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| Meeting on the development of an electronic application form  Seventeenth Meeting Geneva, March 25, 2021 | UPOV/EAF/17/3  Original: English  Date: May 11, 2021 |

REPORT

adopted by the Meeting on the Development of an Electronic Application Form

Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance

# Welcome and opening

The Seventeenth meeting on the development of an electronic form (EAF/17 meeting), organized via electronic means, was opened and chaired by Mr. Peter Button, Vice Secretary-General of UPOV, who welcomed the participants.

The list of participants is reproduced in Annex I to this report.

# Approval of the agenda

The meeting adopted the draft agenda as proposed in document UPOV/EAF/17/1.

# Developments concerning UPOV PRISMA

The meeting considered document UPOV/EAF/17/2 “Developments concerning UPOV PRISMA” and received a presentation by the Office of the Union on the latest developments concerning UPOV PRISMA, a copy of which is reproduced in Annex II to this document.

## Version 2.5

### Functionalities

The EAF/17 participants noted that the current version of UPOV PRISMA (Version 2.5) was fully deployed on February 1, 2021, with the following new functionalities:

* New version of payment interface (Epay V2) to facilitate payment by PayPal, China Union Pay and Bulk payment;
* National Listing for United Kingdom;
* Bulk upload functionality (Proof Of Concept on a limited scope for restricted users);
* Automatically save the application data in case of a period of inactivity;
* Improve system performance for dashboard (further improvement for the generation of the forms performance is planned in Version 2.6);
* Avoid simultaneous access to the same application data by colleagues from the same organization (application data lock functionality);
* Allow co-agents to appear in the public list of agents available for breeders;
* Allow uploading of large attachments;
* When a PBR authority ask for a revision to the applicant, allow the possibility to attach documents.

### Coverage

The EAF/17 participants noted that application or technical questionnaire forms had been updated for the following participating PBR authorities in Version 2.5: Chile, European Union and Switzerland.

The EAF/17 participants noted that no UPOV members had been added in Version 2.5. Maize was added as new crop for the European Union. The coverage of UPOV PRISMA in Version 2.5 was as follows:

| Authority | | Crop coverage in Version 2.5 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) | OA | All genera and species |
| Argentina | AR | Apple (Fruit Varieties), Barley, Black Radish, Broad Bean, Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower, Chili, Chinese Cabbage, Cotton, Egg Plant, Fig, Grapevine, Green onion, Grey Shallot, Hot Pepper, Indian mustard, Japanese Bunching Onion, Maize, Melon, Oriental Radish, Papaya, Paprika, Potato, Rose, Salvia, Shallot, Soya Bean, Spinach, Sugarcane, Sweet Pepper, Tomato Rootstocks, Watermelon, Welsh Onion, Wheat, Witloof Chicory |
| Australia | AU | All genera and species |
| Bolivia (Plurinational State of) \* | BO | All genera and species |
| Canada | CA | All genera & species excluding algae, bacteria and fungi |
| Chile | CL | All genera and species |
| China | CN | Lettuce |
| Colombia | CO | All genera and species |
| Costa Rica | CR | All genera and species |
| Dominican Republic | DO | All genera and species |
| Ecuador | EC | All genera and species |
| European Union | QZ | All genera & species excluding agricultural crops apart from Bent, Cocksfoot, Fescue, Maize, Meadow Fescue, Potato, Soya Bean, Ryegrass, Timothy |
| France | FR | All genera & species |
| Georgia | GE | Apple (Fruit Varieties), Barley, Blackberry, Blueberry, Cherry (Sweet Cherry), Chick-Pea, Field Bean, French Bean, Hazelnut, Lentil, Maize, Oats, Peach, Pear, Potato, Raspberry, Soya Bean, Sunflower, Tomato, Walnut, Wheat |
| Kenya | KE | All genera and species |
| Morocco | MA | Melon |
| Mexico | MX | All genera and species |
| Netherlands | NL | All genera and species |
| New Zealand | NZ | All genera and species |
| Norway | NO | All genera and species |
| Paraguay \* | PY | Soya Bean |
| Peru | PE | All genera and species |
| Republic of Moldova | MD | Apple (Fruit Varieties), Barley, Blackberry, Chili, European Plum, Grapevine, Hot Pepper, Lettuce, Maize, Oats, Onion, Paprika, Pea, Pear, Potato, Raspberry, Rose, Rye, Sour cherry, Soya Bean, Strawberry, Sunflower, Sunflower, Sweet Pepper, Tomato, Walnut, Wheat |
| Republic of Korea | KR | Apple (Fruit Varieties), Lettuce, Potato, Rose, Soya Bean |
| Serbia | RS | Apple (Fruit Varieties), Blueberry, Raspberry, Rose |
| South Africa | ZA | All genera and species |
| Sweden | SE | All genera and species |
| Switzerland | CH | All genera and species |
| Trinidad and Tobago | TT | Anthuriums , Bromeliaceae, Heliconiaceae, Orchidaceae, Sterculiaceae, Cajanus cajans, Vigna sp., Theobroma cacao L. |
| Tunisia | TN | All genera and species |
| Turkey | TR | All genera and species |
| United Kingdom | GB | All genera and species |
| United States of America | US | 192 crops including Lettuce, Potato, Soya Bean, Wheat |
| Uruguay | UY | All genera & species |
| Viet Nam | VN | Anthurium, Carnation, Chrysanthemum, Cucumber, Dahlia, Dragon Fruit, Japanese Bunching, Onion, Kohlrabi, Maize, Mango, Oranges (Citrus L. - Group 2), Peanut, Poinsettia, Potato, Rice, Rose, Soya Bean, Sunflower, Tomato, Welsh Onion, White-Red and Savoy Cabbage |
| Total | 35 |  |

