

Council**C/54/INF/3****Fifty-Fourth Ordinary Session
Geneva, October 30, 2020****Original:** English
Date: October 23, 2020

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES DURING THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 2020*Document prepared by the Office of the Union**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY****Response to the COVID-19 pandemic**

1. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of measures were taken in recognition of UPOV's commitment to the health and safety of its personnel, as well as the communities where they live and work, while delivering the program of work approved by the Council.
2. UPOV took the following measures on March 17, 2020:
 - Closing of UPOV premises to all individuals except for essential personnel whose physical presence in the office was necessary to the delivery of UPOV's business-continuity plans.
 - Implementing remote working arrangements for the vast majority of the staff of the Office of the Union.
 - All official travel of the staff of the Office of the Union was cancelled.
 - All events and meetings organized or co-organized by UPOV in Geneva during March and April were to be organized by electronic means, or postponed or cancelled.
3. The following virtual meetings were held as planned:
 - Enlarged Editorial Committee (March 24)
 - Fifteenth Meeting on the Development of an Electronic Application Form (EAF/15) (March 26)
4. A gradual and phased return to premises by UPOV staff was started from June 2, 2020. During a first, transition stage that lasted until September 30, 2020, the choice of remote working was available to all UPOV staff. For those who chose the remote working option, they were able to work up to three days per week from home but needed to be present in the office for at least two days per week. Any person in a "vulnerable" category had the choice not to return to work in the office during that time.
5. Mr. Manabu Suzuki (national of Japan) was appointed to the post of Technical/Regional Officer (Asia) on June 1, 2020. In order to enable Mr. Suzuki to take up his duties on June 1, WIPO Japan Office kindly agreed for Mr. Suzuki to be based at their office until he relocated to the UPOV offices in Geneva, on August 3, 2020.
6. No official travel was undertaken between March 17 and September 30, except for a meeting with ISF in Nyon, Switzerland, on September 1, 2020.
7. It was agreed by the Chairpersons of the TWP, after consultation with the TWP hosts and the TC Chairperson, to hold the following TWP sessions by electronic means:

Date	TWP	Hosted by
May 11 to 15	Fifty-fourth session of the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (T WV/54)	Brazil
June 8 to 12	Fifty-second session of the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO/52)	Netherlands
June 22 to 26	Forty-ninth session of the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA/49)	Canada
July 6 to 10	Fifty-first session of the Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF/51)	France
September 21 to 23	Thirty-eighth session of the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC/38)	United States of America
September 23 to 25	Nineteenth session of the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, and DNA-Profiling in Particular (BMT/19)	

8. The Council adopted a procedure for the following UPOV Sessions in October 2020 be held in the form of virtual meetings, in combination with prior consideration of documents by correspondence (see Circular E-20/094: Procedure for the UPOV Sessions in October 2020 adopted by the Council):

- Fifty-Sixth Session of the Technical Committee (TC/56), to be held on October 26 to October 27;
- Seventy-Seventh Session of the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ/77), to be held on October 28;
- Ninety-Seventh Session of the Consultative Committee (CC/97), to be held on October 29;
- Fifty-Fourth Ordinary Session of the Council (C/54), to be held on October 30.

9. UPOV created a webpage (https://www.upov.int/about/en/covid19_measures.html) with links to resources and measures to assist breeders in relation to plant variety protection matters in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Composition of the Union

Members

10. As of September 30, 2020, the Union comprised 76 members (74 States and 2 organizations), covering 95 States.

Situation in Relation to the Various Acts of the Convention

11. 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 September 30, 2020, are provided in Annex I.

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

12. The Council took a positive decision, on August 14, 2020, on the conformity of the “Draft Plant Breeders Rights Act of Zimbabwe” with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention, which allows Zimbabwe once the Draft Law is adopted with no changes and the Law is in force, to deposit its instrument of accession to the 1991 Act.

13. The Council took a positive decision, on August 14, 2020, on the conformity of the “Draft Law on Plant Variety Protection of the United Arab Emirates” with the 1991 Act of UPOV Convention, which allows the United Arab Emirates, once the Draft Law is adopted with no changes and the Law is in force, to deposit its instrument of accession to the 1991 Act.

Relations with States and Organizations

14. The Office provided assistance with plant variety protection legislation to three members of the Union and 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 one member of the Union. It also provided advice and assistance with 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 fourteen potential members of the Union.

15. The Office met with representatives of seven intergovernmental organizations to coordinate activities or to provide information on UPOV and participated in events organized by six professional associations in order to follow developments in the practical application of plant variety protection at a global and regional level.

Sessions of the Council and its Subsidiary Bodies

16. The following meetings were held via electronic means during the first nine months of 2020:

- TC-EDC: March 24
- EAF/15: March 26
- TWV/54: May 11 to 15, hosted by Brazil
- TWO/52: June 8 to 12, hosted by the Netherlands
- TWA/49: June 22 to 26, hosted by Canada
- TWF/51: July 6 to 10, hosted by France
- TWC/38-BMT/19: September 21 to 25, hosted by the United States of America

Courses, Seminars, Workshops, Missions, Important Contacts

17. During the first nine months of 2020, as reported in paragraphs 51 to 185, the Office undertook a total of 14 missions (10 outside Geneva and 4 in Geneva) and participated in a total of 52 virtual events. Two planned events were cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

18. One session of each of the UPOV Distance Learning Courses 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 and DL305B in one course), DL-305A "Administration of Plant Breeders' Rights" and DL-305B "DUS Examination" was organized in English, French German and Spanish. A special session of the UPOV DL-205 Course was organized as part of UPOV's COVID-19 measures for breeders. A breakdown of the students participating in the UPOV distance learning courses DL-205 and DL-305 is included in Annex II.

Publications

19. The Office published 180 updates of the Plant Variety Database (PLUTO) and three revised or partially revised adopted Test Guidelines.

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INTRODUCTION

Response to COVID-19 pandemic

20. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of measures were taken in recognition of UPOV's commitment to the health and safety of its personnel, as well as the communities where they live and work, while delivering the program of work approved by the Council.

21. Considering measures announced by the Swiss Confederation and the Canton and City of Geneva, together with those by the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG) and the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), UPOV took the following measures on March 17, 2020:

Remote working arrangements for the majority of the staff of the Office of the Union

- Closing of UPOV premises to all individuals except for essential personnel whose physical presence in the office was necessary to the delivery of UPOV's business-continuity plans.
- Implementing remote working arrangements for the vast majority of the staff of the Office of the Union. This had the effect of limiting the need for movement by UPOV personnel while ensuring business continuity.

Official Travel of the staff of the Office of the Union

- All official travel of the staff of the Office of the Union was cancelled.

Events and meetings organized or co-organized by UPOV in Geneva

- All events and meetings organized or co-organized by UPOV in Geneva during March and April were to be organized by electronic means, or postponed or cancelled. Participants were notified accordingly.

