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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL COMMITTEE

Thirty-second Session

Geneva, April 21 and 22, 1993

REQUEST FOR ADVICE FORMULATED BY THE CONSULTATION GROUP
ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCHDocument prepared by the Office of the Union

1. On January 5, 1993, the Office of the Union received a letter (which is reproduced in English only in the Annex) dated December 23, 1992, from Mr. Geoffrey Hawtin, Director of the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR). Enclosed with the letter was a Discussion Document and Suggested Guiding Principles on Intellectual Property, Biosafety and Plant Genetic Resources prepared by a joint committee of the Directors of the International Agricultural Research Centers (IARCs) and the Technical Advisory Committee of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). It also reflects discussion in CGIAR itself.

2. The Office of UPOV has been invited by IBPGR to comment on the Suggested Guiding Principles and upon the contents of the Discussion Document.

3. CGIAR is a group comprising 26 member States, 11 member international organizations and 4 member international foundations. It mobilizes financial support (some 240 million US\$ in 1990) for the programs of international research and training to increase the quality and quantity of food production in developing countries carried out by 13 IARCs. Plant breeding research and the dissemination of new varieties of plants is perhaps the major activity of many of the IARCs. Nineteen of the States which are members of CGIAR are member States of UPOV. IBPGR is an IARC specifically responsible for the development of policy, education and training in the conservation of plant genetic resources.

4. The letter of December 23, 1992, has been acknowledged on the basis that it would be discussed in the Administrative and Legal Committee of UPOV in its thirty-second session prior to the preparation of any response.

5. The Committee is invited to express its views on the Discussion Document and Suggested Guiding Principles of CGIAR.

[Annex follows]