*\*Until required information is provided, applicants will not be able to submit application data for the concerned authorities*

## Use of UPOV PRISMA

The EAF/17 participants noted the information on the use of UPOV PRISMA (as of March 24, 2021), as reported in Annex II of this document.

# Feedback from Users

The EAF/17 participants noted that the following issues have been raised by users:

### New version of payment interface (Epay V2)

The new version of Epay (Epay V2), required by WIPO, resulted in certain problems at the time of launch but have since been resolved.

### Auto-save functionality

In Version 2.5, a new “Auto-save” functionality was introduced to address loss of data when data were not saved after a period of inactivity in the system. The introduction of this new functionality created some new issues where different users were working on the same application (within the same company, with third parties and/or at different times). The consequence of the issue was that certain data could not be retrieved by users and needed to be recovered by the UPOV PRISMA IT team.

### Lack of options for certain TQ information (Section 5) in relation to Disease Resistance

In relation to the information requested in the UPOV Technical Questionnaire for certain disease resistance characteristics, it was reported that there is a need to have “Not tested” as an option.

## Planned work for 2021

The EAF/17 participants noted that in order to reduce the risk of problems when introducing new versions and/ or new functionalities, the following steps would be taken:

* Appoint an external company to perform a software quality audit;
* Automate regression tests (to limit the risk of negative impact when introducing new functionalities);
* Organize user acceptance testing (UAT) before going live with any new functionalities.

With regard to receiving feedback and organizing user acceptance tests, the EAF/17 participants noted that it was proposed to work with a “Task Force” of users to be identified by CIOPORA and ISF.

In accordance with the feedback from users and on the basis of the strong growth in the number of applications made using UPOV PRISMA in 2021, the EAF/17 meting participants noted that the order of priority in 2021 would be as follows:

1. Resolve user issues concerning Version 2.5:

* Auto-save functionality,
* UPOV TQ options for disease resistance characteristics;

1. Update of participating PBR authority information;
2. Improve user-friendliness of UPOV PRISMA;
3. Expand the coverage of UPOV PRISMA.

### Resolving user issues concerning Version 2.5

#### Auto-save function

The EAF/17 participants noted that in order to resolve the auto-save issue, the previous auto-save functionality would be removed and a new auto-save version introduced. In the interim, users concerned have been advised to save data manually rather than relying on the auto-save function.

The EAF/17 participants noted that user acceptance tests of the new auto-save functionality were planned, to ensure that everything was fully tested before introducing the new functionality.

#### UPOV TQ options for disease resistance characteristics

The EAF/17 participants noted that for newly adopted revisions of Test Guidelines a “not tested” option had been implemented, meaning this change would be reflected in the system for all new TGs, once approved by the relevant UPOV bodies and once synchronized in UPOV PRISMA. The EAF/17 participants noted the comment made by the representative from the Netherlands that as far as possible, all required information should be provided in UPOV PRISMA, in order to avoid the need to ask applicants for additional information. It noted that it was not intended to add “not tested” as an option in UPOV PRISMA for disease resistance questions in the TQ5 if that option was not specified in the UPOV TG. The EAF/17 participants agreed to wait for the adopted Version of the UPOV Test Guidelines, before making any changes in UPOV PRISMA.[[1]](#footnote-2)

### Updating of participating PBR authority information

The EAF/17 participants noted that participating PBR authorities had been reminded to inform the Office of the Union if there was a need to update requirements in UPOV PRISMA (e.g. update of the forms, additional information).

The EAF/17 participants noted that application or technical questionnaire forms would be updated for the following participating PBR authorities as soon as possible: Mexico and Norway.

### Improve user-friendliness of UPOV PRISMA

The EAF/17 participants noted that, as a first step, it was proposed to organize online workshops with users to review certain functionalities (e.g. copy functionality, assignment of roles), in order to identify ways to improve the user-friendliness of UPOV PRISMA.

