

Consultative Committee

CC/93/7.

**Ninety-Third Session
Geneva, April 6, 2017****Original:** English
Date: March 9, 2017**POSSIBLE USE OF THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE IN UPOV***Document prepared by the Office of the Union**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

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1. At the ninety-second session of the Consultative Committee, held in Geneva on October 27 and 28, 2016, the Delegation of the Russian Federation referred to the discussions that took place in 2001, at the sixty-first session of the Consultative Committee, and proposed a new item on the agenda for the ninety-third session on the possible use of the Russian language in the UPOV sessions.

2. The Delegation of Belarus expressed its support for the proposal by the Russian Federation and noted that a substantial number of members of the Union used the Russian language. It noted that previously there had been a Russian speaking staff member in the Office of the Union who had provided assistance to Belarus in the procedure to become a UPOV member. It was of the view that the introduction of the Russian language would assist other countries in joining UPOV.

3. The Vice Secretary-General suggested that the starting point for discussions could be to re-present the document that was the basis for consideration of that matter in 2001, document CC/61/5 “Russian as a Working Language of UPOV”, but with some updated figures to illustrate the costs that are involved in using languages in UPOV.

4. The Consultative Committee, at its ninety-second session, agreed to include the following item for the program of its ninety-third session: “Possible use of the Russian language in UPOV” (see document CC/92/20 “Report on the Conclusions”, paragraph 86).

5. Document CC/61/5 “Russian as a Working Language of UPOV” is posted as a reference document in the webpage of CC/93. Annex I to this document contains a version of document CC/61/5 with certain updated figures to illustrate the costs that would be involved in using new languages in UPOV. The updated figures are provided for illustrative purposes only and, in particular, do not indicate any budgetary provisions.

6. The Consultative Committee, at its sixty-first session, concluded as follows (see Annex II, document CC/61/6 “Report”):

“31. The Vice Secretary-General supported the proposal of the Delegation of the Russian Federation for it to provide translation, into Russian language, of certain UPOV documents and place these on the Web site of its State Commission. The Office of the Union could create a link on its Web site for users to access these unofficial Russian language versions of UPOV documents. It was noted that this would not involve additional expense for UPOV.

“32. The Chairman concluded that today it was premature to bring the matter of Russian as a working language to the attention of the Council and invited the Committee at this stage to agree with the Vice Secretary-General's proposal to make a direct link to the Russian Web site.

“33. The Committee agreed with that proposal.”

7. The following link was provided to the website of the State Commission of the Russian Federation for Selection Achievements Test and Protection <http://gossort.com/27-mezhdunarodnyy-soyuz-po-ohrane-novyh-sortov-rasteniy-upov.html>.

8. Since the ninety-second session of the Consultative Committee, the Office the Union has received communications in relation to the item “Possible use of the Russian language in UPOV”, from the following members of the Union: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Republic of Moldova and Uzbekistan. One observer State in the Council has also communicated on this item: Kazakhstan. Copies of those communications are reproduced as Annexes III to VII to this document.

9. In order to facilitate considerations on this matter, in consultation with the President of the Council, interpretation from and to Russian in the four UPOV languages will be provided for the item “Possible use of the Russian language in UPOV”, at the ninety-third session of the Consultative Committee.

10. *The Consultative Committee is invited to:*

(a) note the information provided in this document and its Annexes; and

(b) consider the possible use of the Russian language in UPOV.

[Annexes follow]

DOCUMENT CC/61/5 "RUSSIAN AS A WORKING LANGUAGE OF UPOV"
WITH 2017 UPDATED FIGURES

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CC/61/5

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: March 6, 2001

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GENEVA

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Sixty-First Session
Geneva, April 6, 2001

RUSSIAN AS A WORKING LANGUAGE OF UPOV

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

Introduction

1. At the sixtieth session of the Consultative Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee"), on October 25, 2000, the Delegation of Kyrgyzstan, in accordance with Article 28 of the UPOV Convention, made a proposal for the introduction of the Russian language as a working language, in addition to the other four languages. Article 28(3) of the 1991 Act of Convention states that the Council may decide that further languages shall be used. The proposal was supported by the Delegations of Ukraine and the Russian Federation.
2. The Vice Secretary-General suggested that the Office of the Union make investigations into that matter including the financial aspects and report on it at the sixty-first session of the Committee. The Committee agreed to that proposal (see document CC/60/4).
3. The present document provides the findings of the study on the various implications of the proposed use of Russian in UPOV and contains some general reflections on the language policy of the Union.

