

**Consultative Group on UPOV Resources Strategy****CG-URS/1/2****First Meeting  
Geneva, December 10, 2025****Original:** English  
**Date:** February 13, 2026**REPORT***adopted by the Consultative Group on UPOV Resources Strategy**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance***OPENING OF THE MEETING**

1. The Consultative Group on UPOV Resources Strategy (CG-URS) held its first meeting in Geneva, on December 10, 2025, by virtual means, chaired by Mr. Anthony Parker, President of the Council of UPOV.
2. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.
3. The list of participants will be distributed directly to participants via email.
4. The CG-URS noted that, in addition to the members of the CG-URS (Canada (Chair), Ghana (Vice-Chair), Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Brazil, China, European Union, France, Japan, Netherlands (Kingdom of), Russian Federation, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America), the following UPOV members also participated in the first meeting of the CG-URS: Georgia and Germany.
5. The CG-URS noted the intervention by Mr. Daren Tang, Secretary-General of UPOV, which is reproduced in the Annex to this report.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

6. The CG-URS adopted the draft agenda as proposed in document CG-URS/1/1.

**PRESENTATION OF THE COMPONENTS OF THE UPOV RESOURCES STRATEGY**

7. The CG-URS noted the presentation made by Ms. Yolanda Huerta, Vice Secretary-General of UPOV and Ms. Maya Bachner, Assistant Controller & Director Planning, Budget and Risk Management of WIPO, on the components of the UPOV Resources Strategy.
8. The presentation has been published on the UPOV website and is available at [https://www.upov.int/edocs/mdocs/upov/en/cg\\_urs\\_1/cg\\_urs\\_1\\_ppt.pdf](https://www.upov.int/edocs/mdocs/upov/en/cg_urs_1/cg_urs_1_ppt.pdf).

**DISCUSSION ON OPTIONS FOR ACHIEVING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR UPOV**

9. The Chair opened the floor for discussion on options for achieving financial sustainability for UPOV.
10. The CG-URS observed that the value of the contribution unit has remained unchanged since 1995, despite inflation. As a result, the CG-URS noted that the purchasing power had gradually diminished over time.
11. Members of the CG-URS proposed several options to address the financial situation and work for a sustainable UPOV. The CG-URS noted that those options included: (a) increasing the value of the contribution unit to account for past inflation, either as a one-time adjustment or through a gradual increase; (b) linking

future contribution values to inflation; (c) encouraging voluntary contributions; (d) and/or a combination of one or more of the options.

12. The CG-URS agreed that, as a first step in developing options based on the UPOV Resources Strategy (document C/59/16), it would be important to understand the level of funds required for the preparation of the 2028-2029 Program and Budget in order for UPOV to be able to implement the Strategic Business Plan for 2026-2029 (document C/59/14). In addition, the CG-URS requested that various budget scenarios be developed, specifying which activities/ initiatives and services could or could not be implemented/offered under each scenario.

13. Several delegations stressed the importance of increasing the use of UPOV PRISMA, suggesting that incentives for its adoption should be considered. However, the CG-URS also acknowledged that achieving widespread adoption of UPOV PRISMA might take time and resources. It was noted that given that UPOV is primarily a member contribution financed organization, income from UPOV PRISMA would not resolve the current financial challenges.

14. Some delegations emphasized the importance of maintaining a strong focus on prioritization of activities and implementing cost-efficiency measures, such as leveraging digital tools and adopting flexible meeting formats - whether in person or virtual. The Office of the Union responded by noting that it had already introduced various cost-efficiency measures over the years, for instance, the use of machine translation, virtual meetings and webinars. The CG-URS, while recognizing the commitment of the Office to achieve cost-efficiency, requested that the Office share information about measures already taken and future possible cost-efficiency measures.

15. A few delegations expressed concerns regarding arrears and delays in the payment of contributions. In response, the Office explained that it remained actively engaged with UPOV members on matters related to contribution payments. The CG-URS noted that delayed payments of contributions affected UPOV's ability to plan and carry out the approved program of work. The CG-URS also noted that to address situations where members encounter financial, administrative or institutional challenges, the Office worked closely with the relevant authorities, offering information and assistance with a dedicated team from UPOV and WIPO.

## CONCLUSIONS

16. The CG-URS agreed that the Office of the Union would develop budget scenarios as the foundation for future CG-URS discussions. The CG-URS noted that the document for CG-URS/2 would present the various scenarios with related actions tied to the Strategic Business Plan for 2026-2029 (document C/59/14), along with their associated costs. The document would also take into account the full funding for the increased cost of the WIPO/UPOV Service Level Arrangement (SLA). The scenarios would clearly demonstrate the prioritization of activities/initiatives and services to be provided by UPOV.

17. The CG-URS noted that the Office reaffirmed its commitment to efficiency and would continue to address cost-saving measures, providing information on actions already taken and on possible future cost savings efforts.

