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| International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants |  |

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| Working Group on Harvested Material and Unauthorized Use of Propagating MaterialSixth MeetingGeneva, October 22, 2024 | WG-HRV/6/3Original: EnglishDate: December 16, 2024 |

REPORT

adopted by the Working group on harvested material and unauthorized use of propagating material

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# OPENING OF THE MEETING

 The Working Group on Harvested Material (WG-HRV) held its sixth meeting in Geneva, on October 22, 2024, in hybrid format, chaired by Ms. Yolanda Huerta, Vice Secretary‑General of UPOV.

 The Chair opened the meeting, welcoming the participants.

 The WG-HRV noted that a summary of conclusions would be presented to the CAJ.

 The list of participants is provided in Annex II to this report.

# ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

 The WG-HRV adopted the draft agenda as proposed in document WG-HRV/6/1.

# PROSPECTS OF COMMISSIONING A STUDY ON THE “SCOPE OF THE BREEDER’S RIGHT” AND THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE “EXHAUSTION OF THE BREEDER’S RIGHT”

 The WG-HRV reviewed document WG-HRV/6/2, Prospects of commissioning a study on the “scope of the breeder’s right” and the relationship with the “exhaustion of the breeder’s right”.

 The Chair reiterated that, as agreed at the fifth meeting, invitation to a virtual meeting was issued to the members of the WG-HRV that had made comments and/or proposals on the authors or funding considerations. The meeting took place by virtual means on May 22, 2024, and the following members of the WG-HRV participated at the meeting: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, European Union, Japan, Association for Plant Breeding for the Benefit of Society (APBREBES), International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH), International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Horticultural Plants (CIOPORA) and International Seed Federation (ISF).

 The participants at the above-mentioned meeting agreed to propose the below 5 authors for consideration by the WG-HRV at its sixth meeting, to be held on October 22, 2024.

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| **Experts (alphabetic order)** |
| Mr. Huib Ghijsen |
| Ms. Vivianne Kunisawa |
| Mr. Charles Lawson |
| Mr. Axel Metzger |
| Mr. Joseph Straus |

 The participants at the above-mentioned meeting agreed to propose the following funding proposal for endorsement by the WG-HRV at its sixth meeting to be held on October 22, 2024:

“55,000 Swiss Francs which would include:

・ Honorarium of 10,000 Swiss francs for each of the 5 authors.

・ Travel expenses up to 5,000 Swiss francs in total for the 5 authors. The purpose of the travel could be to convene a meeting amongst the authors or to support travel to come to Geneva to present the findings of the study or any other unforeseen travel expenses.

“The overall estimation of the cost to be shared as follows: UPOV regular budget would cover 30,000 Swiss francs and the Funds-in-Trust Agreement between the Government of Japan and UPOV (JP-FIT) would cover 25,000 Swiss francs.’

 The WG-HRV agreed, in accordance with previous conclusions of the WG-HRV, the following update of the Terms of Reference in the section “Scope”:

“- a first part with an analysis of the intentions of the drafters of the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention in relation to the “Scope of the Breeder’s Right” in Article 14(1) and (2) of the 1991 Act, including the notions of “unauthorized use” and “reasonable opportunity” and the relationship with the “Exhaustion of the Breeder’s Right” in ~~and~~ Article 16 of the 1991 Act”;

 The WG-HRV agreed on the above proposed authors and the proposal on funding, as well as the Terms of Reference, including the above update on the scope, as presented in Annex I.

 The WG-HRV discussed principles to ensure the independence of the study, including a mechanism for conflict-of-interest disclosures and clarifying that funding sources would not influence the content of the study.

 The WG-HRV agreed that the drafting of the study should follow an independent approach in line with academic standards, that authors would disclose potential conflicts of interest in line with academic standards and that findings would not be binding on UPOV members. The WG-HRV agreed to include in the report of the study that the study’s purpose was to assist the WG-HRV in its deliberations in accordance with its ToRs without creating any obligation on the WG-HRV or UPOV members. The WG-HRV also agreed that the status of the report of the study would be a document of the WG-HRV to be made available on the UPOV website dedicated for the WG-HRV. The WG-HRV noted that a separate publication of the report of the study was not anticipated.

 In relation to the proposed timeline, the WG-HRV agreed that the progress on the work of the authors should be reported by end of February for consideration during the seventh meeting of the WG-HRV, in March 2025, and that a final report would be expected by September 1, 2025.

