitors ("visits") and sessions since the launch of UPOV's social media accounts in March 2019, provides some evidence of a positive impact on outreach of the UPOV website, in addition to the additional direct outreach from social media postings.

19. In 2019, videos recorded by China: "Celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the accession of China to UPOV Convention" and Peru "The plant variety protection system: the benefits for the development of the rice sector in Peru" were published on the UPOV website.

20. As a part of the Communication Strategy, the Council agreed a revised text of the FAQ "What are the benefits of new varieties of plants for society?"

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

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I. COMPOSITION OF THE UNION

Members

22. As of December 31, 2019, the Union comprised 76 members (74 States and 2 organizations), covering 95 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, Egypt, 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, North Macedonia, 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, 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

23. On December 31, 2019, the situation of the members of the Union in relation to the Convention and its various Acts was as follows:

(a) 59 members were bound by the 1991 Act, namely: African Intellectual Property Organization, Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Oman, Panama, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, 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.

24. Annex I provides the status of the members of the Union in relation to the Convention and its various Acts, as of December 31, 2019.

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

25. 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.”

26. As reported in document [C/53/INF/3](#) “Report on activities during the first nine months of 2019”, paragraphs 19 and 20, the Council examined by correspondence the “Plant Variety Protection Bill of Nigeria” and the “Plant Breeders’ Protection Bill 2019 of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines”, and took positive decisions on August 21, 2019, on the conformity of these draft laws with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention, allowing, once their draft law is adopted with no changes and the law is in force, the deposit of the instrument of accession of Nigeria and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, respectively, to the 1991 Act.

27. By letter dated September 5, 2019, received on September 26, Mongolia requested the examination of its “Draft Law on Crop Seed and Variety” (“Draft Law”) for conformity with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention.

28. At its fifty-third ordinary session¹, the Council examined the conformity of the Draft Law of Mongolia with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention. The Council decided to:

“(a) take note of the analysis in document C/53/11;

“(b) take a positive decision on the conformity of the relevant parts of the Draft Law of Mongolia on Crop Seed and Variety (“Draft Law”) with the provisions of the 1991 Act of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, which would allow Mongolia once the relevant parts of the Draft Law were adopted with no changes and the Law in force, to deposit its instrument of accession to the 1991 Act; and

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

29. By letter dated September 25, 2019, Afghanistan requested the examination of its “Draft Plant Variety Protection Act” (“Draft Law”) for conformity with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention.

30. At its fifty-third ordinary session, the Council examined the conformity of the Draft Law of Afghanistan with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention. The Council decided to:

“(a) note the analysis in document C/53/12;

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

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

31. At the request of Egypt dated September 25, 2019, the Council, at its fifty-third ordinary session, considered developments concerning “Book Four ‘Plant Varieties’ of Law Pertaining to the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights of Egypt”, and reaffirmed its decision of 2015 on conformity with the 1991 Act with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention.

32. At the request of Myanmar dated September 28, 2019, the Council, at its fifty-third ordinary session, considered developments concerning the “New Plant Variety Protection Law” of Myanmar, and reaffirmed its decision of 2017 on conformity with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention.

II. SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Council

33. The Council held its fifty-third ordinary session on November 1, 2019, under the chairmanship of Mr. Raimundo Lavignolle (Argentina), President of the Council. The session was attended by 47 members of the Union, 7 observer States and 5 observer organizations. The report of that session is presented in document [C/53/15](#).

¹ held in Geneva on November 1, 2019.

34. A summary of the results achieved by the Council in 2019 is provided in Annex III to this document, under Sub-program UV.1: Overall Policy on Plant Variety Protection.

Consultative Committee

35. The Consultative Committee held its ninety-sixth session on October 31, 2019 and on the morning of November 1, 2019, under the chairmanship of Mr. Lavignolle. A report on the work of the ninety-sixth session is contained in document [C/53/9 Rev.](#)

36. A summary of the results achieved by the Consultative Committee in 2019 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

37. The CAJ held its seventy-sixth session on October 30, 2019, under the chairmanship of Mr. Anthony Parker (Canada). A report on the work of the seventy-sixth session of the CAJ is contained in document [CAJ/76/9.](#)

38. The TC held its fifty-fifth session on October 28 and 29, 2019. The TC-EDC held meetings on March 24 and 25, 2019, and October 25 and 26, 2019. The TWA held its forty-eighth session in Montevideo, Uruguay, from September 16 to 20, 2019. The TWC held its thirty-seventh session in Hangzhou, China, from October 14 to 16, 2019. The TWF held its fiftieth session in Budapest, Hungary, from June 24 to 28, 2019. The TWO held its fifty-first session in Christchurch, New Zealand, from February 18 to 22, 2019. The TWV held its fifty-third session in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from May 20 to 24, 2019. The BMT held its eighteenth session in Hangzhou, China, from October 16 to 18, 2019. A report on the work of the fifty-fifth session of the TC, including a progress report on the work of the TWP's and the BMT, is contained in document [TC/55/25 Corr.](#)

39. Further information on the work of the CAJ, TC and TWP's is contained in document C/54/7 "Approval of work programs for the Administrative and Legal Committee, the Technical Committee and the Technical Working Parties".

40. A summary of the results achieved by the CAJ, TC and TWP's in 2019 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

41. A detailed report on the activities of the Office from January 1 to September 30, 2019 is available in document [C/53/INF/3](#) "Report on activities during the first nine months of 2019", paragraphs 32 to 133. 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.

42. A list of missions by the Office in 2019 is available in Annex II to this document.

43. The following paragraphs report on activities from October 1 to December 31, 2019.

44. On October 1, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Mr. Ivo Gagliuffi, President, INDECOPI, Peru, and discussed developments in Peru.

45. On October 1, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Ms. Lekeicha Caesar-Toney, Registrar, Commerce and Intellectual Property Office (CIPO), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and discussed the procedure to become a member of UPOV.

* Missions relate to events held outside UPOV headquarters.

46. On October 1, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Mr. Regan Asgarali, Controller, Intellectual Property Office, Trinidad and Tobago, and discussed developments in Trinidad and Tobago.
47. On October 2, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Mr. Emmanuel Sackey, Intellectual Property Development Executive, ARIPO, and discussed cooperation between ARIPO and UPOV.
48. On October 3, in Geneva, the Office met with a delegation from the Lao People's Democratic Republic, comprising Ms. Khanlasy Keobounphanh, Director General, and Ms. Sida Youtrichanthachak, Deputy Director General, Department of Intellectual Property, Ministry of Science and Technology, and discussed developments in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.
49. On October 4, in Geneva, the Office met with a delegation from OAPI, comprising Mr. Denis Bohoussou, Director General; Ms Eliane Posso, Director of Prospective and Cooperation; Mr. Maurice Batanga, Director of Legal Affairs; Mr. Issoufou Kabore, Director of Trademarks and other Distinctive Signs; and Ms. Marie Pascale Nkoume, in charge of Communication and Protocol, and discussed cooperation between OAPI and UPOV.
50. On October 7, the Office of the Union met with a delegation from Malawi, comprising Mr. Chikumbutso Namelo, Registrar General, and Mr. Chifwayi Chirambo, Chief Assistant Registrar General, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, to discuss cooperation between Malawi and UPOV.
51. On October 7, in Geneva, the Office met with a delegation from New Zealand, comprising: Mr. Ross van der Schyff, Commissioner of Trade Marks, Patents, Designs and Plant Variety Rights; Mr. Simon Gallagher, National Manager, Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand; and Ms Susan Hall, Manager Business Law, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and discussed plant variety protection developments in New Zealand. On October 9, the Office received a further visit by Mr. Gallagher, to discuss plant variety protection developments in New Zealand.
52. On October 8, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Mr. Santiago Cevallos Mena, Executive Director of SENADI (Servicio Nacional de Derechos Intelectuales), Ecuador, who was accompanied by Ms. Heidi Váscones, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of Ecuador, and discussed developments in Ecuador.
53. On October 9, in Geneva, at the fringes of a WFO Board Meeting, the Office met with representatives from WFO and ISF to discuss cooperation between WFO and UPOV, including the World Seed Partnership.
54. On October 11, in Geneva, the Office participated in an electronic meeting via the Internet with representatives of the World Seed Partnership (WSP) Steering Committee (OECD, UPOV, ISTA, ISF and WFO) to discuss progress on the WSP. Further electronic meetings took place on November 4 and on December 16.
55. From October 13 to 15, in Stockholm, Sweden, the Office participated in the Euroseeds Congress 2019.
56. On October 15, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Egypt, and discussed the procedure of depositing the instrument of accession of Egypt to the UPOV Convention.
57. From October 16 to 18, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in the scope of the project "Renforcement et promotion du système de protection des obtentions végétales (Projet PPOV)", financed by the European Commission and managed by OAPI, the Office participated in a National Seminar on plant variety protection, organized by OAPI and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Handicrafts (MCIH) of Burkina Faso. The Office provided lectures on "The UPOV Convention and the impact of an effective PVP system on the seed and agricultural sector" and "The role of UPOV in the PVP system".
58. On October 17, at WTO headquarters in Geneva, the Office attended relevant parts of the meeting of the Council for TRIPS.
59. On October 19, in Beijing, China, the Office made presentations on latest developments in UPOV and benefits of the UPOV system of plant variety protection at the International Training Course on Plant Variety Protection, organized by the DCST and MARA of China.
60. From October 21 to 23, in Bamako, Mali, in the scope of the project "Renforcement et promotion du système de protection des obtentions végétales (Projet PPOV)", financed by the European Commission and managed by OAPI, the Office participated in a National Seminar on plant variety protection, organized by OAPI and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MIC) of Mali. The Office provided lectures on

“The UPOV Convention and the impact of an effective PVP system on the seed and agricultural sector” and “The role of UPOV in the PVP system”.

61. On October 22, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Ms. Alina Brunhart, Diplomatic Officer, Division for Economic Affairs and Development, Office for Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein, and discussed developments in Liechtenstein and the procedure to become a member of UPOV.

62. On October 25, in Geneva, the Office made a presentation, via video conference, on “Plant Variety Protection and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)” to participants of the 2019 Edition of the Master’s Degree in Intellectual Property with specialization in Design (MIP in Design), organized by WIPO and Tongji University. The video conference was joined by 45 participants from: Algeria, Cameroon, China, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liberia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe.