Working Languages of UPOV

4. Article 28 of the 1991 Act of the Convention states as follows:

“(1) The English, French, German and Spanish languages shall be used by the Office of the Union in carrying out its duties.

“(2) Meetings of the Council and of revision conferences shall be held in the four languages.

“(3) The Council may decide that further languages shall be used.”

Article 26(7) provides that “Any decision of the Council shall require a simple majority of the votes cast, provided that any decision of the Council under paragraphs (5)(ii), (vi) and (vii) and under Articles 28(3), 29(5)(b) and 38(1) shall require three fourths of the votes cast. Abstentions shall not be considered as votes.”

5. In the current practice of the Union, simultaneous interpretation in all four working languages is provided during the sessions of the Council, the Consultative Committee, the Administrative and Legal Committee and the Technical Committee. Documents and circulars for these Committees, as well as Test Guidelines, are produced in all working languages. Meetings of Working Parties and subgroups are held without interpretation; for working documents, circulars and preparatory correspondence with member States, only English is used. Individual correspondence and oral communications of the Office of the Union are realized as far as possible in the working languages. During internal meetings of the staff of the Office of the Union, the language spoken by all individuals present is used, which is in general English. Experience shows that at least one native speaker in the Office is required to handle a working language effectively even if an outside linguistic service is available. The production of documents in all working languages on the basis of the language in which it was drafted (translation, proof-reading, correction, printing, distribution) takes three to four weeks.

6. It seems as if the subject of working languages was for the first time discussed during the second session of the Diplomatic Conference held in Paris from November 22 to December 1, 1961. Among the possible working languages, Spanish, Dutch and Italian were suggested but not adopted. Finally, English, French and German were retained.

7. The case for introducing a new working language took place when Spanish was added at the Diplomatic Conference in 1991. Having made the proposal, the Delegation of Spain expressed willingness to cooperate with the Office of the Union in translating documents to reduce the cost of the introduction of Spanish as an official language. Spain declared that it would also increase its participation in the budget and did so later, increasing its contribution from one unit to 1.5 units.

8. The proposal to add a reference to Spanish in Article 28(1) was finally adopted by three votes for, no vote against and 17 abstentions. Spanish was then gradually introduced as a working language, starting with simultaneous interpretation at the sessions of the Council and the Consultative Committee in 1992.

Russian as a World Language

9. Russian is used by around 300 million speakers as first or second language. At least five States nominate Russian as a state or official (second) language. Russian is used as the only working language in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Four member States of the CIS are Contracting Parties of the Convention. The other eight States have expressed their will to become Contracting Parties (cf. Annex, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3).

10. Russian is used as a working language in Organizations of the UN System (cf. Annex, paragraphs 4 and 5).

Present Situation in UPOV Concerning the Use of Russian, Including the Use of Russian in UPOV Training Activities

11. In the recent past, UPOV has undertaken steps to facilitate communication in Russian. The Office has one position in the Professional category where fluent Russian is required. Since the Office has a lot of activity in the region in question, almost all oral communication with the representatives of the region is in Russian. The Office in some important cases is required to send correspondence in one of the working languages with an “unofficial translation” into Russian attached. Countries, such as Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, which requested the advice of the Council on the conformity of their national legislation with the UPOV Convention, submitted the official text of that legislation in Russian.

2017 Update

In 2001, the Office of the Union had one Russian speaking staff in a P4 position. Since the re-organization of the UPOV Office in 2004, there has been no position in the Professional category where fluent Russian is required.

The costs per annum of a position in the Professional category (P4) would correspond to 210,000 Swiss francs.

12. At present, UPOV has a Russian version of the 1991 Act of the Convention and also of the flyer “UPOV, What It Is, What It Does.” In addition, documents and lectures for certain seminars are produced in Russian.

13. Russian has been used as a working language in the following UPOV training and capacity building activities undertaken since November 1996:

- UPOV International Seminar on the Nature of and Rationale for the Protection of Plant Varieties under the UPOV Convention for Countries of the Central Asian Region, held in Bishkek and Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, from November 11 to 16, 1996. Interpretation and publications in Russian were provided by UPOV;

- UPOV/WIPO Caucasian Regional Seminar on the Protection of Plant Varieties under the UPOV Convention, the Patent System and the TRIPS Agreement, held in Tbilisi, Georgia, from October 5 to 7, 1999. Interpretation and publications in Russian were provided by UPOV/WIPO.