 The WG-HRV agreed that potential questions asked by the authors on practical matters of low complexity would be addressed by the Office of the Union. WG-HRV also agreed that complex questions or request by the authors for substantive guidance would be referred to the WG-HRV, at its meeting(s), or through a written procedure, as appropriate.

# CONCLUSIONS

 The main conclusion of the meeting is summarized below:

1. the WG-HRV agreed that the Office of the Union commissions a study to assist in the WG-HRV deliberations on the “Scope of the Breeder’s Right” in Article 14(1) and (2) of the 1991 Act, including the notions of “unauthorized use” and “reasonable opportunity” and the relationship with the “Exhaustion of the Breeder’s Right” in Article 16 of the 1991 Act;
2. the WG-HRV approved the Terms of Reference of the study, as presented in document [WG- HRV/6/2, Annex](https://www.upov.int/edocs/mdocs/upov/en/wg_hrv_6/wg_hrv_6_2.pdf), with the following update in the section “Scope”:

“- a first part with an analysis of the intentions of the drafters of the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention in relation to the “Scope of the Breeder’s Right” in Article 14(1) and (2) of the 1991 Act, including the notions of “unauthorized use” and “reasonable opportunity” and the relationship with the “Exhaustion of the Breeder’s Right” in ~~and~~ Article 16 of the 1991 Act”;

1. the WG-HRV agreed that the study be carried out in accordance with the approved Terms of Reference, reproduced in Annex I of this document.

# DATE OF THE SEVENTH MEETING

 The seventh meeting of the WG-HRV will take place on Thursday, March 20, 2025 (virtual means), at a time to be announced.

[Annex I follows]

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE STUDY ON THE "SCOPE OF THE BREEDER'S RIGHT" AND THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE "EXHAUSTION OF THE BREEDER'S RIGHT"

# SCOPE:

The study to include:

* a first part with an analysis of the intentions of the drafters of the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention in relation to the “Scope of the Breeder’s Right” in Article 14(1) and (2) of the 1991 Act, including the notions of “unauthorized use” and “reasonable opportunity” and the relationship with the “Exhaustion of the Breeder’s Right” in Article 16 of the 1991 Act; and
* a second part with summaries of relevant court cases from UPOV members bound by
the 1991 Act.

# COMPOSITION:

The study should be carried out by the five authors mentioned below. The authors should agree on one of them to be coordinating their work.

The working language of the authors should be English and the study should be drafted in English.

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| **Experts (alphabetic order)** |
| Mr. Huib Ghijsen |
| Ms. Vivianne Kunisawa |
| Mr. Charles Lawson |
| Mr. Axel Metzger |
| Mr. Joseph Straus |

MODUS OPERANDI:

## Independence:

The authors are independent in drafting the study, in the sense that the authors should not receive individual instructions from anyone and that the authors should be impartial and objective.

The five authors should draft one study and should follow a collaborative working method following academic standards. Following such standards, the authors should manage potential different perspectives or analysis and, if applicable, how such matters should be reflected in the study.

Having received the study, it is up to the WG-HRV to consider a possible follow-up and to request further guidance from the CAJ, as appropriate.

UPOV members are not bound by the content and/or conclusions drawn in the study.

## Timeline:

The authors will be asked to deliver the draft study by latest February 28, 2025, for consideration at the seventh meeting of the WG-HRV, expected to take place in Geneva on March 20, 2025. The final version of the study to be delivered by latest September 1st, 2025.

The time could be prolonged upon request by the authors.

## Financial support:

55,000 Swiss Francs which would include:

・ Honorarium of 10,000 Swiss francs for each of the 5 authors.

・ Travel expenses up to 5,000 Swiss francs in total for the 5 authors. The purpose of the travel could be to convene a meeting amongst the authors or to support travel to come to Geneva to present the findings of the study or any other unforeseen travel expenses.

The overall estimation of the cost to be shared as follows: UPOV regular budget would cover 30,000 Swiss  francs and the Funds-in-Trust Agreement between the Government of Japan and UPOV (JP-FIT) would cover 25,000 Swiss francs.