Events and meetings organized or co-organized by UPOV outside Geneva

- The Office of the Union was to monitor the situation on a case by case basis, including in particular with each host of TWPs, the TWP Chairpersons and the TC Chairperson. Further information would be provided in due course on any necessary measures and/or alternative arrangements for the meetings.

22. The following section reports on developments since March 17, 2020.

Working arrangements for the staff of the Office of the Union

23. In accordance with the "Agreement between the World Intellectual Property Organization and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants" (document UPOV/INF/8), personnel administration and office requirements for UPOV staff are provided by WIPO and the working arrangements for UPOV staff have followed the arrangements for WIPO staff.

24. Very effective remote working arrangements were immediately put in place for UPOV staff from March 17, 2020, in accordance with the arrangements introduced by WIPO. These arrangements enabled UPOV staff to continue working without a significant impact on productivity, enabling plans for return to work to be guided by health and safety considerations.

25. In late May, the statistics on infection rates in Switzerland led the medical community to conclude that the so-called "first wave" of COVID-19 was over and the Swiss Federal Government announced a further relaxation of confinement measures, including those affecting the numbers of people allowed to meet in private and public functions. On that basis, a gradual and phased return to premises by WIPO and UPOV staff was started from June 2, 2020. During a first, transition stage that lasted until September 30, 2020, the choice of remote working was available to all UPOV staff. For those who chose the remote working option, they were able to work up to three days per week from home but needed to be present in the office for at least two days per week. Any person in a "vulnerable" category had the choice not to return to work in the office during that time.

26. Mr. Manabu Suzuki (national of Japan) was appointed to the post of Technical/Regional Officer (Asia) on June 1, 2020. However, the start date for new hires in Geneva was deferred until July 1, 2020. In order to enable Mr. Suzuki to take up his duties on June 1, WIPO Japan Office kindly agreed for Mr. Suzuki to be based at their office until he relocated to the UPOV offices in Geneva, on August 3, 2020.

Official Travel of the staff of the Office of the Union

27. No official travel was undertaken between March 17 and September 30, except for a meeting with ISF in Nyon, Switzerland, on September 1, 2020.

Events and meetings organized or co-organized by UPOV in Geneva

UPOV Sessions

28. The following virtual meetings were held as planned:

- Enlarged Editorial Committee (March 24)
- Fifteenth Meeting on the Development of an Electronic Application Form (EAF/15) (March 26)

29. The Council adopted a procedure for the following UPOV Sessions in October 2020 be held in the form of virtual meetings, in combination with prior consideration of documents by correspondence (see Circular E-20/094: Procedure for the UPOV Sessions in October 2020 adopted by the Council):

- Fifty-Sixth Session of the Technical Committee (TC/56), to be held on October 26 to October 27;
- Seventy-Seventh Session of the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ/77), to be held on October 28;
- Ninety-Seventh Session of the Consultative Committee (CC/97), to be held on October 29;
- Fifty-Fourth Ordinary Session of the Council (C/54), to be held on October 30.

Other events and meetings

30. The planned events and meetings organized or co-organized by UPOV in Geneva are reported under Section IV.

Events and meetings organized or co-organized by UPOV outside Geneva

UPOV bodies

31. In order to continue the important work of the TWPs, it was agreed by the Chairpersons of the TWPs, after consultation with the TWP hosts and the TC Chairperson, to hold the following TWP sessions by electronic means:

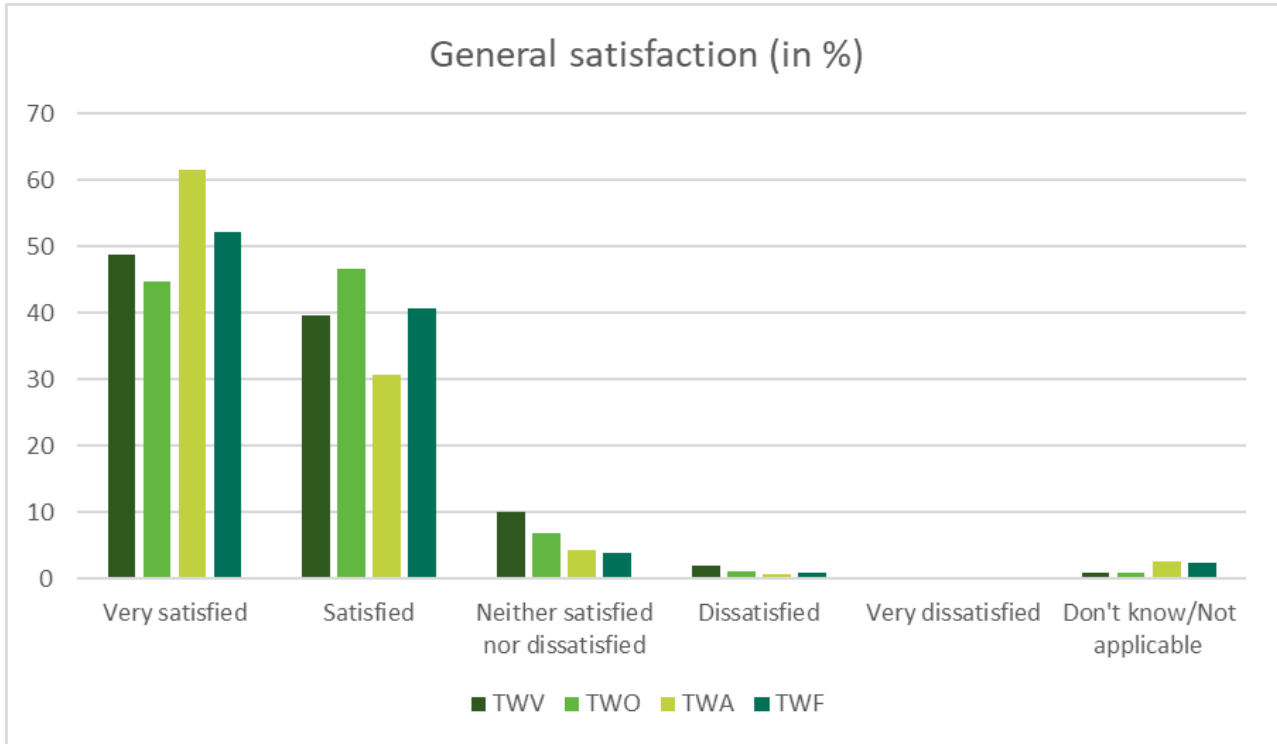
Date	TWP	Hosted by
May 11 to 15	Fifty-fourth session of the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV/54)	Brazil
June 8 to 12	Fifty-second session of the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO/52)	Netherlands
June 22 to 26	Forty-ninth session of the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA/49)	Canada
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September 23 to 25	Nineteenth session of the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, and DNA-Profiling in Particular (BMT/19)	

32. The following approach was taken in order to ensure that the meetings were as effective as possible:

- (i) all documents (including Test Guidelines) were posted in advance on the UPOV website;
- (ii) members of the Union and observers to the TWP concerned were invited to send comments on the documents, including Test Guidelines, in writing to the Office of the Union, before the session; and
- (iii) comments received were compiled and used as a basis for discussions during the session.