14. It is also planned for the year 2001, in cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), to have Symposia on the Commercialization of Intellectual Property on

Agriculture for the countries of the Baltic Sea region and a series of Roving Seminars in the Central Asian region where both interpretation and publications in Russian would be provided by UPOV/WIPO.

15. *Promotion of Accession to the Convention.* There is considerable scope for increasing the membership of those countries in transition which are users of Russian as a state language or as a mostly spoken foreign language. The Office should, therefore, continue the practice mentioned above.

Various Means of Using Russian in UPOV and Cost Involved

16. A significant means of reaching out to a maximum number of Russian-speaking people would be to have a selection of basic documents in Russian available on the UPOV Web site. The translation of the documents in question could be outsourced to remote translators, which would require a certain level of resources to be allocated to this activity. Such an approach would thus provide a maximum outreach to Russian-speaking persons throughout the world, much greater than that which could be achieved using publications in paper form. And that approach would also demonstrate UPOV being at the forefront of the innovative use of new technology.

17. The development of a Russian part of UPOV's Web site could be undertaken by staff of the Office in cooperation with WIPO. The level of resources needed for financing the translation of publications into Russian would depend upon the number and type of publications that would be translated into Russian.

18. *Interpretation at UPOV Meetings (Council, Consultative Committee, Administrative and Legal Committee and Technical Committee).* If it were to be decided to have interpretation to and from Russian at the UPOV meetings, first it should be mentioned that it would not be necessary to provide for additional interpretation equipment in the main WIPO Conference Room A, as that is now equipped for six languages, with six booths for interpreters. With regard to the costs for interpreters, to provide full interpretation to and from Russian for the said meetings, the cost would vary between 7,000 and 13,000 Swiss francs for the Spring Session (5 working days) and the estimated additional cost for the Autumn Session (4 working days) would vary between 5,000 and 10,000 Swiss francs. The variation is due to possible shortage of English- and French-booth interpreters having Russian as a passive language. If it is the case, to cover all the languages required of the English and French booths, either a third person would have to be assigned, or non-local recruitment would be necessary. Both of these situations would result in additional costs. As for other conference-related costs, like sound operators, the addition of Russian should have no influence on these.

2017 Update

For providing interpretation services in the Russian language, the calculation provided in paragraph 18 above should be updated as follows: up to 19,200 Swiss francs for five-day session, and up to 15,200 Swiss francs for four-day session. Therefore, the annual total amount would be up to 34,400 Swiss francs.

19. *Documents.* If it were to be decided to have the production of documents in Russian limited to those required in connection with UPOV meetings (as mentioned in paragraph 18, above), the associated cost for the following documents - the Council Report, the Consultative Committee Report, Administrative and Legal Committee Report, all twice yearly - could cost about 44,000 Swiss francs per year. If the whole set of UPOV documents had to be translated, this sum of money would be doubled. Since the WIPO Language Service does not have any excess capacity, that translation work would have to be outsourced and covered by UPOV's budget.

20. *Translation.* If it were to be decided to have publications and documents translated into Russian to the same extent as for English, French, German and Spanish, then a higher level of resources would be needed, involving an additional staff member in the Professional category in the WIPO Language Service plus a half-time staff member in the General Services category, which would cost about 470,000 Swiss francs per biennium, plus direct overheads and related expenditures for office space, printing, supplies, equipment, etc.

2017 Update

In relation to the costs illustrated in paragraphs 19 and 20 above, the updated annual estimate for the translation costs for all documents is 249,945 Swiss francs.¹

21. If it were to be decided to have Russian to the same extent as for English, French, German and Spanish, it would certainly affect the daily work of the Office. It would, for example, make the preparation and distribution of the UPOV Committee's documents more complicated as well as UPOV Test Guidelines and other related documents. It would probably require a new secretarial post requiring fluency in Russian in the General Service category, which would cost about 220,000 to 270,000 Swiss francs per biennium.

2017 Update

The costs per annum of a new secretarial post (G5 level) requiring fluency in Russian in the General Service category would correspond to 127,500 Swiss francs.