63. On October 25, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Mr. Shoaib Timory, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Afghanistan, and discussed the procedure to become a member of UPOV.

64. On October 27, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Ms. Olga Lesnykh, Executive Chairman, State Commission of the Russian Federation for Selection Achievements Test and Protection, and discussed the program of the use of the Russian language in UPOV.

65. On October 28, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Hamdan Al Dhanhani, Director, Agriculture Development and Health Department, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates, and discussed developments in the United Arab Emirates and the procedure to become a member of UPOV.

66. On October 29, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Mr. Esteban Santamaría, External consultant specialized in intellectual property and creative economy at the Inter-American Development Bank, and discussed a research project on gender matters concerning PBR applicants in Mexico.

67. On October 30, in Geneva, the Office organized a “Seminar on the impact of policy on essentially derived varieties (EDVs) on breeding strategy (EDV Seminar)”, which was attended by 141 participants, six speakers and two moderators.

68. On November 6, in Geneva, the Office met with a delegation from Cameroon, comprising Ms. Nadine Yolande Djuissi Seutchueng, *Chef, Cellule de l’Expertise, des Procédures d’Innovation et de la Réglementation*, Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI), and Mr. Hervice Kamsu Meliphe, *Sous-Directeur du Développement Technologique*, Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development (MINMIDT)) and explained the procedure to become a member of UPOV.

69. On November 6, in Geneva, the Office held a videoconference with Ms. Sara Quinteros Malpartida, *Coordinadora de Conocimientos Colectivos y Variedades Vegetales*, Directory of Inventions and New Technologies, INDECOPI of Peru, and discussed developments in Peru.

70. On November 8, in Geneva, the Office participated in a videoconference with EUIPO, CPVO and CARICOM representatives to discuss possible cooperation activities in the Caribbean region.

71. From November 10 to 16, in Rome, Italy, the Office attended the Eighth Session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA.

72. From November 13 to 15, in Lima, Peru, the Office participated in an “Regional Workshop on Examination of Plant Variety Protection Applications”, jointly organized by IP Key LA, INDECOPI of Peru, CPVO and UPOV. Presentations were provided on the use of UPOV PRISMA, UPOV databases (PLUTO and GENIE), Test Guidelines, novelty, variety denominations, DUS examination and cooperation, and molecular techniques. The participants were from Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Uruguay.

73. From November 20 to 22, in Monrovia, Liberia, the Office attended part of the Forty-third session of ARIPO’s Administrative Council held from November 18 to 20, 2019, and the seventeenth session of ARIPO’s Council of Ministers, held on November 21, 2019. On November 20, the Office also attended a “Workshop on the Design and Implementation of Intellectual Property Policies and Strategies as a Tool for National Development” organized by ARIPO. The participants at the above sessions and workshop were from the

following ARIPO Member States: Botswana, Eswatini, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. There were also observers from Burundi and Seychelles. Representatives from the following organizations also participated: EPO, WIPO, AFSTA, Canadian Intellectual Property Office, China National Intellectual Property Administration, Intellectual Property Office of Singapore, and Kenya Industrial Property Tribunal.

74. On November 19, in Geneva, the Vice Secretary-General recorded a video interview for the opening of the International Seed Training Center, at the invitation of the Korea Seed and Variety Service (KSVS), Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) of the Republic of Korea.

75. On November 21, in Da Lat, Viet Nam, the Office made a presentation on developments in UPOV at a "Seminar on Awareness for Plant Variety Protection for the relevant persons in High Central Land", organized by the Plant variety protection, Department of Crop Production, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) of Viet Nam.

76. On November 22, in Montreal, Canada, the Office attended a meeting with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) to discuss how to facilitate the exchanges of experiences and information on the implementation of the UPOV Convention, the CBD and the ITPGRFA.

77. From November 25 to 27, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the Office attended the APSA Asian Seed Congress 2019, where it made presentations on latest developments in UPOV.

78. On November 26, in Ankara, Turkey, the Office participated in a workshop on "Introduction to UPOV and UPOV PRISMA" organized by the Variety Registration and Seed Certification Center (TTSM), Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey, and made a presentation on "UPOV and plant variety protection" and "UPOV PRISMA".

79. On November 26, in Ankara, Turkey, the Office met with Mr. Ali Erden, Manager, Variety Registration and Seed Certification Center (TTSM), Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey, and Mr. Mehmet Çakmak, PBR Registrar, TTSM, to discuss cooperation between UPOV and Turkey.

80. From November 26 to 28, in Angers, France, the Office participated in a CPVO Communication Seminar and met with Mr. Lionel Sola, Communications Manager.

81. On November 27, in Geneva, the Office made a presentation on "Intellectual Property Rights for a Sustainable Productive Agriculture and Food Security: Overview of the Importance and Impact of Plant Variety Protection with Specific Reference to Africa" to Professor Barthelemy Nyasse and Professor Balkiss Bouhaouala-Zahar, members of the Governing Council of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), during their study visit to WIPO.

82. On November 28, in Madrid, Spain, the Office made a presentation on UPOV guidance for the use of molecular markers in DUS examination, in a seminar organized by the National Institute for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (INIA).

83. On November 29, in Geneva, the Office made a presentation, via videoconference, on plant variety protection under the UPOV Convention at the "Train the trainer's course of the Costa Rican Academy of Intellectual Property (ACOPI)." The course was attended by 29 experts from Costa Rica.

84. On November 29, in Amsterdam, Netherlands, at the Ninth International Conference on Intellectual Property Protection for Plant Innovation, organized by FORUM Institut für Management GmbH, the Office made a presentation titled "UPOV update" and participated in the "Plant Variety Protection FORUM" panel discussion Q&A.

85. On November 30, in Antalya, Turkey, the Office attended the Seventh ECOSA Regional Seed Trade Congress, organized by the Turkish Seed Union (TURKTOB) and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey, and made a presentation on UPOV and plant variety protection.

86. On December 3 and 4, in Angers, France, the Office attended the Annual Meeting between the CPVO and its Examination Offices.

87. On December 4, in Amsterdam, Netherlands, the Office participated in a meeting organized by Naktuinbouw with a high-level delegation from Nigeria visiting the Netherlands, the aim of which was to exchange knowledge and experiences between experts of Nigeria and the Netherlands on plant variety protection and to develop a roadmap to the implementation of a plant variety protection system in Nigeria. The Office presented an overview of UPOV.

88. On December 12, in N'Djamena, Chad, the Office attended the 59th session of OAPI Administrative Council.

89. On December 12, in Nyon, Switzerland, the Office met with ISF and discussed cooperation between ISF and UPOV.

90. On December 17 and 18, in Angers, France, the Office participated in a workshop with OAPI and CPVO to discuss a PVP office administration tool as part of Activity 3 of the project with the European Commission "Building capacity and raising awareness of the OAPI PVP System".

91. This report does not contain information on meetings concerning the development of UPOV PRISMA that were held in Geneva or via electronic means.

Distance Learning Courses

92. Two sessions of each of the following UPOV Distance Learning Courses were held in English, French, German and Spanish from March 4 to April 7, 2019, and from October 14 to November 17, 2019:

- 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)".

93. 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

94. The Office provided assistance on plant variety protection legislation to the following members: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Georgia, Mexico, New Zealand, Paraguay and Trinidad and Tobago.

95. 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: Colombia and Mexico.

96. 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, Algeria, Cambodia, Egypt, Jamaica, Iraq, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United Arab Emirates, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

97. The Office participated in meetings of, or had meetings with, the following intergovernmental organizations: ARIPO, CBD, European Union (CPVO and EUIPO), ITPGRFA, ISTA, OAPI, OECD, WIPO, and WTO.

98. The Office participated in events organized by the following non-governmental organizations: AFSTA, APSA, CIOPORA, CLI, Euroseeds, ISF, SAA and WFO.

V. PUBLICATIONS

99. The Office published:

(a) 107 updates of the PLUTO Plant Variety Database;

(b) seven documents adopted by the Council at its fifty-fourth ordinary session, held on November 1, 2019:

TGP/7	Development of Test Guidelines (Revision)
TGP/8	Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (Revision)
TGP/10	Examining Uniformity (Revision)
TGP/14	Glossary of Terms Used in UPOV Documents (Revision)
TGP/15	Guidance on the Use of Biochemical and Molecular Markers in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) (Revision)
UPOV/INF/5	UPOV Model Plant Breeders' Rights Publication (Revision)
UPOV/INF/22	Software and Equipment Used by Members of the Union (Revision)

100. The following Test Guidelines were adopted by the TC in 2019, either by correspondence or at its fifty-fifth session held on October 28 and 29, 2019:

**	TWP	Document No. No. du document Dokument-Nr. No del documento	English	Français	Deutsch	Español	Botanical name Nom botanique Botanischer Name Nombre botánico
<u>NEW TEST GUIDELINES / NOUVEAUX PRINCIPES DIRECTEURS D'EXAMEN / NEUE PRÜFUNGSRICHTLINIEN / NUEVAS DIRECTRICES DE EXAMEN</u>							
JP	TWO	TG/331/1	Calendula	Calendula	Ringelblume	Caléndul	Calendula L.
ES	TWF	TG/332/1	Black Walnut	Noyer noir	Schwarznuß	Nogal negro	Juglans hindsii (Jeps.) R. E. Sm.; J. hindsii x J. regia; J. major (Torr.) A. Heller; J. major x J. regia; J. nigra L.; J. nigra x J. regia L.
ZA	TWO	TG/333/1	Gazania	Gazania	Gazania	Gazania	Gazania Gaertn.
<u>REVISIONS OF ADOPTED TEST GUIDELINES / RÉVISIONS DE PRINCIPES DIRECTEURS D'EXAMEN ADOPTÉS / REVISIONEN ANGENOMMENER PRÜFUNGSRICHTLINIEN / REVISIONES DE DIRECTRICES DE EXAMEN ADOPTADAS</u>							
NL	TWO	TG/29/8	Alstroemeria	Alstroemère	Inkalilie	Alstroemeria	Alstroemeria L.
FR	TWV	TG/106/5	Leaf beet, Swiss chard	Poirée, Bette à cardes	Mangold	Acelga	Beta vulgaris L. ssp. vulgaris var. flavescens DC.
AU	TWF	TG/111/4	Macadamia	Macadamia	Macadamia	Macadamia	Macadamia integrifolia Maiden et Betche; Macadamia tetraphylla L. Johns.