33. To assess the effectiveness of the virtual meetings, the Office of the Union conducted surveys of participants after each TWP session. As expected, participants identified disadvantages in not having a physical meeting, although the surveys revealed general satisfaction with the virtual meetings (see Figure 1) under the given circumstances.

Figure 1: General satisfaction of TWP participants in virtual meetings (2020)



34. A positive aspect of the virtual TWP sessions was the significant increase in the number of participants (see Figure 2) and number of participating members of the Union (see Figure 3), compared to previous years. This is an aspect that will be explored for the future. For example, the TWF, at its fifty-first session, agreed to propose that meetings via electronic means be considered for advancing discussions on Test Guidelines during the period between TWPs sessions.

35. Detailed results and an analysis of the survey are presented in document TC/56/12 “Increasing participation of new members of the Union in work of the TC and the TWPs”, which will be considered by the TC at its fifty-sixth session, to be held on October 26 to October 27, 2020.

Figure 2: Number of TWP participants 2015-2020.

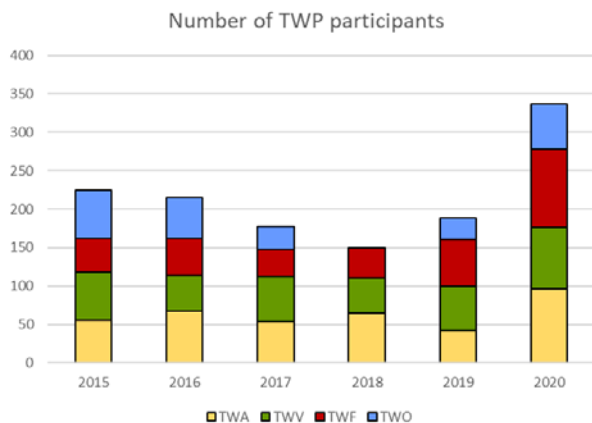
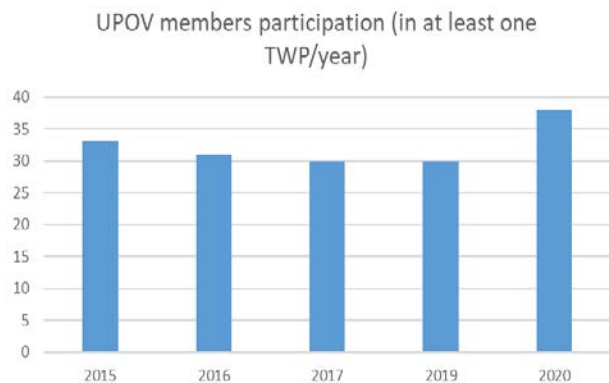


Figure 3: Number of members of the Union participating in at least one TWP session 2015-2020



Other events and meetings

36. The planned events and meetings organized or co-organized by UPOV outside Geneva are reported under Section IV.

Other measures (COVID-19 measures for breeders)

37. UPOV created a webpage (https://www.upov.int/about/en/covid19_measures.html) with links to resources and measures to assist breeders in relation to plant variety protection matters in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I. COMPOSITION OF THE UNION

Members

38. As of September 30, 2020, 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

39. On September 30, 2020, the situation of the members of the Union in relation to the Convention and its various Acts was as follows:

- (a) 59 members (covering 78 States) were bound by the 1991 Act; and
- (b) 17 members (covering 17 States) were bound by the 1978 Act.

40. Annex I provides the status of the members of the Union in relation to the Convention and its various Acts, as of September 30, 2020.

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

41. 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.”

42. The procedure to request the advice of the Council on the conformity of a law with the provisions of the UPOV Convention is explained in document UPOV/INF/13/2 “Guidance on how to become a member of UPOV”, within the following timeline:

“10. Requests for examination of laws by the Council are required to reach the Office of the Union at least four weeks prior to the week of the relevant ordinary session of the Council. Requests received after that date would be considered at the subsequent session of the Council, unless the procedure of examination of laws by correspondence is applicable (see paragraph 11). The Council holds its ordinary session in October/November. The dates of the sessions can be found at <http://www.upov.int/meetings/en/calendar.html>.

“11. The procedure of examination of laws by correspondence will be applicable if:

(i) the request is received less than four weeks prior to the week of the earliest ordinary session of the Council and more than six months before the date of the subsequent ordinary session of the Council; and

(ii) the analysis of the Office of the Union anticipates a positive decision and does not identify any significant issues concerning the conformity of the legislation with the UPOV Convention.”

43. By letter of April 27, 2020, Zimbabwe requested the examination of the “Draft Plant Breeders Rights Act of Zimbabwe” for conformity with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention. In accordance with the procedure of examination of laws by correspondence, the Council decided to:

(a) note the analysis of document C/Analysis/2020/1;

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

(c) authorize the Secretary-General to inform the Government of Zimbabwe of the above decision.

44. By letter of April 28, 2020, the United Arab Emirates requested the examination of the “Draft Law on Plant Variety Protection of the United Arab Emirates” for conformity with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention. In accordance with the procedure of examination of laws by correspondence, the Council decided to:

(a) note the analysis of document C/Analysis/2020/2;

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

(c) authorize the Secretary-General to inform the Government of the United Arab Emirates of the above decision.

II. RELATIONS WITH STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS

45. The Office provided assistance with plant variety protection legislation to the following members: Colombia, Mexico, and Paraguay.

46. 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 member: Colombia.

47. The Office provided assistance with 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, Brunei Darussalam, Jamaica, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nigeria, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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

49. The Office participated in events organized by the following non-governmental organizations: AFSTA; APSA; CIOFORA; CLI; ISF and WFO.

III. SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

50. Information on the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies is reported under paragraphs 28, 29 and 31.

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

Individual activities

51. On January 13, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with representatives of the WSP Steering Committee (ISF, ISTA, OECD and UPOV) to discuss progress on the WSP. Further electronic meetings were held on January 24, April 14 and May 5.

* Missions relate to events held outside UPOV headquarters.