Should the full use of Russian be decided, the anticipated budget implications would be in excess of 800,000 Swiss francs for the biennium. The budget implications (including additional reimbursements to WIPO and the possibility of a reassessment of contributions) would need to be considered in the context of UPOV's program and budget.

¹ The calculation is based on the 2015 translation cost per word (0.57 Swiss francs) applied to the total number of words translated from UPOV documents in Spanish in 2016 (i.e. 438,500 words). Additional information on the translation cost per word can be found in document A/56/5 "Program Performance Report for 2014/15" (page 251, English version) available at http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=39545

2017 Update

In summary, the anticipated costs of the full use of the Russian language would be:

Interpretation costs - per annum: up to 34,400 Swiss francs (per biennium: up to 68,800 Swiss francs)
(see paragraph 18, above)

Translation costs - per annum: 249,945 Swiss francs (per biennium: 499,890 Swiss francs)
(see paragraphs 19 and 20, above)

Staff costs in the Office of the Union (one P4 and one G5 Staff)- per annum: 337,500 Swiss francs
(per biennium: 675,000 Swiss francs) (see paragraphs 11 and 21, above)

Grand total - per annum: 621,845 Swiss francs (per biennium: 1,243,690 Swiss francs)

22. The member State which made the proposal to have Russian as a working language of UPOV as well as member States which supported the proposal are due to pay the following number of units of contribution to UPOV budget: Kyrgyzstan – 0.2; Russian Federation – 0.5; Ukraine – 0.5, in total - 1.2 units. This corresponds to some 129,000 Swiss francs or approximately 16 per cent of the anticipated expenses.

Conclusion

23. As UPOV is a fast growing intergovernmental Organization with the likelihood of having about 100 member States in the near future, and in view of possible proposals to introduce other languages as working languages of UPOV, it would be useful to consider the matter more generally and to develop some criteria for the language policy of the Union. The following criteria might be helpful when deciding on additional working languages:

(a) The proposed language should be widely spoken in the world, taking into consideration both the number of people who speak the language (as first or second) and the number of countries where it is spoken as an official language.

(b) The effectiveness of the introduction of a proposed language from the point of view of spreading the UPOV system and its successful implementation in the region where a proposed language is spoken (number of member States, number of States which have already initiated the procedure of adhering to the Convention, number of potential member States).

(c) If the decision for accepting a new language is positive, then the gradual introduction of the language into day-to-day practice must be considered, and each biennium increase must be coordinated with the practical aspects and the resources of the Office of the Union.

24. The Committee is invited to take note of the information given above and to advise the Council on the use of Russian as a working language of UPOV.

[Annex to document CC/61/5 follows]

Russian as a World Language and its Use
in Some Important International Organizations

1. A major indication of the importance of particular languages as world languages is the number of persons who speak those languages as a first (mother) language, or as a second language, the latter recognizing the need, for a flow of ideas to be able to take place between peoples, for them to be able to communicate not only in their mother tongue but sometimes also using a second language. The following table gives estimates, from two sources, of the number of people speaking, as first or second language, the dozen languages most widely spoken throughout the world.

Number of First or Second Language Speakers (in Millions)

	<u>Source A2</u>	<u>Source B3</u>
Chinese (Mandarin)	885	1,000
English	470	1,000
Hindi	418	900 (incl. Urdu)
Spanish	352	450
<u>Russian</u>	<u>288</u>	<u>320</u>
Arabic	170	250
Bengali	196	250
Portuguese	182	200
Malay + Indonesian (Bahasa)	140	160
Japanese	125	130
French	124	125
German	121	125

2. The range of figures contained in the above table indicates the difficulty in estimating the numbers of persons worldwide who speak a particular language, recognizing that some parts of the population of a given country may not speak the official language (or one of the official languages) of that country, but may speak other languages of that country, or may (as immigrants from another country) speak the language of another country. Nevertheless, the above-quoted figures clearly indicate that Russian is a major world language, spoken by some 300 million people around the world.

3. Another major indication of a particular language being a world language is the number of States for which it is the official language. As regards Russian, it is difficult to give a precise number of States because the situation changes all the time. An investigation made by the Office shows that the Constitutions of five States nominate Russian as a state or official (second) language. They are Belarus, Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan where the Russian Federation and Kyrgyzstan are UPOV member States and all others have initiated the procedure to adhere to the Convention. It is noteworthy that Russian is the only working language in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) which

² B. Grimes, ed. *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, 13th ed. Dallas, SIL International, 1996 (information updated in February 1999), quoted from WHO document EB105/20.