**	TWP	Document No. No. du document Dokument-Nr. No del documento	English	Français	Deutsch	Español	Botanical name Nom botanique Botanischer Name Nombre botánico
AU	TWF	TG/137/5	Blueberry	Myrtille	Heidelbeere	Arándano americano	Vaccinium angustifolium x V. myrsinites x V. corymbosum; V. angustifolium Aiton; Hybrids between V. corymbosum and V. angustifolium; V. corymbosum x V. angustifolium x V. virgatum; V. corymbosum L.; V. formosum Andrews; V. myrtilloides Michx.; V. myrtilus L.; V. simulatum Small; V. virgatum Aiton
AU	TWO	TG/175/4	Kangaroo Paw	Anigozanthos	Känguruhblume	Anigozanthos	Anigozanthos Labill., Macropidia fuliginosa (Hook.) Druce
NL	TWV	TG/183/4	Fennel	Fenouil	Fenchel	Hinojo	Foeniculum vulgare Mill.
PARTIAL REVISIONS OF ADOPTED TEST GUIDELINES / RÉVISIONS PARTIELLES DE PRINCIPES DIRECTEURS D'EXAMEN ADOPTÉS / TEILREVISIONEN ANGENOMMENER PRÜFUNGSRICHTLINIEN / REVISIONES PARCIALES DE DIRECTRICES DE EXAMEN ADOPTADAS							
FR	TWV	TG/7/10 Rev.2	Pea	Pois	Erbse	Guisante, Arveja	Pisum sativum L., Pisum arvense L.
NL	TWV	TG/13/11 Rev.	Lettuce	Laitue	Salat	Lechuga	Lactuca sativa L.
NL	TWV	TG/44/11 Rev.3	Tomato	Tomato	Tomato	Tomato	Solanum lycopersicum L.
NL	TWV	TG/55/7 Rev.6	Spinach	Épinard	Spinat	Espinaca	Spinacia oleracea L.
ES	TWF	TG/56/4 Corr. Rev.	Almond	Amandier	Mandel	Almendro	Prunus dulcis (Mill.) D.A.Webb, Prunus amygdalus (L.)
NZ	TWF	TG/98/7 Rev.	Actinidia, Kiwifruit	Actinidia	Actinidia	Actinidia	Actinidia Lindl.
FR	TWF	TG/104/5 Rev.2	Melon	Melon	Melone	Melón	Cucumis melo L.
NL	TWV	TG/142/5 Rev.	Watermelon	Pastèque	Wassermelone	Sandía	Citrullus lanatus (Thunb.) Matsum. et Nakai
ES	TWF	TG/202/1 Rev.2	Oranges	Oranger	Orangen	Naranja	Citrusaurantium L., Citrus sinensis (L.) Osbeck
ES	TWF	TG/204/1 Rev.2	Grapefruit and Pummelo	Pomelo et Pamplemoussier	Grapefruit und Pampelmuse	Pomelo y Pummelo	Citrus x paradisi Macfad.
NL	TWO	TG/213/2 Rev.	Phalaenopsis	Phalaenopsis	Phalaenopsis	Phalaenopsis	Phalaenopsis Blume
NL	TWV	TG/294/1 Corr. Rev.3	Tomato Rootstocks	Porte-greffe de tomate	Tomatenunterlagen	Portainjertos de tomate	Solanum lycopersicum L. x S. cheesmaniae (L. Ridley) Fosberg, S. lycopersicum L. x S. peruvianum (L.) Mill., S. pimpinellifolium L. x S. habrochaites S. Knapp & D.M. Spooner, Solanum habrochaites S. Knapp & D.M. Spooner, S. lycopersicum L. var. lycopersicum x S. habrochaites S. Knapp & D.M. Spooner
BR	TWF	TG/314/1 Rev.	Coconut	Cocotier	Kokosnuß	Cocotero	Cocos nucifera L.

101. The Council is invited to note this report.

[Annexes follow]

ANNEX I

MEMBERS OF THE UNION

December 31, 2019

This document provides the status of the members of the Union in relation to the Convention and its various Acts, as of December 31, 2019 (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 - May 2, 2019	December 5, 1976 February 11, 1977 - June 2, 2019
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 -
Egypt	- - - -	- - - November 1, 2019	- - - December 1, 2019

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
Estonia	- - - -	- - - August 24, 2000	- - - September 24, 2000
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

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Member	Date of signature	Date of deposit of instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession	Date of entry into force
Kenya	- - - -	- - April 13, 1999 April 11, 2016	- - May 13, 1999 May 11, 2016
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 -
North Macedonia	- - -	- - - April 4, 2011	- - - May 4, 2011
Norway	- - - -	- - August 13, 1993 -	- - September 13, 1993 -
Oman	- - - -	- - - October 22, 2009	- - - November 22, 2009

Member	Date of signature	Date of deposit of instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession	Date of entry into force
Panama	- - - -	- - April 23, 1999 October 22, 2012	- - May 23, 1999 November 22, 2012
Paraguay	- - -	- - January 8, 1997 -	- - February 8, 1997 -
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

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
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
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
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

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Member	Date of signature	Date of deposit of instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession	Date of entry into force
Viet Nam	- - - -	- - - November 24, 2006	- - - December 24, 2006

Total: 76 members

[Annex II follows]

ANNEX II

LIST OF MISSIONS* AND ACTIVITIES, AND CONTRIBUTION TO PERFORMANCE INDICATORS IN 2019

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

UV.3 – 1(a) States and organizations provided with information at UPOV activities
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) Courses featuring the UPOV system of plant variety protection
UV.3 – 4(h) Implementation of projects with partner organizations and donors
UV.4 – 2(c) Participation by stakeholders in seminars and symposia
UV.4 – 2(d) 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(c)	UV.4 2(d)	UV.4 3(a)
1	14/01/19	14/01/19	Advanced Masters on Intellectual Property Law and Knowledge Management	Maastricht	Netherlands	Huerta		University of Maastricht		1					1					
2	16/01/19	17/01/19	Meeting with OAPI and IP Master's Program Ceremony	Yaoundé	Cameroon	Button, Rivoire		OAPI							1	1				1
3	22/01/19	22/01/19	Meeting with EUIPO and CPVO to discuss areas of cooperation	Alicante	Spain	Button	X	EUIPO, CPVO, UPOV							1					
4	23/01/19	23/01/19	Twentieth EIPIN Congress on Intellectual Property and Innovation	Alicante	Spain	Button		EIPIN		1					1					
5	23/01/19	23/01/19	Study visit to WIPO by a Switzerland, Belgium and Netherlands (SBN) research delegation from the Tsinghua University of China	Geneva	Switzerland	Huerta, Han		WIPO, Tsinghua University of China		1										
6	28/01/19	30/01/19	Workshop on drafting legislation in accordance with the UPOV Convention	Geneva (UPOV HQ)	Switzerland	Button, Huerta, Rivoire, Taveira, Motomura, Han	X	UPOV	1	1	1									
7	17/02/19	17/02/19	TWO/51 Preparatory Workshop	Christchurch	New Zealand	Taveira, Oertel	X	UPOV					1							
8	18/02/19	22/02/19	Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO/51)	Christchurch	New Zealand	Taveira, Oertel	X	UPOV						1						
9	13/02/19	13/02/19	Meeting of the Council for TRIPS	Geneva	Switzerland	Huerta		WTO												1
10	18/02/19	22/02/19	17th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	Rome	Italy	Motomura		CGRFA												1
11	26/02/19	27/02/19	Second EAPVP Pilot Project Meeting	Vung Tau	Viet Nam	Button, Motomura	X	EAPVP Forum							1		1			
12	01/03/19	01/03/19	Meeting with the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore	Singapore	Singapore	Button	X	IPOS, UPOV	1											
13	01/03/19	01/03/19	Seminar on Plant Variety Protection	Can Tho	Viet Nam	Motomura	X	PVP Office of Viet Nam	1	1			1					1		
14	03/03/19	07/03/19	Nineteenth AFSTA Annual Congress	Mombasa	Kenya	Rivoire		AFSTA												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(c)	UV.4 2(d)	UV.4 3(a)
75	16/09/19	20/09/19	Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA/48)	Montevideo	Uruguay	Taveira, Oertel	X	UPOV						1						
76	17/09/19	17/09/19	CIOPORA Board Meeting	Frankfurt	Germany	Button		CIOPORA											1	
77	18/09/19	18/09/19	Legal consultation in the SNICS	Mexico city	Mexico	Huerta	X	SNICS of Mexico			1									
78	19/09/19	19/09/19	Seminar on breeders' rights	Mexico city	Mexico	Huerta	X	SNICS of Mexico	1	1			1						1	
79	19/09/19	19/09/19	CPVO Administrative Council meeting	Brussels	Belgium	Button		CPVO												1
80	23/09/19	27/09/19	OAPI training course on plant variety protection	Lomé	Togo	Rivoire	X	OAPI		1			1					1		
81	23/09/19	27/09/19	IP Kea SEA "Study Visit on Plant Variety Protection and UPOV 1991"	Angers, The Hague, Bleiswijk, De Lier, Brussels	France, Netherlands, Belgium	Button, Motomura		IP Key SEA		1								1		
82	13/10/19	15/10/19	Euroseeds Congress 2019	Stockholm	Sweden	Button		Euroseeds											1	
83	14/10/19	16/10/19	Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC/37)	Hangzhou	China	Taveira, Motomura, Wen, Tran	X	UPOV						1						
84	16/10/19	18/10/19	Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques and DNA-Profiling in Particular (BMT/18)	Hangzhou	China	Taveira, Motomura, Wen, Tran	X	UPOV						1						
85	16/10/19	18/10/19	OAPI Training course on plant variety protection	Ouagadougou	Burkina Faso	Rivoire		OAPI, MCIH of Burkina Faso		1			1					1		
86	19/10/19	19/10/19	International Training Course on Plant Variety Protection	Beijing	China	Motomura		DCST, MARA of China		1			1					1		
87	21/10/19	23/10/19	OAPI Training course on plant variety protection	Bamako	Mali	Rivoire		OAPI, MIC of Mali		1			1					1		
88	25/10/19	25/10/19	WIPO/Tongji University Master's Degree in Intellectual Property with specialization in Design (MIP in Design)	Shanghai	China	Huerta, Motomura, Wen (via videoconference from Geneva)		WIPO, Tongji University		1						1				
89	27/10/19	28/10/19	Meeting of the Enlarged Editorial Committee (TC-EDC/OCT19)	Geneva (UPOV HQ) (UPOV body)	Switzerland		X	UPOV												
90	28/10/19	29/10/19	Technical Committee (TC/55)	Geneva (UPOV HQ) (UPOV body)	Switzerland		X	UPOV						1						
91	28/10/19	28/10/19	Meeting on the Development of an Electronic Application Form (UPOV/EAF/14)	Geneva (UPOV HQ) (UPOV body)	Switzerland		X	UPOV						1						
92	29/10/19	29/10/19	Working Group on Variety Denominations (UPOV/WG-DEN/5)	Geneva (UPOV HQ) (UPOV body)	Switzerland		X	UPOV						1						
93	30/10/19	30/10/19	Seminar on the impact of policy on essentially derived varieties (EDVs) on breeding strategy" (EDV Seminar)	Geneva (UPOV HQ)	Switzerland		X	UPOV	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(c)	UV.4 2(d)	UV.4 3(a)	
112	04/12/19	04/12/19	Meeting with a high level delegation from Nigeria, visiting the Netherlands	Amsterdam	Netherlands	Button	X	Netherlands, CPVO, UPOV		1										1	
113	12/12/19	12/12/19	59th session of OAPI Administrative Council	N'Djamena	Chad	Rivoire		OAPI													1
114	12/12/19	12/12/19	Meeting with ISF	Nyon	Switzerland	Button	X	UPOV, ISF													1
115	18/12/19	18/12/19	Meeting with CPVO	Angers	France	Madhour	X	UPOV, CPVO													1
Total									14	44	7	0	24	12	12	14	4	17	24	22	