[Annex II follows]

(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)

I. MEMBRES / MEMBERS / MIEMBROS

AFRIQUE DU SUD / SOUTH AFRICA / SUDÁFRICA

Andani Robert MADZINGE (Mr.), Registrar: Plant Breeders’ Rights Act, Directorate: Genetic Resources, Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Pretoria
(e-mail: AndaniMA@dalrrd.gov.za)

Sabelo Jerome NDLAZI (Mr.), Scientist Manager, Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development: Genetic Resources, Pretoria
(e-mail: SabeloNdl@dalrrd.gov.za)

Elna DE BRUYN (Ms.), Scientist Production: Plant Breeders’ Rights Office, Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and rural Development, Pretoria
(e-mail: elnadb@dalrrd.gov.za)

ALLEMAGNE / GERMANY / ALEMANIA

Elmar PFÜLB (Mr.), President, Bundessortenamt, Hannover
(e-mail: postfach.praesident@bundessortenamt.de)

ARGENTINE / ARGENTINA / Argentina

María Laura VILLAMAYOR (Sra.), Coordinadora de Relaciones Institucionales e Interjurisdiccionales, Instituto Nacional de Semillas (INASE), Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Alimentación, Buenos Aires
(e-mail: mlvillamayor@inase.gob.ar)

Mariano Alejandro MANGIERI (Mr.), Director, Plant Variety Protection Office, Instituto Nacional de Semillas (INASE), Secretaía de Industria y Comercio Exterior, Ministerio de Economía, Buenos Aires
(e-mail: mmangieri@inase.gob.ar)

AUSTRALIE / AUSTRALIA / AUSTRALIA

Isabel WARD (Ms.), Assistant Director of PBR Policy, IP Australia, Phillip
(e-mail: Isabel.Ward@ipaustralia.gov.au)

AUTRICHE / AUSTRIA / AUSTRIA

Birgit GULZ-KUSCHER (Ms.), Legal Advisor for Seed Law and Plant Variety Protection Law, Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft, Wien
(e-mail: birgit.gulz-kuscher@bml.gv.at)

BRÉSIL / BRAZIL / BRASIL

Stefânia PALMA ARAUJO (Ms.), Coordinator, Plant Variety Protection Office, National Plant Variety Protection Service, Serviço Nacional de Proteção de Cultivares (SNPC), Brasilia
(e-mail: stefania.araujo@agro.gov.br)

Maria José PARON (Ms.), Federal Agricultural Inspector, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Brasilia
(e-mail: maria.paron@agro.gov.br)

CANADA / CANADA / CANADÁ

Anthony PARKER (Mr.), Commissioner, Plant Breeders' Rights Office, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Ottawa
(e-mail: anthony.parker@inspection.gc.ca)

Marc DE WIT (Mr.), Policy and Program Team Leader, Plant Breeders' Rights Office, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Ottawa
(e-mail: Marc.deWit@Inspection.gc.ca)

Renée CLOUTIER (Ms.), Examiner, Plant Breeders' Rights Office, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Ottawa
(e-mail: Renee.Cloutier@inspection.gc.ca)

CHILI / CHILE / CHILE

Manuel Antonio TORO UGALDE (Sr.), Jefe Sección, Registro de Variedades Protegidas, Departamento de Semillas y Plantas, Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero (SAG), Santiago de Chile (e-mail: manuel.toro@sag.gob.cl)

CHINE / CHINA / CHINA

Yehan CUI (Mr.), Chief Agronomist, Development Center of Science and Technology (DCST), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), Beijing
(e-mail: cuiyehan@agri.gov.cn)

Yongqi ZHENG (Mr.), Director, Laboratory of Molecular Identification of Plant Varieties, Science and Technology Development Center (Office for Protection of New Varieties of Plant), National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China (NFGA), Beijing
(e-mail: zyq8565@126.com)

Yuxia LIU (Ms.), Consultant, Science and Technology Development Center, Office for Protection of New Varieties of Plants, National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China (NFGA), Beijing
(e-mail: kjzxlyx@163.com)

COLOMBIE / COLOMBIA / KOLUMBIEN / COLOMBIA

Alfonso Alberto ROSERO (Sr.), Director Técnico de Semillas, Subgerencia de Protección Vegetal, Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA), Bogotá
(e-mail: alberto.rosero@ica.gov.co)

ESPAGNE / SPAIN / ESPAÑA

Carlos SANZ ZUDAIRE (Mr.), Head of Registry, Oficina Española de Variedades Vegetales (MPA y OEVV), Madrid
(e-mail: csanz@mapa.es)

ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE / UNITED STATES OF AMERICA / ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA

