



CAJ/67/9

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: February 21, 2013

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL COMMITTEE

Sixty-Seventh Session Geneva, March 21, 2013

USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION FOR MEETINGS

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. The purpose of this document is to report on the conclusions of the Consultative Committee, at its eighty-fourth session, held in Geneva on October 31, 2012, on the use of electronic communication for meetings.

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INTRODUCTION

2. The background and overview on the use of electronic communication for meetings within UPOV is provided in document CAJ/66/6 "Use of electronic communication for meetings".

3. The Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ), at its sixty-sixth session, held in Geneva on October 29, 2012, noted the information provided on the use of electronic communication of meetings within UPOV and noted that a report on the conclusions of the Consultative Committee concerning policy on access to electronic communication for meetings would be made to the CAJ at its sixty-seventh session in March 2013. The CAJ recalled the importance of physical participation in UPOV meetings (see document CAJ/66/8 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 30).

MULTIPLE INTERACTIVE WEB CONFERENCING

Conclusions of the Consultative Committee

4. The Consultative Committee, at its eighty-fourth session, held in Geneva on October 31, 2012, approved the use of web conferencing by UPOV bodies, as considered appropriate by the UPOV body concerned, to facilitate participation by members of the Union and observers in accordance with the existing procedures. The Consultative Committee recalled that the procedures concerning the invitations to the sessions of the UPOV bodies were contained in the UPOV Convention, rules of procedure, guidance for members of UPOV on ongoing obligations and related notifications, rules governing the granting of observer status to States, intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations in UPOV

bodies and the rules governing access to UPOV documents. In accordance with those procedures, web conferencing participation would be by means of a password issued to the designated persons in the relevant UPOV body and participation would be monitored by the Office of the Union.

5. The Consultative Committee, at its eighty-fourth session, approved the use of web conferencing by the Office of the Union to facilitate participation by invited participants to its meetings, as considered appropriate by the Office of the Union (see document C/46/16 "Report by the President on the work of the eighty-fourth session of the Consultative Committee; adoption of recommendations, if any, prepared by that Committee", paragraphs 28 and 29).

WEBCASTING

Conclusions of the Consultative Committee

6. The Consultative Committee, at its eighty-fourth session, approved the use of webcasting of sessions of UPOV bodies for viewing by members of the Union and observers in accordance with the existing procedures, as considered appropriate by the UPOV body concerned. The Consultative Committee noted that the procedures concerning the invitations to the sessions of the UPOV bodies were contained in the UPOV Convention, rules of procedure, guidance for members of UPOV on ongoing obligations and related notifications, rules governing the granting of observer status to States, intergovernmental organizations and international non governmental organizations in UPOV bodies and the rules governing access to UPOV documents. In accordance with those procedures, webcasting viewing would be by means of a password issued to the designated persons in the relevant UPOV body and participation would be monitored by the Office of the Union.

7. The Consultative Committee, at its eighty-fourth session, agreed that, in all other cases of webcasting, the Consultative Committee would be invited to approve any arrangements for a possible webcast.

8. The Consultative Committee, at its eighty-fourth session, agreed that the webcast of the "Symposium on the benefits of plant variety protection for farmers and growers", to be held in Geneva on November 2, 2012, be made available on the UPOV website after a suitable broadcast delay (see document C/46/16 "Report by the President on the work of the eighty-fourth session of the Consultative Committee; adoption of recommendations, if any, prepared by that Committee", paragraphs 30 to 32).

9. The CAJ is invited to note the conclusions of the Consultative Committee, at its eighty-fourth session, held in Geneva on October 31, 2012, on the use of electronic communication for meetings, as set out in paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 7 of this document.

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