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INTRODUCTION

1. This report summarizes achievements during 2019. The report is structured to follow the 2018-2019 Program and Budget (document C/51/4 Rev.), as adopted by the Council at its fifty-first ordinary session, held in Geneva on October 26, 2017.
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.

The Council approved the Draft Program and Budget for the 2020-2021 Biennium, including the amount of contributions from members of the Union, the maximum ceiling of expenditure in the regular budget and the total number of posts. In accordance with the aim of UPOV's Strategic Business Plan to diversify UPOV's revenue portfolio to maintain and enhance the sustainability of existing activities (see 1 (a) below), the Council decided to introduce a UPOV PRISMA fee per application at 90 Swiss Francs, starting in January 2020 and to introduce a "freemium" approach for the PLUTO Plant Variety Database. The freemium approach for PLUTO would provide two options:

- (i) free option: the PLUTO database with a search function would be free to all users. Search results would be limited to an on-screen display of a single page of results. There would be no facility to download search results or data from the PLUTO database;
- (ii) premium option: users paying a fee would have access to all PLUTO database features and would be able to download data without restrictions. The fee would be CHF 750 per annum;

With regard to interrelations with other organizations, the Council agreed to invite the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) to become a full partner in the World Seed Partnership (WSP) and approved the draft joint paper "Benefits of the WSP for farmers". The Council further requested the Office of the Union to cooperate with FAO in relation to the request of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) to carry out, in coordination with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and in consultation with UPOV, in-depth case studies to consider the effects of seed policies, laws and regulations.

As a part of the Communication Strategy, the Council agreed a revised text of the FAQ "What are the benefits of new varieties of plants for society?".

As a part of the measures to enable the organization of a single set of sessions, the Council used, for the first time, a procedure by correspondence to take positive decisions on the conformity of the "Plant Variety Protection Bill of Nigeria" and the "Plant Breeders' Protection Bill 2019 of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines" with the 1991 Act of UPOV Convention.

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

1. Identify and implement the strategic goals and objectives of UPOV

(a) Establishment of Strategic Business Plan

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Internal Oversight Division (IOD) "Evaluation of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)" recommended that the Union develop a Strategic Business Plan to diversify its revenue portfolio to maintain and enhance the sustainability of existing activities. The Consultative Committee, at its ninety-fourth session, held in Geneva on October 25, 2017, approved a Strategic Business Plan. On the basis of the findings in the IOD Evaluation of UPOV and discussions that took place within UPOV, the Strategic Business Plan identified opportunities for improvement and associated risks, from which 10 specific targets were identified for improvement. The Strategic Business Plan also contains a Resourcing Plan in order to achieve those 10 targets.

The 10 targets were grouped according to UPOV Sub-programs: Services to the Union for Enhancing the Effectiveness of the UPOV System (Sub-program UV.2); Assistance in the Introduction and Implementation of the UPOV System (Sub-program UV.3); External Relations (Sub-program UV.4). A report on progress in 2019 concerning the 10 specific targets identified for improvement was made in document CC/96/3 "Strategic Business Plan" and document CC/96/3 Add., and progress is also reflected in the report under each Sub-program in this report.

2. Organization of Council and Consultative Committee sessions

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

Council

Fifty-third ordinary session:

112 participants representing 47 members of the Union, 7 observer States and 5 observer organizations

Consultative Committee

Ninety-sixth session:

85 participants representing 45 members of the Union

3. 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 document C/53/15 "Report", paragraphs 41 to 46.

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

The Council elected, in each case for a term of three years ending with the fifty-sixth ordinary session of the Council, in 2022:

- Mr. Marien Valstar (Netherlands), President of the Council
- Mr. Yehan Cui (China), Vice-President of the Council
- Mr. Patrick Ngwediagi (United Republic of Tanzania), Chair of the Administrative and Legal Committee
- Mr. Manuel Antonio Toro Ugalde (Chile), Vice-Chair of the Administrative and Legal Committee
- Mr. Nik Hulse (Australia), Chair of the Technical Committee
- Ms. Beate Rücker (Germany), Vice-Chair of the Technical Committee

(c) Approve the annual calendars of meetings

Achieved.

See document C/53/15 "Report", paragraphs 45 and 46.

4. Coordination, monitoring and performance assessment of Program and Budget for the 2018-2019 Biennium

(a) Delivery of program within budget for the 2018-2019 Biennium

Achieved.

See document C/54/4 "Financial Management Report for the 2018-2019 Biennium"

(b) Approve the financial statements

See document C/54/5 "Financial statements for 2019"

(c) Approve the financial management report

See document C/54/4 "Financial Management Report for the 2018-2019 Biennium"

5. Preparation and adoption of the Program and Budget for the 2020-2021 Biennium

(a) Preparation and adoption of the Program and Budget for the 2020-2021 Biennium in accordance with the "Financial Regulations and Rules of UPOV"

See document C/53/15 "Report", paragraph 39.

6. 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 the recommendation by the Consultative Committee, the Council, at its fifty-third ordinary session, held in Geneva on November 1, 2019, or by correspondence (as indicated):

- took a positive decision on the conformity of the “Plant Variety Protection Bill of Nigeria” (by correspondence)
- took a positive decision on the conformity of the “Plant Breeders’ Protection Bill 2019 of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines” (by correspondence)
- took a positive decision on the conformity of the relevant parts of the “Draft Law of Mongolia on Crop Seed and Variety”;
- took a positive decision on the conformity of the “Draft Plant Variety Protection Act of Afghanistan”;
- agreed that the changes introduced in Book Four “Plant Varieties” of Law Pertaining to the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights”, as last amended in 2019, did not affect the substantive provisions of the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention and reaffirmed its decision on conformity of March 27, 2015;
- agreed that the changes introduced in the New Plant Variety Protection Law of Myanmar, which had been adopted by the Parliament on September 17, 2019, and published in the Official Gazette on September 24, 2019, did not affect the substantive provisions of the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention and reaffirmed its decision on conformity of October 26, 2017.

7. Review of developments concerning applications and grants of plant breeders’ rights

(a) Number of applications for plant breeders’ rights

20,031 applications filed in members of the Union in 2018 (18,303 in 2017; 16,193 in 2016)
(see document [C/53/INF/7](#))

(b) Number of titles granted

13,288 titles issued by members of the Union in 2018 (12,685 in 2017; 12,304 in 2016)
(see document [C/53/INF/7](#))

(c) Number of titles in force

132,403 titles in force in members of the Union in 2018 (123,742 in 2017; 112,530 in 2016)
(see document [C/53/INF/7](#))

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

At the end of 2019, a total of:

64 members of the Union offered protection for all genera and species (64 in 2018 and 63 in 2017),
6 members of the Union offered protection for a limited number of plant genera and species (6 in 2018 and 7 in 2017) and
6 members of the Union had not notified the extension of protection to all genera and species

(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):

- 4,110 genera and species in August 2019 (4,341 taxa including subspecies)
- (3,790 genera and species in August 2018 (3,955 taxa including subspecies))
- (3,628 genera and species in August 2017 (3,771 taxa including subspecies))

(f) Analysis by crop type

Data from PLUTO database

Applications filed by crop type:

Year	Crop type				
	Agriculture	Forest trees	Fruit	Ornamental	Vegetables
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%
2018	35%	0.5%	12%	33%	20%
2019	34.2%	0.6%	9.6%	36.8%	18.6%

Titles issued by crop type:

Year	Crop type				
	Agriculture	Forest trees	Fruit	Ornamental	Vegetables
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%
2018	27%	0.5%	11%	43%	18%
2019	34.3%	0.4%	9.1%	37.6%	17.7%

See also "PLUTO database coverage" under Sub-Program UV.2, performance indicator 5 "Cooperation in examination of variety denominations"

8. Facilitating applications through UPOV PRISMA (formerly known as the UPOV Electronic Application Form (EAF) tool)

(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-third ordinary session, held in Geneva on November 1, 2019, decided:

- to continue to make the GENIE database available without charge to users on the basis that a new feature in UPOV PRISMA based on cooperation in DUS examination information contained in the GENIE database, would be captured in the UPOV PRISMA fee, as appropriate;
- to introduce a UPOV PRISMA fee per application at 90 Swiss Francs, starting in January 2020, subject to resolution of the technical issues and improvements being made to the user experience, before a fee was introduced, as presented in document C/53/9 Rev. It further agreed that, where the same variety was submitted for both plant breeders' rights and national listing in the same participating member of the Union, a single fee would be charged at the time of the first submission for the variety.