Nyeemah GRAZIER (Ms.), Patent Attorney-Advisor, Office of Policy and International Affairs (OPIA), U.S. Department of Commerce, Alexandria
(e-mail: nyeemah.grazier@uspto.gov)

Christian HANNON (Mr.), Senior Patent Attorney, Office of Policy and International Affairs (OPIA), United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Alexandria
(e-mail: christian.hannon@uspto.gov)

Ruihong GUO (Ms.), Deputy Administrator, AMS, Science & Technology Program, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Washington D.C.
(e-mail: ruihong.guo@usda.gov)

Jeffery HAYNES (Mr.), Commissioner, Plant Variety Protection Office, AMS, Science & Technology Program, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Washington D.C.
(e-mail: Jeffery.Haynes@usda.gov)

GHANA / GHANA / GHANA

Maud Ofaah YEBOAH (Ms.), State Attorney, Attorney General’s & Ministry of Justice, Accra
(e-mail: graceissahaque@hotmail.com)

Courage BESAH-ADANU (Mr.), Head of PVP Unit, Senior Programs Officer, Ghana Industrial Property Office, Registrar General's Department, Accra
(e-mail: kadanu2@gmail.com)

HONGRIE / HUNGARY / HUNGRÍA

Tamara SOÓS (Ms.), Head, Unit of Plant Genetic Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Budapest
(e-mail: tamara.soos@am.gov.hu)

Lilla RÁCZ-SZABÓ (Ms.), Expert, Ministry of Agriculture, Budapest
(e-mail: lilla.racz-szabo@am.gov.hu)

JAPON / JAPAN / JAPÓN

Hiroyuki TANAKA (Mr.), Director, Plant Variety Protection Office, Intellectual Property Division, Export and International Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Tokyo
(e-mail: hiroyuki\_tanaka830@maff.go.jp)

Minori HAGIWARA (Ms.), Director for International Affairs on Plant Variety Protection, Plant Variety Protection Office, Intellectual Property Division, Export and International Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Tokyo
(e-mail: minori\_hagiwara110@maff.go.jp)

Mayu YAMAMOTO (Mr.), Section Chief, Plant Variety Protection Office, Intellectual Property Division, Export and International Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Tokyo
(e-mail: mayu\_yamamoto550@maff.go.jp)

Hiroaki KINOSHITA (Mr.), International Relation Officer, Plant Variety Protection Office, Intellectual Property Division, Export and International Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Tokyo
(e-mail: hiroaki\_kinoshita640@maff.go.jp)

Yoshiyuki OHNO (Mr.), Examiner, Intellectual Property Division, Export and International Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Tokyo
(e-mail: yoshiyuki\_ono300@maff.go.jp)

KENYA / Kenya / KENYA

Theophilus M. MUTUI (Mr.), Managing Director, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), Nairobi
(e-mail: director@kephis.org)

MAROC / MOROCCO / MARRUECOS

Zoubida TAOUSSI (Mme), Responsable de la protection des obtentions vegetales, Office National de Sécurité Sanitaire des Produits Alimentaires (ONSSA), Rabat
(e-mail: ztaoussi67@gmail.com)

MEXIQUE / MEXICO / MÉXICO

Víctor Manuel VÁSQUEZ NAVARRETE (Sr.), Director de área, Servicio Nacional de Inspección y Certificación de Semillas (SNICS), Secretaria de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural (Agricultura), Ciudad de México
(e-mail: victor.vasquez@agricultura.gob.mx)

NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE / NEW ZEALAND / NUEVA ZELANDIA

Christopher James BARNABY (Mr.), PVR Manager / Assistant Commissioner, Plant Variety Rights Office, Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand, Ministry of Economic Development, Christchurch
(e-mail: Chris.Barnaby@pvr.govt.nz)

PARAGUAY / PARAGUAY / Paraguay

Santiago Gaspar BENÍTEZ VERA (Sr.), Director, Dirección de Semillas (DISE), Servicio Nacional de Calidad y Sanidad Vegetal y de Semillas (SENAVE), San Lorenzo
(e-mail: santiago.benitez@senave.gov.py)

Dahiana Maria OVEJERO MALDONADO (Sra.), Jefa, Departamento de Protección y Uso de Variedades, Direccion de Semillas (DISE), Servicio Nacional de Calidad y Sanidad Vegetal y de Semillas (SENAVE), San Lorenzo
(e-mail: dahiana.ovejero@senave.gov.py)

