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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
 Geneva

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Eighty-Eighth Session
Geneva, October 15, 2014

ADDENDUM TO:

DEVELOPMENTS OF RELEVANCE TO UPOV IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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1. The purpose of this document is to provide a report on developments of relevance to UPOV in other international fora since the eighty-seventh session of the Consultative Committee, held in Geneva on April 11, 2014, which are further to the developments presented in document CC/88/14, as follows:

I.	WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO).....	1
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I. WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)

WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)

2. The background to the IGC is provided in document CC/84/9 Rev. "Developments of Relevance to UPOV in Other International Fora", paragraphs 44 to 51 and in document CC/88/14, paragraphs 21 to 24.

3. The fifty-fourth series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO were held in Geneva, from September 22 to 30, 2014. Document WO/GA/46/6 "Matters Concerning the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)" is available from the WIPO website at: http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=33291.

4. The Press Release concerning the fifty-fourth series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO provided the following information in relation to the IGC (see PR/2014/769 of October 1, 2014, available at http://www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/articles/2014/article_0016.html):

“The following issues were the focus of extensive informal consultations and plenary discussions:

[...]

- Matters concerning the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)

“Differences in approaches divided member states who did not reach consensus decisions on these questions.”

WIPO publication “Introduction to Intellectual Property – Theory and Practice”

5. On September 29, 2014, the Secretariat of WIPO contacted the Office of the Union for assistance in updating Chapter 27 “International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants” of the 1997 WIPO publication “Introduction to Intellectual Property – Theory and Practice” (Published by Kluwer Law International (ISBN: 90-411-0938-2)). The Office of the Union contributed to the drafting of Chapter 27 in the 1997 edition. The WIPO Secretariat has requested to the Office of the Union to make proposals concerning the updating of Chapter 27 by the end of February 2015.

6. The Office of the Union plans to make proposals to update Chapter 27 on the basis of the text in the distance learning course DL-205 “Introduction to the UPOV System of Plant Variety Protection Under the UPOV Convention” and information materials adopted by the Council, including the frequently asked questions (FAQs).

II. WORLD BANK

7. On September 22, 2014, the Office of the Union participated in an electronic conference call with Mr. Milan Kondic, Ms. Valerie Erica Marechal and Mr. Robert De Lescaille, members of the project team “Benchmarking the Business of Agriculture project (BBA)”, World Bank & International Finance Corporation, to discuss the BBA project (see <http://www.doingbusiness.org/about-us/global-indicators>). Mr. Kondic reported on developments concerning the BBA project and invited the Office of the Union to comment, in relation to UPOV matters, on a survey to be sent to the pilot countries by end of 2014.

8. On September 30, 2014, the Office of the Union provided comments with regard to the procedure for becoming a UPOV member. The Office of the Union also provided the BBA project team with the link to the “WIPO Methodology and Tools for the Development of National IP Strategies” (see <http://www.wipo.int/ipstrategies/en/methodology/>). The WIPO Methodology contains a Baseline Survey Questionnaire (Tool 2) and Benchmarking Indicators (Tool 3), which includes the contributions of the Office of the Union to the chapters concerning plant variety protection (see document CC/86/15 “Report”, paragraph 95).

9. The Consultative Committee is invited to note the developments of relevance to UPOV in other international fora reported in this document.

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