(c) Number of UPOV members participating in UPOV PRISMA

At the end of 2019, 35 members of the Union, covering 74 States, were participating in UPOV PRISMA.

(d) Number of crops/species covered by UPOV PRISMA

At the end of 2019, UPOV PRISMA was available for all genera and species in 23 members of the Union, and for a limited list of genera & species (1-100 crops) in 12 UPOV members.

(e) Number of applications made via UPOV PRISMA (see UV. 2)

In 2019, 214 applications were made for PBR via UPOV PRISMA (77 in 2018; 14 in 2017).

In 2019, 5 applications were made for National Listing via UPOV PRISMA (new functionality introduced in June 2019)

9. Enhancing voluntary cooperation between members of the Union in the implementation of the UPOV Convention

(a) Recommendations by the Consultative Committee

At its ninety-sixth session, the Consultative Committee noted the proposals, analysis and information agreed by the Working Group on a possible International System of Cooperation (WG-ISC), at its fifth meeting, held in Geneva on October 30, 2019, and invited the Office of the Union to present a summary of existing work/initiatives relevant for each proposal alongside the proposals of the WG-ISC, at the ninety-seventh session of the Consultative Committee to be held on October 29, 2020.

(b) Decisions by the Council

None.

(c) Cooperation arrangements between members of the Union

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

10. Monitoring the implementation of the training and assistance strategy

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

- Consideration of document C/54/2 "Annual Report of the Secretary-General for 2019" (this document)
- Consideration of document C/54/9 "Performance Report for the 2018-2019 Biennium"

(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/54/2 "Annual Report of the Secretary-General for 2019", including performance indicator 7 "Review of developments concerning applications and grants of plant breeders' rights", sections (d) and (e) above (this document)

(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"

11. 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/97/6 "Communication strategy"

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

The Consultative Committee, at its ninety-sixth session, held in Geneva on October 31, 2019 and on the morning of November 1, 2019:

- agreed that the draft text for an FAQ on "How the UPOV system supports sustainable development", as reproduced in document C/53/9 Rev., be circulated for comments and, on the basis of the comments received, the Office of the Union to prepare an updated version of the draft FAQ for consideration by the Consultative Committee at its ninety-seventh session in 2020;
- approved the proposed redesign of the UPOV website as demonstrated at the session and noted the plans for the implementation of the redesigned UPOV website and a new content management system (CMS);
- approved the following performance indicators for the communication strategy, as follows: visits to UPOV website; number of followers, impressions and engagement rate in Twitter and number of followers and connections in LinkedIn; and participation in workshops.

On the basis of the recommendations by the Consultative Committee, the Council decided, at its fifty-third ordinary session, held in Geneva on November 1, 2019:

- to revise the text of the FAQ “What are the benefits of new varieties of plants for society?”, on the basis of the text reproduced in Annex II to document C/53/15 “Report”;
- to approve the proposed text for updating of FAQs and the proposed amendments to the UPOV Distance Learning materials, as reproduced in document C/53/15 “Report”, paragraph 23(g), to reflect developments concerning UPOV PRISMA.

12. Policy direction on inter-relations with other organizations

(a) Recommendations by the Consultative Committee

The Consultative Committee, at its ninety-sixth session, held in Geneva on October 31, 2019 and on the morning of November 1, 2019:

- agreed to invite Oxfam, Plantum and Euroseeds, authors of the “Report and Recommendations of the project ‘Options to interpret the notion of private and non-commercial use as included in Article 15. 1. I of the UPOV 1991 Convention’”, concerning small holder farmers, to make a presentation at the ninety-seventh session of the Consultative Committee in 2020.

(b) Decisions by the Council

On the basis of the recommendations by the Consultative Committee, the Council decided, at its fifty-third ordinary session, held in Geneva on November 1, 2019:

- to invite the World Farmers’ Organisation (WFO) to become a full partner in the WSP, as reproduced in document C/53/15 “Report”, paragraph 23(i);
- to approve the draft joint paper “Benefits of the WSP for farmers”, as reproduced in Annex III to document C/53/15 “Report”, to be posted on the WSP website and to be used for communication purposes;
- to request the Office of the Union to cooperate with FAO in relation to the request of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) to carry out, in coordination with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and in consultation with UPOV, in-depth case studies to consider the effects of seed policies, laws and regulations, as reproduced in document C/53/15 “Report”, paragraph 23(h).

13. Policy on other matters

(a) Recommendations by the Consultative Committee

The Consultative Committee, at its ninety-sixth session, held in Geneva on October 31, 2019 and on the morning of November 1, 2019:

- requested the Office of the Union to include an item and prepare a document, for its ninety-seventh session, in order to provide a summary of the work of the Consultative Group on Long-Term Financial Issues of UPOV and the consideration of those issues by the Consultative Committee;
- agreed to include an item to review Regulation 4.6 of UPOV Financial Regulations and Rules (document UPOV/INF/4/5) at its ninety-seventh session.

(b) Decisions by the Council

On the basis of the recommendations by the Consultative Committee, the Council decided, at its fifty-third ordinary session, held in Geneva on November 1, 2019:

- to place a restriction in a UPOV bank account for funds allocated for financing UPOV’s After Service Health Insurance (ASHI) liability, and that the amount represented by the provisions for ASHI obligations at the end of the 2016-2017 biennium, together with the balance from the 6 per cent charge after deduction of the respective biennium’s payments, if any, be transferred to that account with the restriction starting from the 2018-2019 biennium and to apply to that funds thus restricted in the UPOV bank account the investment policy that WIPO applied to the account for financing WIPO’s ASHI liability;

- to approve the following approach for the PLUTO database from November 2020:
 - (i) free option: the PLUTO database with a search function would be free to all users. Search results would be limited to an on-screen display of a single page of results. There would be no facility to download search results or data from the PLUTO database;
 - (ii) premium option: users paying a fee would have access to all PLUTO database features and would be able to download data without restrictions. The fee would be CHF 750 per annum;
 - (iii) members of the Union and data contributors: access to all PLUTO database “premium” features would be free to all members of the Union and data contributors (i.e. OECD); and
 - (iv) access to PLUTO data could also be granted in cases approved by the Consultative Committee, in a similar way to the assistance provided by the Office of the Union to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA);
- to discontinue the arrangement between UPOV and WIPO concerning the UPOV Plant Variety Database (UPOV-WIPO arrangement) as soon as the knowledge transfer and rationalization of the PLUTO database data management had been completed to the satisfaction of the Office of the Union.

(c) Adoption of documents presenting UPOV policy by the Council

None.

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.

The introduction of UPOV PRISMA in 2017 was a major development in facilitating applications for plant breeders' rights. By the end of 2019, 35 members of the Union, covering 74 States, were participating in UPOV PRISMA. Use of UPOV PRISMA continued to grow in 2019, with 214 applications made for PBR via UPOV PRISMA, compared to 77 in 2018 and 14 in 2017.

The effectiveness of the UPOV system is enhanced by the provision of guidance and information materials. In 2019, the "Seminar on the impact of policy on essentially derived varieties (EDVs) on breeding strategy", led the CAJ to agree to open up the "Explanatory Notes on Essentially Derived Varieties under the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention" (document UPOV/EXN/EDV/2). The CAJ is also working on the revision of the "Explanatory notes on variety denominations under the UPOV Convention", with a view to increasing harmonization in the examination of variety denominations.

Cooperation between members of the Union is a key benefit of UPOV membership. In 2019, the TC discussed technical concerns that can prevent cooperation in DUS examination and agreed to invite the UPOV Office to develop a coherent plan, based on specified proposals, to address the concerns and to propose how to assess the impact of the plan. The TC also agreed to report to the CAJ the related policy or legal issues that can prevent cooperation in DUS examination.

The work of the Technical Working Parties (TWPs) and the Technical Committee (TC) on the development and revision of Test Guidelines (TG) continues to be a cornerstone for cooperation between members of the Union in the examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability ("DUS"). At the same time, the harmonization provided by TG and the availability of TG data in 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. In 2019, the adopted Test Guidelines covered 94% of all PBR-related entries in the Plant Variety Database.

The UPOV Code System was developed to overcome the problem of synonyms for plant taxa and is essential for the functioning of UPOV PRISMA and the PLUTO and GENIE databases. However, the TC will now explore a new approach that would enable UPOV Codes to provide additional information on variety groups or types for DUS testing purposes, while continuing to enable the UPOV code system to be based on taxonomic criteria.

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/76: 117 participants representing 45 members of the Union, 3 observer States and 8 observer organizations

Participation in the Technical Committee

TC/55: 116 participants representing 45 members of the Union, 6 observer States and 8 observer organizations

Participation in Technical Working Party Sessions

297 experts representing 30 members of the Union (members), 1 observer States (obs) and 8 observer organizations (org) participated in the Technical Working Parties as follows:

- TWA (Uruguay):
20 members (35 participants) / 0 obs (0) / 4 org (7)
- TWC (China):
16 members (44 participants) / 0 obs (0) / 0 org (0)
- TWF (Hungary):
20 members (60 participants) / 0 obs (0) / 1 org (6)
- TWO (New Zealand):
12 members (25 participants) / 1 obs (2) / 1 org (1)
- TWV (Republic of Korea):
15 members (53 participants) / 0 obs (0) / 3 org (5)
- BMT (China):
18 members (56 participants) / 0 obs (0) / 7 org (9)

Participation in Preparatory Workshops for the Technical Working Party Sessions

In 2019, the TC agreed that the elements to be discussed during the preparatory workshop could be presented as an introduction to the respective agenda items during the normal program for the TWPs and BMT sessions, rather than organizing a preparatory workshop prior to the TWP session. The TC agreed that TWP hosts should have the possibility to decide whether or not to organize a preparatory workshop prior to the TWP session.