PAYS-BAS (ROYAUME DES) / NETHERLANDS (KINGDOM OF THE) / PAÍSES BAJOS (REINO DE LOS)

Bernadette REGEER (Ms.), Coordinating policy advisor, Phytosanitary Affairs and Propagating material, DG Agro & Nature, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Den Haag
(e-mail: b.regeer@minlnv.nl)

Jan MEILING (Mr.), Director, Naktuinbouw, Roelofarendsveen
(e-mail: j.meiling@naktuinbouw.nl)

Marco HOFFMAN (Mr.), Senior Policy Officer, Naktuinbouw, Roelofarendsveen
(e-mail: m.hoffman@naktuinbouw.nl)

Raoul HAEGENS (Mr.), Domain Head of the Identity and Variety Testing Department, Naktuinbouw, Roelofarendsveen
(e-mail: r.haegens@naktuinbouw.nl)

POLOGNE / POLAND / POLONIA

Małgorzata JANISZEWSKA-MICHALSKA (Ms.), Head of Legal and Human Resources Office, Research Centre for Cultivar Testing (COBORU), Slupia Wielka
(e-mail: m.janiszewska@coboru.gov.pl)

RÉPUBLIQUE DE CORÉE / REPUBLIC OF KOREA / REPÚBLICA DE COREA

Jun Yon JANG (Mr.), Deputy Director, Korea Seed and Variety Service (KSVS), Gyeongsangbuk-do
(e-mail: jang.jy@korea.kr)

ChanWoong PARK (Mr.), Deputy Director/Examiner, Plant Variety Protection Division, Korea Seed and Variety Service (KSVS), Gyeongsangbuk-do
(e-mail: chwopark@korea.kr)

Jinkee JUNG (Mr.), Researcher, Plant Variety Protection Division, Korea Seed and Variety Service (KSVS), Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA), Gimcheon City
(e-mail: jinkeejung@korea.kr)

Kwanghong LEE (Mr.), Researcher, Korea Seed and Variety Service (KSVS), Maryang
(e-mail: grin@korea.kr)

Hwansu HWANG (Mr.), Forest Researcher, Plant Variety Protection Division, National Forest Seed Variety Center (NFSV), Chungcheongbuk-do
(e-mail: hwansu3368@korea.kr)

RÉPUBLIQUE Dominicaine / dominican REPUBLIC / REPÚBLICA Dominicana

Octavio Augusto BERAS-GOICO JUSTINIANO (Sr.), Encargado del Departamento Legal, Oficina de Registro de Variedades y Obtenciones Vegetales (OREVADO), Santo Domingo
(e-mail: octavio.beras-goico@agricultura.gob.do)

RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE / CZECH REPUBLIC / REPÚBLICA CHECA

Lenka CLOWEZOVÁ (Ms.), Ministry official, Plant Commodities Department,, Ministry of Agriculture, Praha
(e-mail: lenka.clowezova@mze.cz)

Pavla BÍMOVÁ (Ms.), General affairs of DUS testing, National Plant Variety Office, Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture (ÚKZÚZ), Brno
(e-mail: pavla.bimova@ukzuz.gov.cz)

RÉPUBLIQUE-UNIE DE TANZANIE / UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA / REPÚBLICA UNIDA DE TANZANÍA

Patrick NGWEDIAGI (Mr.), Director General, Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI), Morogoro
(e-mail: dg@tosci.go.tz)

Joyce Eligi MOSILE (Ms.), Principal Agricultural Officer II, Plant Breeders' Rights Office, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Dodoma
(e-mail: Joyce.mosile@kilimo.go.tz)

ROUMANIE / ROMANIA / RUMANIA

Teodor Dan ENESCU (Mr.), Counsellor, State Institute for Variety Testing and Registration (ISTIS), Bucarest
(e-mail: enescu\_teodor@istis.ro)

ROYAUME-UNI / UNITED KINGDOM / REINO UNIDO

Kat DEEKS (Ms.), Plant Variety and seeds policy Team Leader, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Cambridge
(e-mail: katherine.deeks@defra.gov.uk)

Sigurd RAMANS-HARBOROUGH (Mr.), Manager of UK Variety Listing and PBR, Plant Varieties and Seeds, Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Cambridge
(e-mail: Sigurd.Ramans-Harborough@defra.gov.uk)