52. On January 13, in Maastricht, Netherlands, the Office provided training at the first accredited intensive course on plant variety protection and biotechnology for the “Advanced Masters Intellectual Property Law and Knowledge Management”, University of Maastricht. The course was attended by a total of 26 participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Poland, Russian Federation, Thailand, Uganda and the United Kingdom, which took the DL-205 as pre-training requirement.
53. On January 14, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Mr. Henk Eggink, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Netherlands, and discussed cooperation between the Netherlands and UPOV.
54. On January 14, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with OECD representatives, namely Ms. Sophia Gnych, Senior Programme Officer, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, Mr. Csaba Gaspar, Programme Manager, OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme, Mr. Koen Deconinck, Agricultural Policy Analyst, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, and Mr. Jonathan Brooks, Head, Agrifood Trade and Markets Division, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, to discuss an OECD seed case study, developed as part of a broader project on the Global Food System.
55. On January 15, the Office participated in a conference call with Ms. Eleanor Gibson-Forty, Plant Varieties and Seeds Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), United Kingdom, and discussed matters related to UPOV PRISMA for the United Kingdom.
56. On January 17, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with CPVO to discuss cooperation on IT matters.
57. On January 17, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Sebastian Moure, Plant Variety Protection Office, Uruguay, to discuss UPOV PRISMA machine to machine communication.
58. On January 21, the Office participated in a conference call with Ms. Yvane Meresse, Responsable INOV, GEVES, France, to discuss matters related to UPOV PRISMA for France.
59. On January 22, the Office participated in a conference call with Ms. Rosa Rodriguez Diez, International Cooperation and Legal Affairs Department, EUIPO, to discuss possible cooperation activities.
60. On January 27, in Angers, France, the Office of the Union met with CPVO to share information about developments and plans for cooperation.
61. On January 28, in Angers, France, the Office participated in an interview with GEVES to discuss cooperation between UPOV and GEVES, in the framework of a new strategic roadmap for GEVES.
62. On January 28, in Angers, France, the Office met with CPVO and GEVES to share information about developments and plans for cooperation.
63. From January 28 to 31, in Milan, Italy, the Office attended the Technical Working Group meeting of the OECD Schemes for the Varietal Certification of Seed Moving in International Trade.
64. On January 30, in Geneva, the Office received the visit of Mr. Manuel Andrés Chacón Peña, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Colombia to the WTO, and explained the procedure for the accession to the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention.
65. On February 5, in Quito, Ecuador, the Office participated in a workshop to develop a distance learning course on licensing varieties (“*Laboratorio de Contratos de Licencias de Variedades Vegetales*”), organized by IP Key LA, in cooperation with SENADI of Ecuador, CPVO, EUIPO and UPOV.
66. On February 6, at WTO headquarters in Geneva, the Office attended relevant parts of the meeting of the Council for TRIPS.
67. On February 6 and 7, in Quito, Ecuador, the Office participated in the International Seminar on the Enforcement of Plant Breeders’ Rights, organized by IP Key LA, in cooperation with SENADI of Ecuador, CPVO, EUIPO and UPOV. The Office made a presentation on “The UPOV Convention – Enforcement of Plant Breeders’ Rights at the International, European and Latin American levels”.
68. On February 7, in Quito, Ecuador, the Office attended a meeting organized by the CPVO, during the Annual Meeting of the EU representatives in Latin America.

69. On February 10, in Geneva, the Office met with Mr. Fernando dos Santos, Director General of ARIPO, and Mr. Denis Bohoussou, Director General of OAPI, and discussed cooperation on plant variety protection in Africa.
70. On February 10 and 11, in Quito, the Office participated in a training session on the GAIA software organized by IP Key LA and provided by experts from GEVES, France. The participants were from Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru.
71. On February 10 and 11, in Poznan, Poland, the Office visited the Research Centre for Cultivar Testing (COBORU) and discussed developments in UPOV and Poland.
72. On February 11 and 12, in Poznan, Poland, the Office made a presentation on plant variety protection as a basis for encouraging plant breeding at the Seed Forum in the International Year of Plant Health 2020, organized by the Polish Seed Trade Association.
73. On February 12, in Geneva, the Office participated in a "Roundtable WIPO/ARIPO/OAPI and the Regional Economic Communities: Contributing to a Balanced and Effective Intellectual Property (IP) System in the Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)", and made a presentation under Theme 10 "IP Rights for a Sustainable Productive Agriculture and Food Security: Overview of the Importance and Impact of Plant Variety Protection with Specific Reference to Africa".
74. From February 12 to 14, in Asuncion, Paraguay, the Office made presentations on the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention during a series of meetings with stakeholder groups, organized by SENAIVE of Paraguay.
75. On February 14, the Office received the visit of Ms. Shaima Nasser Al-Akel, International Organizations Executive, Office of the United Arab Emirates, World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva, to discuss the Draft Law and the procedure to become a UPOV member.
76. On February 17, the Office received the visit of Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Egypt, and discussed cooperation and training opportunities on plant variety protection.
77. On February 19, the Office participated in a conference call with Mr. Manuel Toro, Head, Registry of Protected Varieties, Seeds Division, *Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero* (SAG), Chile, and discussed matters concerning the UPOV sessions.
78. On February 20, at Aire la Ville, Canton of Geneva, Switzerland, the Office made a presentation on UPOV PRISMA to the World Federation of Rose Societies Breeders' Club.
79. On February 21, the Office participated in a conference call with Mr. Tarek Toko Chabi, Conseiller Technique du Commissaire, Département de l'Agriculture, des Ressources en Eau et Environnement (DAREN), West African Economic and Monetary Union, Burkina Faso, and discussed cooperation on plant variety protection.
80. On January 21, the Office participated in a conference call with Mr. Wim Sangster, Team DUS Vegetables, Naktuinbouw, Netherlands, to discuss matters related to UPOV PRISMA for the Netherlands.
81. On February 24, in Porto, Portugal, the Office participated in a part of the Intellectual Property Committee (IPC) Meeting of ISF.
82. On February 27, in Rome, Italy, the Office attended a meeting with Mr. Kent Nnadozie, Secretary of the ITPGRFA, and Mr. Worku Damena Yifru, Senior Legal Officer, CBD, to discuss how to facilitate the exchange of experiences and information on the implementation of the UPOV Convention, the CBD and the ITPGRFA.
83. On February 28, the Office received the visit of Mr. Manuel Andrés Chacón Peña, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Colombia to the WTO, to discuss the procedure of accession to the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention.
84. On February 28, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Francesco Mattina, Vice-President of CPVO, to discuss possible cooperation activities.
85. From March 1 to 14, Ms. Tran Thi Thu Trang, EAPVP Pilot Project Officer, based in Hanoi, Viet Nam, visited the UPOV headquarters in Geneva and was provided with training on UPOV PRISMA operation and administration.

