



C(Extr.)/29/4

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

COUNCIL**Twenty-Ninth Extraordinary Session
Geneva, March 30, 2012****REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT ON
THE WORK OF THE EIGHTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE;
ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS, IF ANY, PREPARED BY THAT COMMITTEE***prepared by the President of the Council*

1. The Consultative Committee held its eighty-third session in Geneva on the morning of March 30, 2012. In addition to the provision of advice to the Council on the "Adoption of documents" (see document C(Extr.)/29/2), the "Extension of the appointment of the Vice Secretary-General" (see document C(Extr.)/29/3), and the "Press Release" (see document C(Extr.)/29/5), the work of the Consultative Committee included the following:

Observers in UPOV bodies

2. The Consultative Committee noted the report of the third meeting of the Working Group on Rules Concerning Observers (Working Group), which had taken place on March 29, 2012.

3. The Consultative Committee recommended to the Council, at its forty-sixth ordinary session to be held in Geneva on November 1, 2012, to adopt the revision of the "Rules Governing the Granting of Observer Status to States, Intergovernmental Organizations and International Non-Governmental Organizations in UPOV Bodies".

4. The Consultative Committee recommended to the Council, at its forty-sixth ordinary session to be held in Geneva on November 1, 2012, to adopt the revision of the Rules Governing Access to UPOV Documents.

5. The Consultative Committee granted observer status to the African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA) for the Council, the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ), the Technical Committee (TC) and the Technical Working Parties (TWPs).

Access to UPOV documents and publication of information

6. The Consultative Committee noted the developments on access to UPOV documents and publication of information and further noted that:

(a) the scanning and posting on the UPOV website of important documents that are only available in paper format would be planned according to available resources;

(b) relevant members of the Union had been invited, in December 2011, to provide a consolidated list of genera and species in order to include notifications by members of the Union on plant genera and species in UPOV Lex later in 2012;

(c) the posting on the UPOV website of the date of granting of observer status in the list of observers in UPOV bodies would be planned according to available resources;

(d) the publishing on the UPOV website of the information concerning the President and Vice-President of the Council and the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the UPOV bodies, with the appropriate contact information, and the publishing on the UPOV website of the photographs of the Secretary-General and of the Vice Secretary-General would be arranged as soon as possible;

(e) the establishment of a UPOV channel on YouTube for hosting of UPOV videos would be done in conjunction with the development of a coherent image for UPOV publication and presentation materials, for consistency with the redesigned UPOV website.

7. The Consultative Committee agreed that consideration of the use of electronic communication of meetings should be considered at its eighty-fourth session, on the basis of a document to be prepared by the Office of the Union.

8. The Consultative Committee agreed that the "Symposium on the benefits of plant variety protection for farmers and growers", to be held in Geneva on November 2, 2012, be open for attendance to the public, subject to room capacity, with priority being given to participants from members of the Union, observer States and observer organizations.

9. The Consultative Committee approved the webcasting of the Symposium.

10. The Consultative Committee agreed the explanation of the aim of the Symposium, as follows:

"The aim of the 'Symposium on the benefits of plant variety protection for farmers and growers' (Symposium) is to provide illustrations of how plant variety protection can improve incomes for farmers and growers by supporting the development and supply of new, improved varieties that are suited to their needs. The Symposium will also provide examples of how farmers and growers can use plant variety protection as breeders."

11. The Consultative Committee endorsed the plans for the draft program of the Symposium and agreed to the inclusion of one speaker from those recommended by APBREBES to give a presentation in accordance with the aim of the Symposium, as set out above.

12. The Consultative Committee noted that the Republic of Korea proposed to change the venue for the forty-fifth session of the TWO, to be held from August 6 to 10, 2012, and the preparatory workshop on August 5, 2012, from Seoul to Jeju, and agreed to recommend the change of location to the Council for the revision of the document "Calendar of Meetings in 2012" (document C/45/8 Rev.2).

UPOV policy for financing speakers and participants

13. The Consultative Committee requested the Office of the Union to prepare a document on the UPOV policy for financing speakers and participants, for consideration at its eighty-fourth session, to be held in Geneva, on October 31, 2012.

Developments of relevance to UPOV in other international fora

14. The Consultative Committee noted the developments concerning the East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum (EAPVP Forum), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

15. The Consultative Committee noted that the Office of Union had provided the OECD Secretariat with a brief description of the role and responsibilities of UPOV for inclusion in the OECD document "Different Regulatory Aspects Affecting World Seed Trade" on March 1, 2012.

16. The Consultative Committee approved the participation of the Office of the Union in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Framework for Designing National Intellectual Property Strategies for Development.

17. The Consultative Committee approved the contribution of the Office of the Union in the development of the WIPO Questionnaire "A tool to assess the current status of the national intellectual property system, strategic objectives and needs in line with national development priorities".

18. The Consultative Committee noted the developments in relation to WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore.

19. *The Council is invited to:*

(a) note the work of the eighty-third session of the Consultative Committee, as reported in document C(Extr.)/29/4; and

(b) approve the change of venue for the forty-fifth session of the TWO, to be held from August 6 to 10, 2012, and the preparatory workshop on August 5, 2012, from Seoul to Jeju.

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