18. The Chair welcomed any written resource ideas or suggestions from UPOV members in supporting the work of the CG-URS.

19. The CG-URS agreed that its second meeting would be held virtually on March 18, 2026, with the third meeting scheduled for June 24, 2026. The agenda would be distributed at least four weeks prior to each meeting, as agreed in the Terms of Reference.

20. *This report was adopted by correspondence.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

INTERVENTION BY MR. DAREN TANG, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UPOV, FOR THE  
CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON UPOV RESOURCES STRATEGY

President Parker,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Welcome to the first meeting of the Consultative Group on UPOV Resources Strategy.

Always a pleasure to bring UPOV members together to discuss matters that are key to the functioning of the UPOV system, a system that has been successfully implemented during a period of 65 years in 2026.

It's with this global context that I would like to begin.

Despite challenging backdrop - geopolitical tensions, uneven global economy -WIPO's GII 2025 shows the global innovation engine is still firing on many cylinders:

- Corporate R&D spending — a record 1.3trn USD;
- Major advances in AI and supercomputing;
- People are more open to adopting new technologies, with connectivity, automation and new health solutions on the rise.

But the fuel powering innovation is not as abundant as before:

- R&D growth at slowest pace since 2010;
- VC concentrated in megadeals & AI;
- Adoption of technologies like robotics and EVs slowing.

Innovation needs to continue to be nurtured. Like any engine, it needs to be maintained, supported and updated to run at full speed.

The picture is similar in plant breeding:

- Science is agriculture and agriculture is science;
- Technological innovation, including biotechnology & gene editing, are enabling faster and more precise breeding;
- New business models for breeding and commercialization, SMEs/startups increasingly important plant innovators.

At the same time, challenges are intensifying:

- Nearly 300 million people face acute hunger – up almost 14million last year;
- New data shows climate change will hit crop yields harder than previously thought. Every 1 degree rise in global temperature could cut daily food production by 120 calories per person.

Against this backdrop, UPOV's mission is more vital than ever and engagement with UPOV continues to grow:

- As of today, more than 200,000 plant variety rights in force worldwide, led by China, European Union, United States and Ukraine;
- PVP applications rising in many countries - Chile, Egypt, Ghana, Morocco, Peru, Viet Nam, Netherlands (Kingdom of), European Union, United States;
- More than 29,000 plant variety applications filed last year — 30% increase on 2020;
- More than 10,000 applications made through UPOV PRISMA, with ARIPO and Japan joining in 2025;
- With the recent accession of Nigeria, UPOV now counts 80 members covering 99 States;
- Important engagements towards UPOV membership coming from Africa, Southeast Asia, Middle East and the Caribbean.

There is a strong demand for:

- Legislative advice - more than 30 requests in the past 2 years;
- Training and assistance - 1,300 Distance learning participants in 2024;
- Digital tools - new version of DUS Report Exchange Module spiking interest – +300 requests, 14 members.

To illustrate the value of plant variety protection and UPOV membership, let me share a couple of examples:

#### European Union

The findings of a study “The impact of CPVR system on EU Economy and on Environment and Society 2022” demonstrated that

- the additional added value (GDP contribution) generated by EU PVP-protected crops amounts to 13 billion EUR;
- holders of EU plant breeders’ rights employ more than 70,000 workers and have an annual turnover of EUR 35 billion;
- additional production resulted in higher employment rates and better remunerated employments in the EU agriculture;
- total Direct employment gain: 90,000 jobs;
- total Employment gain (considering upstream and downstream sectors): almost 900,000 jobs.

#### South Africa

The Agricultural Research Council in South Africa established as a condition to licensing its citrus protected varieties that smallholder farmers are involved in the commercialization chain. It directs the benefits of protected varieties from public research to small farmers in that country.

#### United States

The strawberry industry built upon protected new varieties in California is worth US\$2.2 billion. Strawberry varieties from the University of California at Davis (UC Davis) represent 75% of the total production in California.

#### Kenya

Flower exports connected to protected varieties increased from 50 million to almost 1 billion between 1998 and 2020.

Let me close by recalling the importance of the work of CG-URS.

- The UPOV Resources Strategy was developed by UPOV to ensure financial sustainability and empower our mission.
- This strategy serves as a blueprint to provide UPOV with the stable financial and human resources necessary for effective operation, fostering collaboration, and maintaining a thriving Plant Variety Protection (PVP) system that supports innovation worldwide.
- UPOV was established by and for its members, and we now stand at a crossroads where leadership within our membership is crucial.
- At this decisive moment, it is essential for members to contribute towards finding solutions and developing mechanisms that will allow UPOV to continue offering high-quality services, pioneering digital tools, legislative guidance, and training.
- A sustainable financial foundation will enable us to operate efficiently and achieve our shared vision of a robust, collaborative plant variety protection system.
- By committing to this conversation to ensure a sustainable UPOV we can secure the future of agricultural innovation and ensure the benefits it brings to our societies worldwide.
- The advisory recommendations of the CG-URS will be crucial in securing long-term financial sustainability for UPOV.

[End of Annex and of report]