86. From March 2 to 4, in Livingstone, Zambia, the Office attended the AFSTA Congress and made a presentation on UPOV PRISMA at the Seed Associations Meeting.
87. On March 4, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Gustavo Urquizo Nuñez, Head, Seed Certification and Registration Unit, and Ms. Paola Román, National Director of Seeds, INIAF, and discussed developments in plant variety protection in Bolivia (Plurinational State of).
88. On March 10, the Office participated in a virtual meeting to discuss a webinar for the members of the National Association of Plant Breeders (NAPB) of the United States of America.
89. On March 11, March 31 and June 29, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with representatives of Japan and Viet Nam to discuss the EAPVP Forum Pilot Project.
90. Between March 10 and 19, the Office cancelled the following planned meetings, because of the COVID-19 pandemic:
- the "Workshop on drafting legislation in accordance with the UPOV Convention", organized by UPOV, in cooperation with the USPTO and with the assistance of the Government of Japan, which was planned to be held in Geneva from March 10 to 12, 2020; and
 - the "Awareness Seminar and Capacity-Building to Implement an Effective System of Plant Variety Protection in Senegal" ("*Séminaire de sensibilisation et de renforcement des capacités sur la mise en œuvre efficace du système de protection des obtentions végétales au Sénégal*"), organized by the Government of Senegal and the Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research (ISRA), in cooperation with the Government of Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and the technical assistance of UPOV, which was planned to be held in Dakar and Saint Louis, Senegal, from March 16 to 19, 2020.
91. On March 12, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Ms. Lekeicha Caesar-Toney, Registrar, CIPO, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to provide guidance on the development of implementing regulations and on the steps of the procedure for accession to the UPOV Convention.
92. On March 18, the Office provided a one day session on UPOV and the UPOV system of plant variety protection, via electronic means, to students of the Master of LL.M in Intellectual Property (ed. 2019-2020), organized by WIPO and the University of Turin, in cooperation with the International Training Centre of the ILO. Students from Armenia, Bangladesh, Chile, Colombia, Fiji, France, Germany, Greece, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jordan, Kiribati, Lebanon, Liberia, Lithuania, Mexico, North Macedonia, Oman, Serbia, Singapore, Switzerland, United States of America took the UPOV distance learning course DL-205 as part of the Program.
93. On March 23, May 6, May 25 and May 29, the Office participated in virtual meetings to discuss the invitation to Oxfam, Plantum and Euroseeds to make a presentation at the ninety-seventh session of the Consultative Committee. Participants in the meetings included Mr. Marien Valstar, Netherlands, Ms. Judith De Roos-Blokland, Plantum, Ms. Szonja Csörgö, Euroseeds, Ms. Catherine Chepkurui Lang'at, Euroseeds, Mr. Bram De Jonge, Oxfam and Ms. Hélène Khan Niazi, ISF.
94. On April 3, the Office participated in a conference call with Mr. Juan Antonio Vives Vallés, Professor, University of Mallorca, Spain, to discuss plant variety protection matters in relation to his research projects and publications.
95. On April 7, the Office provided a session on UPOV and the UPOV system of plant variety protection, via videoconference, to students of the Plant Breeding Master Program of the Institut Polytechnique LaSalle Beauvais. Students from Albania, Bangladesh, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ethiopia, France, Guatemala, India, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey took the UPOV distance learning course DL-205 as part of the Program.
96. On April 8, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with representatives of MARA, China, to discuss developments on UPOV PRISMA.
97. On April 9, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Michael Keller, Secretary General of ISF, to discuss developments in ISF and UPOV.
98. On April 9, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Ms. Kanokwan (May) Chodchoey, Executive Director, APSA, to discuss matters related to UPOV PRISMA.

99. On April 14, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Ms. María Ayalivis García, Director, Office of Variety Registrations and Protection of Breeder's Rights (Orevado) of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Francesco Mattina, Vice-President of CPVO, Ms. Marianna Martini, Project Officer, International Cooperation and Legal Affairs Department of EUIPO and Ms. Ana Luisa Díaz Jiménez (CarlPI expert) to discuss possible cooperation activities. A presentation on UPOV PRISMA was made in a second virtual meeting on April 23.
100. On April 17, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Edgar Krieger, Secretary General of CIOPORA, to discuss UPOV distance learning opportunities.
101. On April 22, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Hamdan Al Dhanhani, Director, Mr. Nasir Mohd Sultan, both from the Agriculture Development & Health Department, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates, and Ms. Shaima Nasser Al-Akel, International Organizations Executive, Office of the United Arab Emirates to the WTO, to discuss progress on the proposed amendments to the PVP law and the procedure to become a UPOV member.
102. On April 23, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Martin Ekvad, President of CPVO, to discuss developments in CPVO and UPOV.
103. On April 24, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Kees van Ettehoven to discuss training materials and tools on plant variety protection for IP Key.
104. On April 29, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Ms. Sara Quinteros Malpartida, Executive, Directorate of Inventions and New Technologies, INDECOPi, Peru, and made a presentation on UPOV PRISMA.
105. On May 4, the Office participated in a webinar organized by DivSeek International Network Inc. and gave a presentation on "UPOV's role in encouraging the development of new varieties of plants".
106. On May 6, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Michael Keller, Secretary General, and Mr. Sazbolcs Ruthner, Regulatory Affairs Managers, ISF, to discuss developments in ISF and UPOV.
107. On May 6, the Office provided a session on UPOV and the UPOV system of plant variety protection, via videoconference, at the "Programme Master II en Propriété Intellectuelle", jointly organized by OAPI in collaboration with the WIPO Academy and the University of Yaoundé. The Office made presentations on the "Introduction to UPOV and benefits of UPOV PVP system", "Key Provisions of the UPOV Convention", "Drafting Laws based on the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention", "Relationship between the UPOV Convention and other International Treaties", "Tasks of the PBR Office in the administration of application for Plant Breeder's Rights", "Enforcement of Breeders' Rights" and "UPOV Tools including UPOV PRISMA". Students from Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Haiti, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo were given the opportunity to take the UPOV distance learning course DL-205 as part of the Program.
108. On May 7, the Office had a discussion with a journalist from the Bavarian Radio (Bayerischer Rundfunk) on the use of biochemical and molecular markers in UPOV.
109. On May 11, the Office gave a presentation by videoconference on "Plant variety protection under the UPOV Convention and experiences of UPOV members" at the Master on Intellectual Property of the University of Alicante. The videoconference was attended by students from Costa Rica, Cuba, France, Italy, Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
110. On May 12, the Office participated in a webinar organized by the National Association of Plant Breeders (NAPB) of the United States of America, and gave a presentation on "Why do we need plant variety protection and UPOV?"
111. On May 13, 14 and 15, the Office participated in preparatory consultations to discuss the preparation of documents for the Fourth Meeting of the EAPVP Pilot Project, which was held by correspondence.
112. On May 19, the Office participated in a virtual meeting of the OECD Ad-Hoc Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques.
113. On May 20, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Edgar Krieger, Secretary General, CIOPORA, to discuss developments in CIOPORA and UPOV.