In 2019, a preparatory workshop was organized prior to the TWO:

TWO: 10 members (17 participants) / 0 obs (0) / 1 org (1)

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

UPOV Collection: visits to the UPOV websiteⁱ in 2019

Pageviews: 8,721
(8,349 in 2018; 7,827 in 2017)

Unique pageviews: 5,638
(5,574 in 2018; 5,023 in 2017)

Language	Pageviews	Unique pageviews
English	6,308	4,113
Spanish	1,595	972
French	391	271
German	427	282

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

Information materials concerning the UPOV Convention adopted by the Council in 2018:

UPOV/INF/5/2 UPOV Model Plant Breeders' Rights Publication (Revision)
UPOV/INF/22/6 Software and equipment used by members of the Union (Revision)

(b) Publication of the UPOV Gazette and Newsletter

Publication of laws and notifications on genera and species from members of the Union is now provided in UPOV Lex (see (c) below)

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

- Laws/regulations: Argentina, Belgium, Colombia, Egypt and Norway
- Notifications on genera and species: Brazil, China, Egypt and South Africa

UPOV Lex database: visits to the UPOV Website in 2019

Pageviews: 90,757
(92,199 in 2018; 82,861 in 2017)

Unique pageviews: 62,875
(64,413 in 2018; 59,166 in 2017)

Language	Pageviews	Unique pageviews
English	60,499	41,770
Spanish	22,667	15,703
French	5,891	4,162
German	1,700	1,240

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

No developments.

3. Guidance on the examination of varieties

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

TGP/7/7	Development of Test Guidelines (Revision)
TGP/8/4	Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (Revision)
TGP/10/2	Examining Uniformity (Revision)
TGP/14/4	Glossary of Terms Used in UPOV Documents (Revision)
TGP/15/2	Guidance on the Use of Biochemical and Molecular Markers in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) (Revision)

(b) Adoption of new or revised Test Guidelines

22 Test Guidelines adopted by the TC, comprising:

- 3 new Test Guidelines: TWA (0), TWF (1), TWO (2), TWV (0)
- 6 revised Test Guidelines: TWA (0), TWF (2), TWO (2), TWV (2)
- 13 partially revised Test Guidelines: TWA (0), TWF (6), TWO (6), TWV (1)

Total number of adopted Test Guidelines at the end of 2019: 331

Test Guidelines: visits to the UPOV Website in 2019

Pageviews:	67,012 (63,172 in 2018; 66,567 in 2017)
Unique pageviews:	39,753 (37,630 in 2018; 38,621 in 2017)

Language	Pageviews	Unique pageviews
English	53,063	31,497
Spanish	9,109	5,301
French	3,483	2,047
German	1,357	908

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

In 2019, the adopted Test Guidelines covered 94% of all PBR-related entries in the Plant Variety Database (307,853 of 328,525) (in 2018, 94%: 299,064 of 319,547)

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

44 draft Test Guidelines under development in the Technical Working Parties, comprising

- 9 new Test Guidelines: TWA (0), TWF (4), TWO (4), TWV (1)
- 27 revisions: TWA (8), TWF (6), TWO (7), TWV (6)
- 8 partial revisions: TWA (0), TWF (3), TWO (1), TWV (4)

(e) Participation in the development of Test Guidelines

Test Guidelines adopted in 2019:

- 3 new Test Guidelines: TWA (0), TWF (1), TWO (2), TWV (0) drafted by Leading Experts from:

Africa:	1 (ZA)
Asia/Pacific:	1 (JP)
Europe:	1 (ES)
- 6 revised Test Guidelines: TWA (0), TWF (2), TWO (2), TWV (2)

Asia/Pacific:	3 (AU)
Europe:	3 (FR, NL)

- 13 partially revised Test Guidelines: TWA (0), TWF (6), TWO (6), TWV (1)

Africa:
Americas: 1 (BR)
Asia/Pacific: 1 (NZ)
Europe: 11 (ES, FR, NL)

Test Guidelines under development in 2019:

- 9 new Test Guidelines: TWA (0), TWF (4), TWO (4), TWV (1) drafted by Leading Experts from:

Africa: 2 (MA, ZA)
Asia/Pacific: 3 (JP)
Europe: 4 (ES, GB, QZ)

- 27 revisions: TWA (8), TWF (6), TWO (7), TWV (6)

Africa: 3 (KE, ZA)
Americas: 1 (AR)
Asia/Pacific: 7 (AU, KR, JP)
Europe: 16 (DE, FR, IT, NL, SK)

- 8 partial revisions: TWA (0), TWF (3), TWO (1), TWV (4)

Europe: 8 (ES, FR, NL)

Total of 15 members of the Union involved in drafting Test Guidelines

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

1. Translation in UPOV languages

No developments in 2019.

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

No developments in 2019.

4. Cooperation in DUS examination

GENIE database: visits to the UPOV Website in 2019

	2019 (July to Dec)	2017 (2018 not available)
Sessions	6,214	14,861
Users	4,058	9,991
Pageviews	30,251	72,756
New Visitors	64.6%	69.8%
Returning Visitors	35.4%	30.2%

Language*	Pageviews
English	22,117
Spanish	5,021
French	1,719
German	1,394

* The analytics for language are based on the language of the browser.

Top 10 countries from which visits were made to GENIE database in 2019

Country / Territory	Sessions	New Users
China	340	203
United States of America	287	199
Turkey	283	179
France	349	148
Mexico	281	141
Spain	291	146
Japan	458	109
India	174	112
Germany	227	91
Netherlands	169	61

(a) Plant genera and species for which members of the Union have practical experience, included in GENIE database

In 2019, there were 3,599 genera and species (3,752 taxa including subspecies) for which members of the Union had reported practical experience in DUS examination (see document TC/55/INF/4).

In 2018, there were 3,583 genera and species (3,732 taxa including subspecies) and 3,416 genera and species in 2017 (3,561 taxa including subspecies).

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

In 2019, there were 2,063 genera and species (2,132 taxa including subspecies) for which there were agreements between members of the Union for cooperation in DUS examination (see document C/53/INF/5).

In 2018, there were 2,018 genera and species (2,089 taxa including subspecies) and 1,974 genera and species in 2017 (2,038 taxa including subspecies).

5. Cooperation in examination of variety denominations

PLUTO database coverage

	Year				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (to August 21, 2020)
Number of UPOV members that contributed to the PLUTO database for the indicated year ¹	60	56	53	49	37
Percentage of UPOV members that contributed to the PLUTO database for the indicated year	78%	73%	69%	64%	48%
A Total number of PVP applications	16,455	18,306	20,031 ²	n/a	n/a
B Number of PVP applications accounted for by contributors to PLUTO database for indicated year ^{1,2}	16,624	17,334	19,646	n/a	n/a
C Percentage of PVP applications accounted for by contributors to PLUTO database for indicated year (B/A)	98%	95%	98%	n/a	n/a
D Number of PVP applications included in PLUTO database ³	12,659	13,057	12,157	9,231	2,204
E Percentage of PVP applications included in PLUTO database (D/A)	75%	69%	61%	n/a	n/a
Number of new data submissions to PLUTO ⁴	260	222	248	327	161
Number of updates of PLUTO database ⁵	100	93	104	107	63

Notes:

1. Contributors provide data for previous years. Therefore, a contributor providing data in, e.g. 2017, will be considered to have contributed data for 2015, 2016 and 2017.
2. See document C/53/INF/7 "Plant variety protection statistics for the period 2014-2018".
3. Status of information in the PLUTO database at August 21, 2020.
4. See document CAJ/77/8, Annex II, main table, for number of contributions by contributor.
5. This number is used to indicate the frequency with which PLUTO is updated with new data. PLUTO is updated once per day if new contributions are received. If multiple new contributions are received in a day, this will only count as a single update. From 2020, updates due to technical issues are not counted.

Row "C" provides an indication of the "theoretical" completeness of the PLUTO database on the basis of the UPOV members contributing data.

Row "E" provides an indication of the actual completeness of data in the PLUTO database, reflecting:

- (i) UPOV members that do not contribute to the PLUTO database; and
- (ii) contributors that have not provided complete data.

(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 2019: 50 (63 in 2018)
 - Number of members of the Union that contributed data in 2019: 49 (48 in 2018)
2. *Number of new submissions*
 - Number of submissions of new data in 2019: 327 (248 in 2018)
 - Number of members of the Union that contributed data for the first time in 2019: 1 (1 in 2018)
3. *Number of records*
 - Total number of records included in the PLUTO database at the end of 2019: 873,549 (828,808 at the end of 2018)
4. *Number of mandatory items provided*
 - not available
5. *Number of non-mandatory items provided*
 - not available
6. *Annual edition of CD-ROM version*
 - No longer provided (no requests received)

(b) Number of PLUTO users and frequency of use

PLUTO database: visits to the UPOV Website in 2019

	2019	2018	Language	Pageviews	Unique pageviews
Sessions	35,673	35,407	English	45,486	32,091
Users	14,414	13,428	Spanish	5,588	3,385
Pageviews:	54,088	53,154	French	2,231	1,558
New Visitors	67.7%	66.2%	German	783	569
Returning Visitors	32.3%	33.8%			

Top 10 countries visiting the PLUTO database in 2019

Country / Territory	Sessions	Users
United States of America	5,464	2,083
Netherlands	2,375	431
France	2,087	795
Australia	1,629	428
Brazil	1,553	471
Turkey	1,305	446
Japan	1,290	283
Mexico	1,154	520
Spain	1,021	519
China	712	325

Frequency of Use

	2019	2018
Sessions	35,673	35,407
Users	14,414	13,428

Number of visits (in 2019)*	Visitors* (in 2019)	Number of visits (in 2018)*	Visitors* (in 2018)
1	11,337	1	10,369
2	3,234	2	3,249
3	1,722	3	1,711
4	1,177	4	1,172
5	867	5	891
6	720	6	742
7	604	7	654
8	521	8	583
9-14	2,279	9-14	2,445
15-25	2,419	15-25	2,460
26-50	3,316	26-50	2,833
51-100	2,985	51-100	3,007
101-200	2,701	101-200	2,556
201+	1,791	201+	2,735

* One user using two different internet browsers would count as two visitors.