Peter SCOTTING (Mr.), Lead on Plant Breeders Rights and Variety Listing, Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Cambridge
(e-mail: peter.scotting@apha.gov.uk)

John HOWLETT (Mr.), Head of Plant Variety and Seeds (PVS), Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Cambridge
(e-mail: john.howlett@apha.gov.uk)

Hilary PAPWORTH (Ms.), Senior Technical Manager, NIAB, Cambridge
(e-mail: hilary.papworth@niab.com)

Margaret WALLACE (Ms.), Joint Head of Agricultural Crop Characterisation, NIAB, Cambridge
(e-mail: margaret.wallace@niab.com)

SERBIE / SERBIA / SERBIA

Gordana LONCAR (Ms.), Senior Adviser for Plant Variety protection, Plant Protection Directorate, Group for Plant Variety Protection and Biosafety, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Belgrade (e-mail: gordana.loncar@minpolj.gov.rs)

SUISSE / SWITZERLAND / SUIZA

Manuela BRAND (Ms.), Plant Variety Rights Office, Plant Health and Varieties, Office fédéral de l'agriculture (OFAG), Bern
(e-mail: manuela.brand@blw.admin.ch)

TUNISIE / TUNISIA / TÚNEZ

Omar BRAHMI (M.), Ingénieur en chef, Chef service Évaluation, Homologation et Protection des Obtentions Végétales, Direction Générale de la Santé Végétale et de Contrôle des Intrants Agricoles, Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Ressources Hydrauliques et de la Pêche, Tunis
(e-mail: bo.dgpcqpa@iresa.agrinet.tn)

TÜRKIYE / TÜRKIYE / TÜRKIYE

Sezgin KARADENIZ (Mr.), Head, Seed Policies Department and PBR Office, General Directorate of Plant Production, Ankara
(e-mail: sezgin.karadeniz@tarimorman.gov.tr)

Mehmet ÇAKMAK (Mr.), PBR Expert, Senior Agricultural Engineer, Msc., Seed Department, General Directorate of Plant Production, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ankara
(e-mail: mehmet.cakmak@tarimorman.gov.tr)

Koray KALAY (Mr.), Forestry Nursery Manager, Turkish General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara
(e-mail: koraykalay@ogm.gov.tr)

UNION EUROPÉENNE / EUROPEAN UNION / UNIÓN EUROPEA

Tamara SOÓS (Ms.), Head, Unit of Plant Genetic Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Budapest
(e-mail: tamara.soos@am.gov.hu)

Lilla RÁCZ-SZABÓ (Ms.), Expert, Ministry of Agriculture, Budapest
(e-mail: lilla.racz-szabo@am.gov.hu)

Päivi MANNERKORPI (Ms.), Team Leader - Plant Reproductive Material, Unit G1 Plant Health, Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), European Commission, Brussels
(e-mail: paivi.mannerkorpi@ec.europa.eu)

Spyridon FLEVARIS (Mr.), Policy Officer, Plant Health Unit, European Commission - Health and Food Safety Directorate-General - Directorate Crisis preparedness in food, animals and plants, Brussels
(e-mail: spyridon.flevaris@ec.europa.eu)

Nuria URQUÍA FERNÁNDEZ (Ms.), Vice President, Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO), Angers
(e-mail: urquia@cpvo.europa.eu)

Dirk THEOBALD (Mr.), Senior Adviser, Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO), Angers
(e-mail: theobald@cpvo.europa.eu)

Jean MAISON (Mr.), Head of Unit ad interim, Plant Variety Expertise Unit, Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO), Angers
(e-mail: maison@cpvo.europa.eu)

URUGUAY / URUGUAY / URUGUAY

Federico BOSCHI (Mr.), Técnico, Evaluación y Registro de Cultivares, Instituto Nacional de Semillas (INASE), Canelones
(e-mail: fboschi@inase.uy)

II. OBSERVATEURS / OBSERVERS / OBSERVADORES

THAÏLANDE / THAILAND / TAILANDIA

Sakon WANASETHI (Mr.), Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva
(e-mail: sakon@thaiwto.com)

Pornpimol SUGANDHAVANIJA (Ms.), Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission, Geneva
(e-mail: pornpimol@thaiwto.com)

III. ORGANISATIONS / ORGANIZATIONS / ORGANIZACIONES

ASSOCIATION FOR PLANT BREEDING FOR THE BENEFIT OF SOCIETY (APBREBES)