114. On May 21, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Ms. Nur Al-Ain Binti Dr Hj Abdullah, Deputy Senior Counsel, Deputy Registrar, Head, Intellectual Property Office of Brunei Darussalam (BrulPO), to provide explanations on relevant provisions of the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention and on the procedure for accession to the UPOV Convention and becoming a UPOV member.
115. On May 26, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with representatives of the National Directorate of Plant Varieties and Traditional Knowledge, SENADI, Ecuador, and made a presentation on UPOV PRISMA.
116. On May 29, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Michael Keller, Secretary General, ISF, to discuss developments in ISF and UPOV.
117. On June 4, the Office organized a virtual workshop for CIOFORA members in preparation of the TWF and TWO sessions.
118. From June 8 to 10, the Office participated in the ISF Virtual Congress.
119. On June 10, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Martin Ekvad, President of CPVO, to discuss cooperation between CPVO and UPOV.
120. On June 11, 17 and 18, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Ms. Kanowkwan (May) Chodchoey, Executive Director, APSA, and other members of the APSA Secretariat to discuss the benefits of UPOV membership and certain provisions of the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention.
121. On June 17, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Charles Kounkou, Project Manager, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), to discuss the status of activities planned under the Memorandum of Understanding between CFIA and UPOV.
122. On June 18 and 19, the Office participated in the virtual Annual Meeting of the OECD Seed Schemes and the OECD Ad-Hoc Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques.
123. On June 22, the Office participated in an interview as part of a stakeholder consultation on CLI.
124. On June 22, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Victor Vasquez, Director, Plant Varieties, and Mr. Raymundo Rosario, Head, Varieties Catalog, SNICS of Mexico, and made a presentation on UPOV PRISMA.
125. On June 24, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with representatives of USPTO to discuss the contribution format in PLUTO database.
126. On June 24, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Ms. Cynthia Motsi, Senior Manager: IP Management and Commercialization, Agricultural Research Council of South Africa (ARC), to discuss possible cooperation between ARC and UPOV.
127. On June 25, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Anthony Parker, Commissioner, Plant Breeders' Rights Office, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), to discuss matters related to UPOV PRISMA.
128. On June 26, the Office participated in a conference call with Mr. Folarin Okelola, Technical Adviser to the Director General, National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC) of Nigeria, to discuss the latest situation on the Plant Variety Protection Bill of Nigeria and UPOV guidance for assistance with the implementing regulations.
129. On June 29, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Paulo Campante, Germplasm Director, CropLife Brazil, and discussed the participation of the Office of the Union in a webinar for plant breeders.
130. On June 30, the Office organized a webinar to provide an overview of changes to the PLUTO Plant Variety database and to provide users with an opportunity to provide feedback on the design and new features.
131. On July 1, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with ISF, and discussed cooperation between ISF and UPOV.
132. On July 1, the Office participated in the WIPO/UNIGE Online Summer School on Intellectual Property, via electronic means, and provided a lecture on "Protection of New Plant Varieties under the UPOV Convention: Challenges, Benefits and Opportunities". It also made a joint presentation on "Protecting and

Managing Biotechnology & New Plant Varieties” with Mr. Jean-Christophe Galloux, Professor, University of Paris II. The program was attended by participants from: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, Greece, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Kenya, Lithuania, Malaysia, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine and Viet Nam.

133. On July 1, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with representatives of ISF and discussed cooperation between ISF and UPOV.

134. On July 2, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with representatives of ISF and WFO, and discussed cooperation between ISF, WFO and UPOV.

135. On July 2, the Office participated in a webinar on the “Cultivar Protection Law – Opportunities and Challenges” organized by CropLife Brazil, and made a presentation on the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention.

136. On July 3, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Philippe Lesigne, Crop Regulatory Lead EMEA - Corn and Industrial Crops, Bayer Crop Science, and discussed developments in UPOV.

137. On July 3, the Office participated in a WFO webinar “COVID-19: Resisting Now to Build Back Better”.

138. On July 3, the Office participated in a webinar on “Human Health and Resilient Food Systems”, the second in a series of high-level dialogues on a green and healthy recovery, organized by OECD, WWF and the Environmental Defense Fund.

139. From July 6 to 10, the Office participated in the virtual 164th Session of the FAO Council.

140. On July 7, the Office participated in an information briefing webinar organized by CBD, in preparation for the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 24).

141. On July 9, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Marcus Gregory Goffe, Deputy Director/Legal Counsel of the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO) and Ms. Valrie M. Watson, Assistant Parliamentary Counsel, to discuss the development of legislation in accordance with the UPOV Convention.

142. On July 9, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Jean Maison, Deputy Head, Technical Unit, and Mr. Jens Wegner, Technical Expert for Ornamental Plants and Fruit Crops CPVO, to discuss international cooperation.

143. On July 14, the Office participated in a webinar on “COVID19 pandemic: a worldwide response from the global farmers’ community. Stories from the field”, jointly organized by IFOAM-Organics International and WFO.

144. On July 14, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Ms. María Estela Ojeda Gamarra, Head, Cultivar Registry Department, Seed Directorate, SENA, Paraguay, and made a presentation on UPOV PRISMA.

145. On July 16, participated in a virtual meeting with Mrs. Sri Ikarostika Rahayu Muhammad Ghazi, Deputy Director, Crop Quality Control Division, Department of Agriculture of Malaysia, and discussed developments in Malaysia in plant variety protection matters.

146. On July 17, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with representatives of USPTO to discuss the contribution format in PLUTO database.

147. On July 17, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Ms. Thidakoon Saenudom, Director, Plant Variety Protection Research Group, Department of Agriculture of Thailand, to discuss developments in Thailand in plant variety protection matters.

148. On July 23, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Mahboobullah Nang, Acting Deputy Minister, Ministry for Agriculture and Livestock of Afghanistan; Ms. Najibeh Ataei, Director General for Agricultural Research, Mr. Asadullah Azam, Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Mr. Samiul Haq Ayoubi, Representative from Plan and Policy Directorate, and Mr. Nawab Nazeeri, Representative from the Agricultural Research Institute of Afghanistan (ARIA), concerning legislative developments and next steps of the procedure for UPOV membership.