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

No developments.

6. Development of UPOV PRISMA (formerly known as the UPOV Electronic Application Form (EAF) tool)

See Sub-Program UV.1, performance indicator 8 "Facilitating applications through UPOV PRISMA (formerly known as the UPOV Electronic Application Form (EAF) tool)"

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, training of trainers, 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 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.

The Office of the Union organized or participated in 115 missions/events in 2019, at which 115 States and 11 organizations were provided with information about the UPOV system. Assistance in the development of PVP legislation was provided to 18 States and six States requested the advice of the UPOV Council for the procedure to become a UPOV member. The UPOV distance learning courses had 634 participants from 89 States and two organizations.

Twenty-seven States (6 members of the Union and 21 non-members of the Union) contacted the Office of the Union for assistance in the development of legislation on plant variety protection. A total of 21 States (4 members of the Union and 17 non-members of the Union) were provided with comments on their laws. Three States initiated with the Council of UPOV the procedure for becoming members of the Union. The Council of UPOV provided a positive advice to six States on the conformity of their laws with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention. One member of the Union (Belgium) ratified the 1991 Act of the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention. One State (Egypt) became a member of the Union.

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 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 at UPOV activities

See Annex II to this document

Section (d) provides a list of States and organizations provided with information at UPOV activities and/or that participated in UPOV awareness-raising activities, or activities involving UPOV staff or UPOV trainers on behalf of UPOV staff.

(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 (6): Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Georgia, Mexico, New Zealand and Paraguay

Non-members of the Union (21): Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Cambodia, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United Arab Emirates, Zambia and Zimbabwe

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

Mongolia, Nigeria and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

(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.

States and organizations provided with information at UPOV activities (see (a)) and/or that participated in UPOV awareness-raising activities, or activities involving UPOV staff or UPOV trainers on behalf of UPOV staff.

Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe, AFSTA, CBD, CIOPORA, CPVO, EPO, EUIPO, European Union, ISF, ITPGRFA, OAPI, WIPO (115 States and 11 organizations)

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 (7): Colombia, Ecuador, Georgia, Mexico, New Zealand, Paraguay and Trinidad and Tobago

Non-members of the Union (18): Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Cambodia, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United Arab Emirates, Zambia and Zimbabwe

(b) States and organizations provided with comments on laws

Members of the Union (4): Colombia, Mexico, New Zealand and Paraguay

Non-members of the Union (17): Afghanistan, Cambodia, Egypt, Jamaica, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United Arab Emirates, Zambia and Zimbabwe

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

Afghanistan, Egypt, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nigeria and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (6)

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

The Office provided assistance for the deposit of an instrument of accession to, or ratification of the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention, to the following members: Colombia and Mexico

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

Belgium

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

Egypt

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 2019)

Australia, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, European Union, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, OAPI, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zambia (89 countries and 2 organizations).

Total number of participants in main sessions of UPOV distance learning courses by category (2 sessions in 2019)

Category	Number of participants			
	DL-205	DL-305	DL-305A	DL-305B
Category 1: Government officials of members of the Union	278	81	49	34
Category 2: Officials of observer States / intergovernmental organizations	45	6	1	4
Category 3: Others (Fee: CHF1,000)	14	3	1	-
Category 4: Discretionary waiving of fee for selected students	16	3	-	-
Total:	353	93	51	38

Total number of participants in main sessions of UPOV distance learning courses by language (in 2019)

Language	Number of participants			
	DL-205	DL-305	DL-305A	DL-305B
English	196	37	36	32
French	30	5	3	2
German	6	-	1	-
Spanish	121	51	11	4
Total:	353	93	51	38

Special sessions of DL-205 (in 2019)

DL-205 special sessions for:	Participants from	Number of participants
La Salle Beauvais University - IP Plant Breeding Master Programme	France, Sweden	21
OAPI Masters IP Training Course	Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo	27
Naktuinbouw International Course on Plant Variety Protection Course (Netherlands)	Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Jordan, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam	23
Maastricht University Advanced Master Intellectual Property Law and Knowledge Management	France, Netherlands, Portugal	19
JICA Training Course on "Internationally Harmonized Plant Variety Protection System"	Myanmar, Philippines, Sudan, Thailand, Viet Nam, Zambia	6
Workshop on drafting legislation in accordance with the UPOV Convention	Mongolia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3
Total:		99

	English	French	German	Spanish
DL-205 special sessions, 2019: Total by language	70	27	-	2

(b) Training of trainers

None.

(c) Training activities developed in conjunction with UPOV

See Annex II to this document.

(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/76: 3 observer States (Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Thailand)
8 observer organizations (AFSTA, AIPH, APBREBES, ARIPO, CIOPORA, CropLife International, Euroseeds, ISF)

Participation in the Technical Committee

TC/55: 6 observer States (Egypt, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Thailand, United Arab Emirates)
8 observer organizations (AFSTA, AIPH, ARIPO, CIOPORA, CropLife International, Euroseeds, ISF, OECD)

Participation in Technical Working Party Sessions

TWA/48: 4 observer organizations (CropLife International, Euroseeds, ISF, SAA)
TWC/37: 0 observer State/organization
TWF/50: 1 observer organization (CIOPORA)
TWO/51: 1 observer State (Indonesia), 1 observer organization (CIOPORA)
TWW/53: 3 observer organizations (CropLife International, Euroseeds, ISF)
BMT/18: 6 observer organizations (CIOPORA, CropLife International, ISO, ISTA, OECD, SAA)

Participation in Preparatory Workshops for the Technical Working Party Sessions

TWO/51/Prep: 1 observer State/organization

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) Courses featuring the UPOV system of plant variety protection

See Annex II.

(h) Implementation of projects with partner organizations and donors

World Seed Partnership: 9 electronic meetings of the Steering Committee (no face-to-face meeting was held)

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.

A significant development in 2019 was the introduction of the @UPOVint and @vsgupov Twitter accounts, combined with the use of the UPOV LinkedIn account (including UPOV PRISMA Showcase page). From March 2019 to May 2020, UPOV posted more than 1,000 tweets and gained more than 1,000 followers on Twitter. During that same period, the combined UPOV Twitter accounts registered more than: 500,000 "impressions"; 10,000 "engagements"; 2,000 "likes" and 1,000 "retweets". The number of UPOV website visitors ("visits") and sessions since the launch of UPOV's social media accounts in March, provides some evidence of a positive impact on outreach of the UPOV website, in addition to the additional direct outreach from social media postings

In 2019, videos recorded by China: "Celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the accession of China to UPOV Convention" and Peru "The plant variety protection system: the benefits for the development of the rice sector in Peru" were published on the UPOV website.

As a part of the Communication Strategy, the Council agreed a revised text of the FAQ "What are the benefits of new varieties of plants for society?"

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

Social media

The @UPOVint and @vsgupov Twitter accounts were launched in March 2019 and UPOV also now operates a UPOV LinkedIn account (including UPOV PRISMA Showcase page) and the Peter Button LinkedIn page (used exclusively for UPOV purposes).

From March 2019 to May 2020, UPOV posted more than 1,000 tweets and gained more than 1,000 followers on Twitter. During that same period, the combined UPOV Twitter accounts registered more than: 500,000 "impressions"; 10,000 "engagements"; 2,000 "likes" and 1,000 "retweets".

Status at May 17, 2020

Twitter

	@UPOVint	@vsgupov
Total number of tweets	541 (207)	1,303 (429)
Total number of followers ⁱⁱ	1,006 (327)	525 (184)

Figures provided in brackets represent the figures as of June 12, 2019.

Status as of May 17, 2020

Twitter

	@UPOVint	@vsgupov
Total number of impressions ⁱⁱⁱ	313,963 (104,550)	193,787 (107,736)
Total number of engagements ^{iv}	7,171 (2,381)	4,510 (2,846)
Average engagement rate (rate given by Twitter)	2.14% (1.89%)	2.67% (3.15%)
Total number of likes	1463 (475)	1016 (577)
Total number of retweets	849 (213)	234 (183)

Figures provided in brackets represent the figures as of June 12, 2019.

LinkedIn

	UPOV LinkedIn	Peter Button LinkedIn
Total number of posts	-	-
Total number of connections	-	539 (260)
Total number of followers	916 (-)	547 (262)

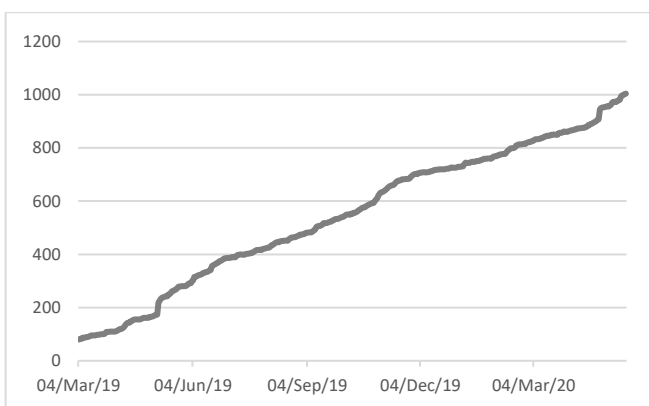
Figures provided in brackets represent the figures as of June 12, 2019.

Note: The UPOV LinkedIn account was not used prior to July 2019.

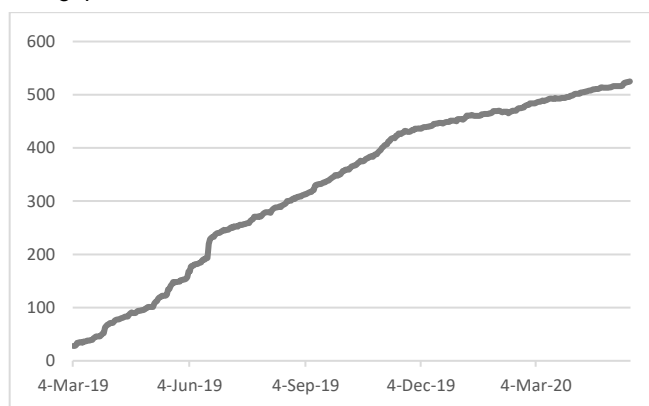
The following graphics demonstrate the evolution in use of the Twitter accounts since their introduction, in terms of followers and impressions.