A further step to improve user-friendliness would be to introduce a bulk upload feature, which would enable applicants to enter data in a pre-defined template (available for download in UPOV PRISMA) as a means of transmitting multiple applications, at one time, for the same authority and the same crop. The EAF/17 participants noted that a proof of concept had been tested for Maize with the CPVO, with real application data. The next step would be to extend the concept to other crops and authorities and with different user profiles. The scope of bulk upload feature and timeline for deployment would be discussed with breeders and authorities.

The EAF/17 participants noted the support expressed by a representative from ISF for the development of a bulk upload functionality and the importance it attached to the functionality.

The EAF/17 participants noted that WIPO had developed a new interface for online WIPO IP services (WIPO IP Portal - see <https://ipportal.wipo.int/>). It noted the plans to integrate UPOV PRISMA into this platform, so that WIPO client users (e.g. agents) could also:

* access UPOV PRISMA from the IP Portal Menu;
* navigate to and from UPOV PRISMA to other IP services offered by WIPO (e.g. e-PCT, eHague, Madrid) and use a common dashboard for payment services.

## Expanding the coverage

### UPOV members

The EAF/17 participants noted that no new additional participating PBR authorities were planned to be included in 2021.

### Crops/species

The following participating PBR authority had informed the Office of the Union of their intention to extend the crop coverage in UPOV PRISMA. The EAF/17 participants noted anticipated changes would be implemented in 2021.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Authority | | Anticipated new crop coverage |
| Morocco | MA | Blackberry, blueberry, raspberry, strawberry, |

### Version 2.6

The EAF/17 participants noted that on the basis of the priorities set out above (see paragraph 15 of this document), the following new functionalities are planned to be introduced in 2021 (Version 2.6):

#### New functionalities

1. Integrate UPOV PRISMA into the WIPO IP Portal;
2. Development of bulk upload functionality (Proof of Concept Version 2);
3. UPOV TQ options for disease resistance characteristics.

#### IT improvements

1. Improve the performance of form generation.

## Communication and promotion

The EAF/17 participants noted that the focus for communication in 2021 would continue to be on individual support via direct contacts and training sessions for existing UPOV PRISMA users.

The EAF/17 participants noted the report by a representative of ISF, on the ISF Seed Talks Exclusive web event on “Get to know UPOV PRISMA”, held on March 17, 2021 on the World Seed Channel to promote the use of the Tool by providing testimonials from active users. The representative of ISF agreed to consider the possibility to make the user’s interview available more widely.

## Possible developments after 2021

### Coverage

The EAF/17 participants noted that the Office of the Union would consult relevant participating PBR authorities concerning their requirements and timeline to:

* include National Listing in UPOV PRISMA (see document EAF/15/3 “Report” paragraph 12);
* introduce machine-to-machine links/ communication to UPOV PRISMA (see document EAF/15/3 “Report” paragraph 12).

The EAF/17 participants noted that the following UPOV members had expressed an interest to join UPOV PRISMA in the future: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Japan, Nicaragua, Singapore, United Republic of Tanzania and Uzbekistan. It further noted that the Office of the Union would consult the UPOV members concerned to discuss their requirements and timeline for joining UPOV PRISMA.

### User-friendliness of the tool

The EAF/17 participants noted that the following elements would be considered after 2021 to increase the user-friendliness of UPOV PRISMA:

* Addition of non UPOV TQ characteristics in TQ Section 7 instead of TQ Section 5 (see document EAF/17/3 “Report” paragraph 19);
* Crop-specific TQs beyond Test Guidelines (see document EAF/16/3 “Report” paragraph 18).
* TQ Synchronization between UPOV PRISMA and CPVO (see document EAF/16/3 “Report” paragraph 18);
* Improvement of the copy functionality (according to the outcomes of the workshops organized with users).

### New functionalities

The EAF/17 participants noted that the following new functionalities would be considered for possible development after 2021:

* Machine translation (see document EAF/16/3 “Report” paragraph 18);
* Information on DUS cooperation (DUS Arrangement Recommendation Tool (DART)) (see document EAF/16/3 “Report” paragraph 18).

# Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the date of the eighteenth meeting of the EAF (EAF/18 meeting) would be agreed after the arrangements for the UPOV sessions in October 2021 had been finalized.

*This report was adopted by correspondence.*

[Annex I follows/

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Sigue el Anexo I]

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS / LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

(dans l’ordre alphabétique des noms français des membres /  
in the alphabetical order of the French names of the Members /  
por orden alfabético de los nombres en francés de los miembros)

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Romy OERTEL (Ms.), Secretary II

Urška ČERV (Ms.), Agency Worker

Trang Thi Thu TRAN (Ms.), ICS Contract

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1. As an interim solution until the TGs are revised, if the applicant is unable to provide the required information in the TQ and if the PBR authority agrees that the information is not necessary, on a case-by-case basis, an arrangement can be made to allow the applicant to submit the application data to the authority concerned without the information. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)