149. On July 23, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Edgar Krieger, Secretary General of CIOPORA, to discuss a CIOPORA webinar about DUS matters.
150. On July 27, the Office participated in a Virtual Consultation on the Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, organized by CBD.
151. On July 30, the Office attended relevant parts of the meeting of the Council for TRIPS by virtual means.
152. On July 31, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Ms. Shannah Boens, *Attaché, Office de la Propriété Intellectuelle, Direction générale de la Réglementation économique* of Belgium, and provided information on the work of UPOV.
153. On August 4, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Kees van Ettehoven to discuss a CIOPORA webinar on DUS matters.
154. On August 11, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Ms. Pornpimol Sugandhavanija, Minister, and Ms. Jarawan Sukkharom, Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Thailand, and provided information on the work of UPOV, the UPOV Convention and training opportunities.
155. On August 13, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Hamish MacDonald, student of the University of Queensland (Australia), and discussed his thesis proposal on “Judging plant varieties: distinctness, uniformity and stability”.
156. On August 19, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Ms. Zipora Rasaby, PBR Coordinator, Plant Breeders’ Rights Council, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Israel, to discuss guidance on breeders’ rights publication matters.
157. On August 20 and 28, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Ms. Kanowkwan (May) Chodchoey, Executive Director, APSA, to discuss the organization by APSA of a Train-the-Trainer Course on Plant Variety Protection (PVP) and Plant Breeders’ Rights (PBR) under the UPOV Convention, in cooperation with UPOV.
158. On August 28, the Office participated in a virtual briefing session on agenda item 3 of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 3) of the CBD.
159. From August 25 to 28, the Office participated in the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Farmers’ Rights, which was convened by virtual means.
160. On August 25, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Martin Ekvad, President of CPVO, to discuss cooperation between CPVO and UPOV.
161. On September 1, in Nyon, Switzerland, the Office met with Mr. Marco van Leeuwen, First Vice-President, and Mr. Michael Keller, Secretary General, ISF, to discuss cooperation between UPOV and ISF.
162. On September 3, the Office participated in a webinar on “DUS Testing under UPOV – Plant Characteristics in DUS Examinations”, organized by the CIOPORA Academy. The Office made a presentation on “Introduction to UPOV and UPOV guidance on assessment of Distinctness (document TGP/9)”.
163. On September 3, the Office participated in a virtual event on “Great Food Challenge”, organized by Climate Action, in the scope of the Great Food Challenge Initiative.
164. On September 4, the Office participated in a virtual Briefing to Member States on the Food Systems Summit 2021 by Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.
165. On September 7, the Office participated, via electronic means, in the First Annual Meeting of the INVITE project.
166. On September 7, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Ms. Yang Yang, Senior Examiner, and Ms. Yang Xuhong, Examiner, Division of Plant Variety Protection, Development Center of Science & Technology (DCST), MARA of China, to discuss developments on UPOV PRISMA.

167. On September 8, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Marc de Witt, Examiner, Plant Breeders' Rights Office, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and discussed cooperation in plant variety protection matters.
168. On September 9, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Manuel Toro, Head, Registry of Protected Varieties, Seeds Division, and Mr. Álvaro Ulloa Kraemer, Agronomist, PBR Department, *Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero* (SAG) (Agricultural and Livestock Service), Chile, and made a presentation on UPOV PRISMA.
169. On September 9, 11 and 14, the Office organized a webinar on changes to PLUTO Plant Variety Database for data contributors.
170. On September 10, the Office participated in a webinar on "PVP Applications via UPOV PRISMA – Use of Molecular Techniques in DUS Process", organized by the CIOPORA Academy. The Office made presentations on "UPOV guidance on the use of molecular techniques in support of DUS examination (document TGP/15)", "UPOV PRISMA" and the "EAPVP Pilot Project" .
171. On September 11, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Edgar Krieger, Secretary General of CIOPORA, to discuss developments in CIOPORA and UPOV.
172. From September 15 to 18, the Office participated in the special virtual sessions for the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 24) and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 3) of the CBD.
173. On September 15, the Office participated in a virtual meeting organized by CPVO to discuss possible cooperation activities in Latin America.
174. On September 16, the Office participated in a webinar on "Farmers' Rights in the International Legal Architecture for Food and Agriculture", the University of Aberdeen, and made a presentation on "UPOV Plant Breeders' Rights System and Farmers' Rights".
175. On September 16, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Ms. Päivi Mannerkorpi, Team Leader, Plant Reproductive Material, Health and Food Safety Directorate-General, European Commission, and Mr. Marien Valstar, President of the Council, to discuss developments in the European Union of relevance for plant variety protection.
176. On September 16, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Ms. Michelle da Fonseca Santos, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Soybean Innovation Lab., University of Illinois, to discuss possibilities for cooperation in capacity building activities.
177. On September 16, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with Ms. Paulina Mosquera, Director of Plant Varieties, SENADI, Ecuador, and discussed developments in Ecuador and UPOV.
178. On September 17, the Office participated in a webinar on "Variety Collections and Variety Descriptions. Use of Foreign DUS reports", organized by the CIOPORA Academy. The Office made a presentation on "UPOV guidance on variety collections and cooperation in DUS examination (documents TGP/4 and TGP/5)".
179. On September 17, the Office participated in a virtual coordination meeting with representatives of CPVO to discuss cooperation between CPVO and UPOV.
180. On September 21, the Office participated in a virtual meeting with CPVO on the contribution format for data upload in PLUTO database.
181. From September 21 to 25, the Office followed relevant parts of the Sixty-First Series of Meetings of the WIPO Assemblies.
182. On September 29, the Office participated in a virtual meeting to discuss UPOV cooperation with Peru, with representatives of INDECOPI and the Permanent Mission of Peru, namely: Ms. Hania Pérez de Cuellar, President, Directive Council of INDECOPI; Ms. Silvia Alfaro, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Peru in Geneva; Mr. Cristóbal Melgar, Minister (responsible for IP issues), Permanent Mission of Peru in Geneva; Ms. Rosa Cabello, Manager, Technical Cooperation and Institutional Relations, INDECOPI; Ms. Sara Quinteros Malpartida, Executive, Directorate of Inventions and New Technologies, INDECOPI; and Ms. Carla Tello, Executive, Technical Cooperation and Institutional Relations, INDECOPI.

183. On September 29 and 30, the Office participated in the virtual Annual Meeting of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme.

184. On September 30, the Office participated in the virtual Administrative Council meeting of the CPVO.

185. This report does not contain information on meetings with UPOV PRISMA registered or interested users (applicants) concerning UPOV PRISMA that were held via electronic means.

Distance Learning Courses

186. One session of each of the following UPOV Distance Learning Courses was held in English, French, German and Spanish from March 2 to April 5, 2020:

- 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)”.

187. As part of the measures to assist breeders in the context of the COVID-19 situation, a special session of the UPOV DL-205 Course in English for students under Category 3 was provided, at a discounted rate, from May 4 to June 7, 2020.

188. A breakdown of the students participating in the UPOV distance learning courses DL-205 and DL-305 is included in Annex II.

V. PUBLICATIONS

189. The Office published:

- (a) 180 updates of the Plant Variety Database (PLUTO); and
- (b) two press releases.