Followers

@UPOVint

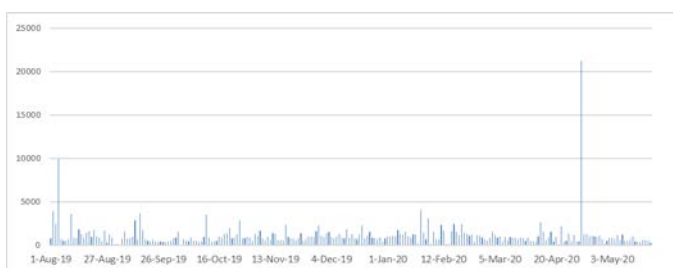


@vsgupov

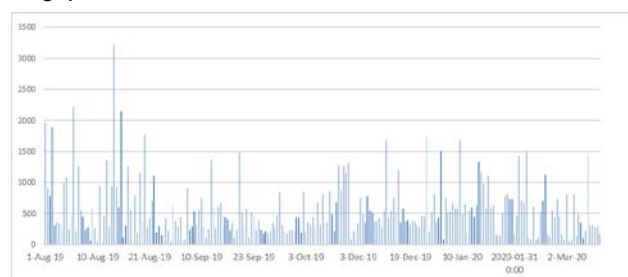


Impressions

@UPOVint

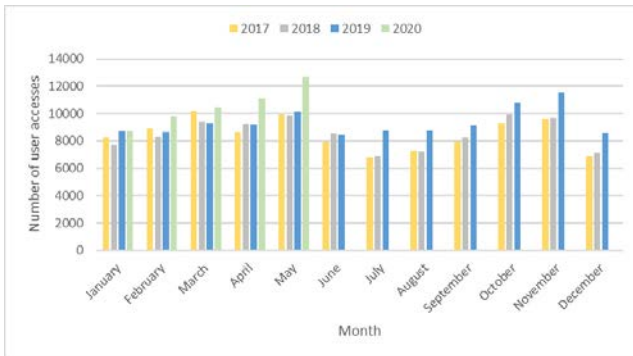


@vsgupov

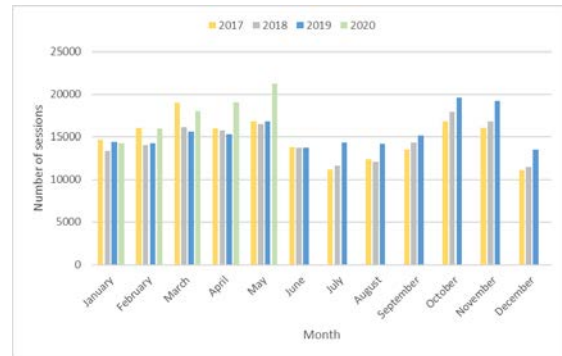


One of the impacts that was anticipated from the use of social media was to increase the awareness and visits to the UPOV website. The number of UPOV website visitors (“visits”) and sessions, presented below, provides some evidence of a positive impact since the launch of UPOV’s social media accounts.

Number of visitsⁱ to the website



Number of sessionsⁱ on the website



Videos

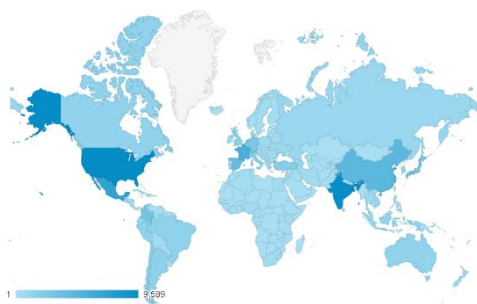
- China: “Celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the accession of China to UPOV Convention”
- Peru “The plant variety protection system: the benefits for the development of the rice sector in Peru”

(b) Visits to UPOV website

	2019	2018*	2017	2016	2015
<i>Number of Sessions:</i>	186,155	173,882	177,469	200,539	191,534
<i>Users:</i>	92,966	85,002	84,393	88,906	86,366
<i>Number of pageviews:</i>	683,097	672,169	857,442	1,153,307	1,087,382
<i>Number of pages/visit:</i>	3.67	3.87	4.83	5.75	5.68
<i>Average visit duration:</i>	00:03:53	00:03:48	00:04:30	00:05:13	00:05:15
<i>Percentage of new visits:</i>	80%	79.8%	79.4%	42.70%	43.21%

* Statistics concerning GENIE are only available from July to December 2019 (due to configuration changes).

Website Overview – Global Coverage



Sessions by country:

1. United States of America (8.22%)
2. India (6.69%)
3. Mexico (6.49%)
4. France (5.94%)
5. Japan (4.64%)
6. China (4.18%)
7. Spain (4.06%)
8. Netherlands (3.58%)
9. Germany (3.10%)
10. Colombia (2.40%)

Language of visitor's browser	2019		2018		2017		2016		2015	
	Sessions	%	Sessions	%	Sessions	%	Sessions	%	Sessions	%
1. en-us	52,371	28.13%	47,702	27.43%	48,128	30.39	60,689	42.11	66,347	39.58
2. es-es	21,555	11.58%	17,042	10.78%	6,091	(3.45)3.43	7,273	49.06	7,972	4.16
3. en-gb	11,992	6.44%	10,494	6.08%	10,062	5.78	8,639	45.87	6,743	3.52
4. fr-fr	10,242	5.50%	8,600	4.49%	5,185	(2.52)2.92	5,502	42.31		
5. zh-cn	8,318	4.47%	6,564	3.73%	5,349	(3.13)3.01				
6. es-419	6,937	3.73%	6,442		6,542	(4.76)3.69	5,605	57.38		
7. fr	3,902	2.10%	5,674	3.54%	9,471	5.71				
8. tr-tr	3,669	1.97%								
9. it-it	3,278	1.76%								
10. es-us	2,714	1.46%								
Total:	121,313		173,882		177,469		200,539		191,534	

1. en-us: American English; 2. es-es: Castilian Spanish; 3. en-gb: British English; 4. fr-fr (France); 5. zh-cn: Chinese; 6. es-419: Spanish (Latin America and the Caribbean); 7. fr: French; 8. tr-tr: Turkish (Turkey); 9. it-it: Italian (Italy); 10. es-us: Spanish (United States of America)

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

(a) Availability on UPOV website and through other media of suitable information and materials, particularly for breeders, farmers and policy-makers

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

(b) Stakeholder features on the UPOV website

Visits to the UPOV Website in 2019

2,514 pageviews (0. 37% of total pageviews on UPOV website (683,097 pageviews))

Language	Pageviews	Unique pageviews
English	1,624	1,264
Spanish	670	504
French	160	126
German	60	55

(c) Participation by stakeholders in seminars and symposia

See Annex II.

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

See Annex II.

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

- Contribution to WIPO Magazine with article on "UPOV: supporting food security with plant variety protection"

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

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

See Annex II.

[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

AAS	African Academy of Sciences
ACOPI	Costa Rican Academy of Intellectual Property
AFSTA	African Seed Trade Association
ALTIUS	Belgian law firm
APSA	Asia and Pacific Seed Association
ARIPO	African Regional Intellectual Property Organization
CGRFA	Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
CIOPORA	International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Ornamental and Fruit Varieties
CIPO of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Commerce and Intellectual Property Office of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
CLI	CropLife International
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
DCST of China	Development Center of Science and Technology of China
EAPVP Forum	East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum
ECOSA	Economic Cooperation Organization Seed Association
EIPIN	European Intellectual Property Institutes Network
EPO	European Patent Office
ESA	European Seed Association (now Euroseeds)
EUIPO	European Intellectual Property Office
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
INDECOPI of Peru	National Institute for the Defense of Free Competition and the Protection of Intellectual Property
INIA of Spain	National Institute for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology of Spain
INRA	<i>Institut national de la recherche agronomique</i>
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.
IP Key LA	IP Key Latin America
IP Key SEA	IP Key South-East Asia

Acronyms

IPO	Intellectual Property Office
IPONZ	Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand
IPOS	Intellectual Property Office of Singapore
ISF	International Seed Federation
ISTA	International Seed Testing Association
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
KIPO	Korean Intellectual Property Office
KSVS	Korea Seed and Variety Service
MAFF of Japan	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan
MAFRA of the Republic of Korea	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural affairs of the Republic of Korea
MARA of China	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China
MARD of Côte d'Ivoire	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Côte d'Ivoire
MARD of Viet Nam	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam
MCIH of Burkina Faso	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Handicrafts of Burkina Faso
MIC of Mali	Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Mali
MINMIDT of Cameroon	Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development
MINRESI of Cameroon	Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation
Naktuinbouw	The Netherlands Inspection Service for Horticulture
NASC of Nigeria	National Agricultural Seeds Council of Nigeria
OAPI	African Intellectual Property Organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development
PRV of Sweden	Swedish Patent and Registration Office
QUT of Australia	Queensland University of Technology of Australia
SAA	Seed Association of the Americas
SENADI of Ecuador	<i>Servicio Nacional de Derechos Intelectuales</i> (National Service of Intellectual Rights of Ecuador)
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SNICS of Mexico	<i>Servicio Nacional de Inspección y Certificación de Semillas</i> (National Service for Seed Inspection and Certification of Mexico)
TRIPS	Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
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

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- 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 a group of user interactions with your website that take place within a given time frame. For example a single session can contain multiple page views, events, social interactions, and ecommerce transactions. A single user can open multiple sessions. Those sessions can occur on the same day, or over several days, weeks, or months. As soon as one session ends, there is then an opportunity to start a new session. There are two methods by which a session ends:
 - Time-based expiration:
 - After 30 minutes of inactivity
 - At midnight
 - Campaign change:
 - If a user arrives via one campaign, leaves, and then comes back via a different campaign.
 - "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.
 - "Number of visits" is the number of devices used to visit the website in a month (a person may use more than one device).
- ii "Followers": Followers are people who receive your Tweets.
- iii "Impressions": Times a user is served a Tweet in timeline or search results.
- iv "Engagements": Total number of times a user interacted with a Tweet. Clicks anywhere on the Tweet, including Retweets, replies, follows, likes, links, cards, hashtags, embedded media, username, profile photo, or Tweet expansion.