³ D. Dalby, *The Linguasphere Register of the World's Languages and Speech Communities*, Cardiff, Linguasphere Press, 1999, quoted from WHO document EB105/20.

comprises twelve member States, that is to say Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Four of these are UPOV member States and all the others have expressed their intention to be member States in the near future.

Present Situation Concerning the Use of Russian in the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations and in the Other Specialized Agencies and Related Organizations of the United Nations System

4. The working languages of the Secretariat of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), i.e., the languages used for one or more of interpretation, documents, publications or correspondence, are at present Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. The present situation for WIPO as regards the use of languages can be summarized as follows: some or all of six languages, namely Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, are used for simultaneous interpretation and for the production of documents for certain meetings, and are used for the production of publications; correspondence may be received by the Secretariat in those languages (and is sent in English, French and Spanish). The Language Service has six sections whose staff (complemented by external translators) produce translations in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. As concerns Portuguese, the WIPO General Assembly decided, at its September-October 2000 session, to have Portuguese used in meetings in development cooperation activities for developing countries and least developed countries, as appropriate; to have promotional material produced in Portuguese regarding WIPO-administered treaties; to develop a Portuguese part of WIPO's website for publications in Portuguese and to provide, as necessary, Portuguese interpretation for diplomatic conferences and for the General Assembly, the specific arrangements to be at the discretion of the Director General, who would also be encouraged to seek voluntary contributions in respect of this provision.

5. As regards the use of Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish as working languages for simultaneous interpretation, translation of documents for meetings, production of publications and receipt of correspondence, the present practice in WIPO is consistent with that generally prevailing in the United Nations and in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system. Those six languages are used as the working languages⁴ of the United Nations itself, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The International Labor Organization (ILO) has Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish as working languages. The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish as working languages. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) has what might be termed a "user pay" system where member States choose to be in particular Language Groups, which decide which documents are to be translated into their language and which meetings are to have interpretation in their language; the Language Groups are French, English, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Chinese and Russian. As regards organizations related to the United Nations, the World Trade Organization (WTO) has English, French and Spanish as working languages. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have no official languages (English being the practical working

⁴ Different organizations refer sometimes to "official languages" and sometimes to "working languages," for simplicity, the latter expression is used here.

language), but at the Joint Annual Meetings of their Boards of Governors, interpretation is provided in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish, and the majority of documents are distributed in English, French and Spanish. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has Arabic, English, French and Spanish as working languages.

[Annex II follows]

LETTER FROM H.E. MR. ILHAM GULIYEV, AZERBAIJAN



**AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ
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"14 ~~December~~ *desember* 2016 il

№ *03/25-08-57*

**Secretary General of International
Union for the Protection of New Varieties
Of Plants Francis Gurry**

Regarding introduction of the Russian language in the UPOV system

Dear Secretary General!

In reference to the appeal of the chairman of the Federal State Budgetary Institution "State Commission of the Russian Federation for Testing and Protection of Selection Achievements" of the Ministry of Agriculture of Russian Federation we would like to inform you that the State Registration Service of Plant Varieties and Seed Control under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan supports the initiative of the delegation of Russian Federation-member of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) regarding the application of Russian language in the UPOV system which is raised for the next 92th session of the Consultative Committee in Geneva on October 27, 2016.

We agree with the arguments of the delegation of the Russian Federation and believe that indeed the introduction of the Russian language in UPOV activities would contribute to the expansion of UPOV system in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, as the Russian language is one of the most widely spread communication language in these countries.

We request you to take it into consideration and hope for further successful development of cooperation.

Sincerely,

Deputy Minister

Ilham Guliyev

LETTER FROM H.E. MR. GRAKUN V.V., BELARUS

**МІНІСТЭРСТВА
СЕЛЬСКОЙ ГАСПАДАРКІ
І ХАРЧАВАННЯ
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**МИНИСТЕРСТВО
СЕЛЬСКОГО ХОЗЯЙСТВА
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12.12.2016 № 08-1/7805
На № _____ от _____

Dear Mr. Peter Button!