190. The following Test Guidelines were adopted by correspondence by the TC:

**	TWP	Document No. No. du document Dokument-Nr. No del documento	English	Français	Deutsch	Español	Botanical name
<u>REVISIONS OF ADOPTED TEST GUIDELINES / RÉVISIONS DE PRINCIPES DIRECTEURS D'EXAMEN ADOPTÉS / REVISIONEN ANGENOMMENER PRÜFUNGSRICHTLINIEN / REVISIONES DE DIRECTRICES DE EXAMEN ADOPTADAS</u>							
AU	TWA	TG/121/4	Triticale	Triticale	Triticale	Triticale	× <i>Triticosecale</i> Witt.
KR	TWA	TG/224/2	Ginseng	Ginseng	Ginseng	Ginseng	<i>Panax ginseng</i> C.A. Mey.
DE	TWO	TG/242/4	Portulaca	Portulaca	Portulaca	Portulaca	<i>Portulaca grandiflora</i> Hook.; <i>Portulaca oleracea</i> L.; <i>Portulaca umbraticola</i> Kunth

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

[Annexes follow]

ANNEX I

MEMBERS OF THE UNION

September 30, 2020

This document provides the status of the members of the Union in relation to the Convention and its various Acts, as of September 30, 2020 (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

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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]

PARTICIPATION IN THE UPOV DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES

DL-205 "Introduction to the UPOV System of Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV Convention"

Session I, 2020: March 2 to April 5, 2020		
Category	Participants from	Number of participants
<u>Category 1</u> Officials of members of the Union	Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Canada, China, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, Uruguay	198
<u>Category 2</u> Officials of observer States / intergovernmental organizations / others	Barbados, European Patent Office, Greece, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates	23
<u>Category 3</u> Other (Fee: CHF1,000)	Egypt, France	3
<u>Category 4:</u> Discretionary waiving of fee for selected students Including: OAPI Masters IP Training Course (22) La Salle Beauvais University (30) Máster Lvcentinvs in Plant Variety Protection, Alicante University (23) The following students registered under category 4 are not included in the total: - OAPI Masters (22); - La Salle Beauvais Masters (30) - Máster Lvcentinvs, Alicante (23)	Australia, India	4
TOTAL		228

	English	French	German	Spanish
Session I, 2020: Total by language	123	46	2	57

<u>Special session in English: May 4 to June 7, 2020</u>		
Category	Participants from	Number of participants
<u>Category 1</u> Officials of members of the Union	Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, Turkey, United States of America	14
<u>Category 2</u> Officials of observer States / intergovernmental organizations / others	Brunei Darussalam, Nigeria	6
<u>Category 3</u> Other (Fee: CHF500 – discount rate)	Australia, Canada, China, Italy, Mexico	6
<u>Category 4:</u> Discretionary waiving of fee for selected students	CIOPORA	1
<u>TOTAL</u>		27

Pre- training support sessions of
DL-205 “Introduction to the UPOV System of Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV Convention”

<u>DL-205 special sessions for:</u>	Participants from	Number of participants
La Salle Beauvais University - IP Plant Breeding Master Programme	(France, Sweden)*	30
OAPI Masters IP Training Course	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Haiti, Mali, Niger	22
Máster Lvcentinvs in Plant Variety Protection, Alicante University	(France, Spain)*	23
<u>TOTAL</u>		75

	English	French	German	Spanish
DL-205 special sessions, 2020: Total by language	34	22		19

*Nationality unknown

DL-305 "Examination of applications for plant breeders' rights"

Session I, 2020: March 2 to April 5, 2020		
Category	Participants from	Number of participants
<u>Category 1</u> Officials of members of the Union	Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), France, Georgia, Italy, Jordan, Mexico, OAPI, Peru, Russian Federation, United States of America, Uruguay	30
<u>Category 2</u> Officials of observer States / intergovernmental organizations / others	Cuba, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, WIPO	7
<u>Category 3</u> Other (Fee: CHF1,000)	Spain	1
<u>Category 4:</u> Discretionary waiving of fee for selected students		0
TOTAL		38

	English	French	German	Spanish
DL-305, Session I, 2020: Total by language	14	5	0	19

DL-305A "Administration of Plant Breeders' Rights"

Session I, 2020: March 2 to April 5, 2020		
Category	Participants from	Number of participants
<u>Category 1</u> Officials of members of the Union	Canada, China, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom	26
<u>Category 2</u> Officials of observer States / intergovernmental organizations / others	European Patent Office, Nigeria	5
<u>Category 3</u> Other (Fee: CHF1,000)		0
<u>Category 4:</u> Discretionary waiving of fee for selected students		0
TOTAL		31

	English	French	German	Spanish
DL-305A, Session 1, 2020: Total by language	22	1	1	7

DL-305B “DUS Examination”

Session I, 2020: March 2 to April 5, 2020		
Category	Participants from	Number of participants
<u>Category 1</u> Officials of members of the Union	China, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom	28
<u>Category 2</u> Officials of observer States / intergovernmental organizations / others	Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nigeria	2
<u>Category 3</u> Other (Fee: CHF1,000)		0
<u>Category 4:</u> Discretionary waiving of fee for selected students		0
TOTAL		16

	English	French	German	Spanish
DL-305B, Session I, 2020: Total by language	25	0	0	5

[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
WSP	World Seed Partnership

Acronyms

AFSTA	African Seed Trade Association
APHA (United Kingdom)	Animal and Plant Health Agency
APSA	Asia and Pacific Seed Association
ARC (South Africa)	Agricultural Research Council
ARIA (Afghanistan)	Agricultural Research Institute
ARIPO	African Regional Intellectual Property Organization
BruiPO	Intellectual Property Office of Brunei Darussalam
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
CIOPORA	International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Ornamental and Fruit Varieties
CIPO (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)	Commerce and Intellectual Property Office
CLI	CropLife International
COBORU (Poland)	Research Centre for Cultivar Testing
CPVO	Community Plant Variety Office of the European Union
DCST (China)	Development Center of Science and Technology of China
EAPVP Forum	East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum
EUIPO	European Intellectual Property Office
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEVES (France)	Groupe d'Étude et de contrôle des Variétés Et des Semences
Ifoam-Organics International	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
ILO	International Labour Organization
INDECOPI (Peru)	National Institute for the Defense of Free Competition and the Protection of Intellectual Property
INIAF (Bolivia (Plurinational State of))	Instituto Nacional de Innovación Agropecuaria y Forestal (National Institute of Agricultural and Forestry Innovation)
INVITE project	"Innovation in Plant Variety Testing in Europe"

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
ISF	International Seed Federation
ISRA	Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles (Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research)
ISTA	International Seed Testing Association
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
JIPO	Jamaica Intellectual Property Office
MARA of China	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China
Naktuinbouw	The Netherlands Inspection Service for Horticulture
NAPB (United States of America)	National Association of Plant Breeders
NASC (Nigeria)	National Agricultural Seeds Council
OAPI	African Intellectual Property Organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development
SAG (Chile)	Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero (Agricultural and Livestock Service)
SENADI (Ecuador)	Servicio Nacional de Derechos Intelectuales (National Service of Intellectual Rights)
SENAVE (Paraguay)	Servicio Nacional de Calidad y Sanidad Vegetal y de Semillas (National Service for Plant and Seed Quality and Health)
SNICS (Mexico)	Servicio Nacional de Inspección y Certificación de Semillas (National Seed Inspection and Certification Service)
TRIPS	Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
UNIGE	University of Geneva
UNOG	United Nations Office in Geneva
USPTO	United States Patent and Trademark Office
WFO	World Farmers' Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

[End of appendix and of document]