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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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ELECTRONIC APPLICATION SYSTEMS

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1. The purpose of this document is to report on developments concerning the development of a prototype electronic form.
2. The structure of this document is as follows:

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BACKGROUND

3. The aim of the project is to develop a multilingual, electronic form containing questions relevant for plant breeders' rights (PBRs) applications. As a first step, a prototype electronic form will be developed, covering all relevant information required for a PBR application in the members of the Union concerned and with questions translated in the relevant languages for the members of the Union concerned (see document CAJ/66/5 "Electronic Application Systems", paragraph 2).

4. The background to the development of a prototype electronic form and developments prior to the fiftieth session of the Technical Committee (TC) are provided in document TC/50/9 "Electronic Application Systems".

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2014

The Technical Committee (TC)

5. The TC, at its fiftieth session held in Geneva on April 7 to 9, 2014, considered document TC/50/9 "Electronic Application Systems" and noted the developments concerning the development of a prototype electronic form.

The Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ)

6. The CAJ, at its seventieth session held in Geneva on October 13, 2014, considered documents CAJ/69/8 "Electronic application systems" and CAJ/69/11 "Report on developments in the Technical Committee" and noted the developments concerning the development of a prototype electronic form (see document CAJ/69/13 "Report", paragraphs 49 to 55).

7. The CAJ received a report of the meeting on the prototype electronic form, held in Geneva on April 9, 2014. It noted that the following features had been agreed for inclusion in the prototype:

- All the features presented in the mock-up,
- An administration interface with a dashboard to edit, submit or delete information,
- A possibility to import facility and export XML information.

8. The CAJ noted that the following aspects would not be included in the prototype but would be included in the final version:

- Payment authorization
- Different languages
- Possibility for introducing or modifying questions in the form
- Technical aspects such as business support for applicants; routine maintenance provisions; compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG); legal aspect and disclaimer.

9. The CAJ noted that the following timetable had been agreed on the development of the prototype:

Participating members to send their database structure, XML format or interface tables (requirement for participation in the project) Circular to be sent, requesting input from participants (PVP Offices + Breeders)	By May 30, 2014
Analysis of databases of participating members, design of the database structure and data interface tables	By September 2014
Consolidation of questions (bi/multilateral communication)	By September 2014
Finalization of project brief and request for cost estimate from approved supplier	June 2014
Agreement on the database structure/ import-export option/ interface tables format	October 2014
Start of the project	October 2014
Presentation of the prototype to the CAJ and Council	October 2015

10. The CAJ noted the request of the Delegation of Ecuador to participate in the meetings on the development of a prototype electronic form, and to provide information on its PVP platform project, which would be launched in July 2014 (see document CAJ/69/13 "Report", paragraph 54).

11. The CAJ, at its seventieth session, considered document CAJ/70/7 "Electronic application systems" and noted the confirmation of the Delegations of France, Germany and the Netherlands that they wished to participate in the meetings on the development of a prototype electronic form. It further noted the developments concerning the development of a prototype electronic form and that a report of the fourth meeting on the development of a prototype electronic form, held in Geneva on October 14, 2014, would be made to the CAJ at its seventy-first session in March 2015 (see document CAJ/70/10 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraphs 32 and 33).

Fourth meeting on the development of a prototype electronic form

Participating members

12. At the fourth meeting on the development of a prototype electronic form held in Geneva on October 14, 2014 ("EAF/4 meeting"), it was noted that France, Germany and the Netherlands had requested to participate in the development of the prototype. On that basis, it was recalled that the participating members of the Union were: Argentina; Australia; Brazil; Canada; Colombia; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; European Union; France, Germany, Japan; Mexico; New Zealand; Paraguay; Republic of Korea; Switzerland; Netherlands, United States of America and Viet Nam.

Consultation process

13. It was reported at the EAF/4 meeting that a collaborative platform had been created for the project (wiki space UPOV_EAS), where participating members were invited, through several rounds of discussions, to provide their comments.

XML Schema

14. It was noted that the XML Schema to be used for the project (i.e. PVP-XML) would, as far as possible, reuse and refer to relevant components of the WIPO Standard ST.96 ("common components"). It was agreed that components that were not covered by the ST.96 standard would be described and developed on the basis of the ST.96 Annex I (Design Rules and conventions) and UPOV XML Design Rules and Conventions (DRCs). It was agreed that the PVP-XML would be updated in line with ST.96, as appropriate; however, it was not planned for the PVP-XML to be prepared for adoption as a WIPO standard. The meeting was informed that participating members would be invited to provide data in order to test the PVP-XML Schema to ensure compatibility with their systems.

Data exchange

15. In relation to data exchange, it was noted that the system would provide an import (via online form or bulk upload) and export facility (under HTML format or PVP-XML format via PVP office's system) through web services (web interface).

Online form

16. The meeting was informed that, as agreed at the third meeting of the meeting on the development of a prototype electronic form held in Geneva on April 9, 2014, the focus of the work had been on the development of the data model and it was confirmed that there had been no developments since the third meeting in relation to the online electronic form.

Future program of work

17. At the EAF/4 meeting, the following timetable for work was agreed:

Participating members to comment via the wiki space UPOV_EAS on the draft PVP-XML schema, data exchange and technical specifications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First round discussion by October 31, 2014• Second round discussion by November 21, 2014• First test campaign by December 12, 2014• Second test campaign by February 13, 2015
Participating members to comment on the Issue Register: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Issue ID-1: Relationship between PVP-XML schema and existing components for Patents and Trademarks;• Issue ID-2: Data exchange: Schema to be used for data exchange in case of import/export process;• Issue ID-3: Manual or automatic bulk upload.	By November 28, 2014

Finalization of project brief for the electronic form and choice of the outsourced supplier (UPOV Office)	By March 2015
Agreement on the data model, database structure/ import-export option/ interface tables format	March 2015
Presentation of the prototype to the CAJ and Council	October 2015

18. The fifth meeting on the prototype electronic form will be held in Geneva on March 25, 2015.

Two-letter code to represent UPOV

19. If considered appropriate in the future, it would be possible to provide an international reference number for applications that used data provided via a UPOV electronic form. On that basis, and without pre-judging any future decisions in that regard, the Office of the Union has made a request to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for a two-letter code (XU) to represent the name of UPOV within WIPO ST.3 “Recommended Standard on Two-Letter Codes for the Representation of States, Other Entities and Intergovernmental Organizations” (see <http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/standards/en/pdf/03-03-01.pdf>).

20. The TC is invited to note the developments concerning the development of a prototype electronic form as set out in this document.

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