François MEIENBERG (Mr.), Coordinator, Association for Plant Breeding for the Benefit of Society (APBREBES), Zürich, Suisse
(e-mail: contact@apbrebes.org)

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES PRODUCTEURS HORTICOLES (AIPH) / INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HORTICULTURAL PRODUCERS (AIPH) / ASOCIACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE PRODUCTORES HORTÍCOLAS (AIPH)

Mia HOPPERUS BUMA (Ms.), Secretary, Committee for Novelty Protection, International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH), The Hague, Netherlands (Kingdom of the)
(e-mail: info@miabuma.nl)

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA PROTECTION DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE (AIPPI) /
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (AIPPI) /
ASOCIACIÓN Internacional para la Protección de la Propiedad Industrial e Intelectual (AIPPI)

Fleur TUINZING-WESTERHUIS (Ms.), Advocaat | Counsel, Houthoff Coöperatief U.A., Amsterdam, Netherlands (Kingdom of the)
(e-mail: f.tuinzing@houthoff.com)

COMMUNAUTÉ INTERNATIONALE DES OBTENTEURS DE PLANTES HORTICOLES À REPRODUCTION ASEXUÉE (CIOPORA) / INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF BREEDERS OF ASEXUALLY REPRODUCED HORTICULTURAL PLANTS (CIOPORA) / COMUNIDAD INTERNACIONAL DE FITOMEJORADORES DE PLANTAS HORTÍCOLAS DE REPRODUCCIÓN ASEXUADA (CIOPORA)

Edgar KRIEGER (Mr.), Secretary General, International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Horticultural Plants (CIOPORA), Hamburg, Germany
(e-mail: edgar.krieger@ciopora.org)

Micaela FILIPPO (Ms.), Vice Secretary-General, International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Horticultural Plants (CIOPORA), Hamburg, Germany
(e-mail: micaela.filippo@ciopora.org)

CROPLIFE INTERNATIONAL

Marcel BRUINS (Mr.), Consultant, CropLife International, Bruxelles, Belgique
(e-mail: marcel@bruinsseedconsultancy.com)

EUROSEEDS

Jared ONSANDO (Mr.), Technical Manager Variety Testing and Registration, Bruxelles, Belgique
(e-mail: JaredOnsando@euroseeds.eu)

INTERNATIONAL SEED FEDERATION (ISF)

Szonja CSÖRGÖ (Ms.), Intellectual Property and Legal Affairs Manager, International Seed Federation (ISF), Nyon, Switzerland
(e-mail: s.csorgo@worldseed.org)

Jan KNOL (Mr.), Plant Variety Protection Officer, Crop Science Division, BASF Vegetable Seeds, Nunhems Netherlands B.V., Nunhem, Netherlands (Kingdom of the)
(e-mail: jan.knol@basf.com)

Kim MAESSEN-VAN BUGGENUM (Ms.), Plant Variety Protection Officer (BASF Vegetable Seeds), Crop Science Division, Nunhems Netherlands B.V., Nunhem, Netherlands (Kingdom of the)
(e-mail: Kim.vanbuggenum@basf.com)

Frank MICHIELS (Mr.), Global PVP manager GBI/BG, BASF, Gent, Belgique
(e-mail: frank.michiels@basf.com)

SEED ASSOCIATION OF THE AMERICAS (SAA) /
ASOCIACIÓN DE SEMILLAS DE LAS AMÉRICAS (SAA)

Diego A. RISSO DESIRELLO, Director Ejecutivo, Seed Association of the Americas (SAA), Montevideo, Uruguay
(e-mail: drisso@saaseed.org)

Marymar BUTRUILLE (Ms.), Germplasm IP Scientist Lead, Bayer Crop Science, Ankeny
(e-mail: marymar.butruille@bayer.com)

IV. BUREAU / OFFICER / OFICINA

Yolanda HUERTA (Ms.), Chair

V. BUREAU DE L’UPOV / OFFICE OF UPOV / OFICINA DE LA UPOV

Yolanda HUERTA (Ms.), Vice Secretary-General

Martin EKVAD (Mr.), Director of Legal Affairs

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Hend MADHOUR (Ms.), Head of IT

Yoshiro NISHIMURA (Mr.), Technical/Regional Officer (Asia)

Kees VAN ETTEKOVEN (Mr.), Technical Expert

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