The Republic of Belarus has the honor to express its deep respect to the Office of UPOV, and you personally, and sincerely thank you for having organized at a high professional level of the October UPOV Sessions.

In accordance with the question raised at Consultative Committee in October 2016, relating to the possibility of the introduction of the Russian language as a working language of the Union, the Republic of Belarus in the face of all stakeholders, namely the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Production of the Republic of Belarus, SE "State Inspection for Testing and Protection of Plant Varieties", state employees of a number of agricultural organizations, breeders, etc. would like to express their sincere interest in the positive resolution of this issue by the Office of UPOV.

The introduction of the Russian language as a working language of UPOV will certainly boost the position of the Republic of Belarus, as well as a number of Russian-speaking countries with a view to effective cooperation with UPOV. The use of the Russian language will facilitate the possibility to strengthen the system of plant variety protection in the Russian-speaking countries, accelerate the process of accession to the UPOV family by a number of new countries, for which the use of the Russian language is a key element in the system of international cooperation.

Please note that we will be happy to attend the April UPOV Sessions to support the Russian initiative and to take active participation in the discussion of this issue.

A copy of this letter, as well as my respect and esteem are sent to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation.

Deputy Minister of the Ministry of
Agriculture and Food Production of
the Republic of Belarus



Mr. Grakun V.V.

[Annex IV follows]

LETTER FROM H.E. MR. EDUARD GRAMA, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

MINISTERUL AGRICULTURII
ȘI INDUSTRIEI ALIMENTARE
AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND
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05.08.17 nr. 7/17

La nr. _____ din _____

**Mr. Peter Button,
Vice - Secretary General of UPOV**

**Copy: Ministry of Agriculture
of the Russian Federation**

Dear Mr. Peter Button,

At the 60 th Session of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) the delegation of Russia submitted the proposal on the inclusion of russian language as a working language in UPOV system. Russian delegation's proposal was supported by the Republic of Byelorussia and forwarded for consideration at the next session of the Consultative Committee, Geneva, April 7, 2017.

By virtue of geographic area location, Moldova holds a wide range of economic, scientific and cultural relations with the states - members of the Community of Independent States (CIS), Russia, Ukraine, Byelorussia, Kazakhstan, etc. Most agricultural production is made for export to CIS and relations between institutions and scientific profile companies that develop new plant varieties are stable and growing. Traditionally, this area serves russian language as a means of communication in ensuring these links.

Based on from what informed that Moldova supports proposal of Russia on the inclusion of russian language as a tool of UPOV. That support does not involve any financial commitments in respect of Moldova.

The indication of support for this proposal will be given representative of Moldova to meetings of committees and Bureau UPOV.

Hoping for fruitful cooperation with great respect,

Minister

Eduard GRAMA

LETTER FROM MR. ALISHER N. FAYZULLAEV, UZBEKISTAN

**AGENCY
ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF
UZBEKISTAN**



**O'ZBEKISTON RESPUBLIKASI
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11 JAN 2017

No 01-08/53

11th January, 2017

Dr.Francis Gurry
Secretary-General of UPOV
34, chemin des Colombettes
CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Francis Gurry,

Let me express my deepest regards to you and take this opportunity to refer with the following matter.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is the member of UPOV Convention since 2004. As a member of CIS, Uzbekistan uses Russian as a second language on its territory (which is widely used as a working language in Public organizations). At the same time Russian language is used as a working language in Organizations of the UN System.

Taking into account all abovementioned Agency on intellectual property proposes Russian to be introduced as a working language of International union for the protection of new varieties of plants.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

**Alisher N.Fayzullaev
Director General
Agency on intellectual Property
Republic of Uzbekistan**

[Annex VI follows]

LETTER FROM H.E. MR. K. AITUGANOV, KAZAKHSTAN

[Original letter in Russian language dated January 9, 2017 – translation provided by the Kazakh Authorities]

Non-official translate

**Secretary-General of the
International Union for Protection
of New Varieties of Plants
Mr. Francis Harry**

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan presents its compliments to the International Union for Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) and informs the following.

The Republic of Kazakhstan is an observer in UPOV at this moment, also the Republic of Kazakhstan is being prepared to join to the UPOV.

The legal bases of activity in the field of protection of plant varieties are governed by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan of July 13, 1999 “On the Protection of Selection Achievements” (further – the Law), which was sent to UPOV by the letter on January 18, 2016 № 4-2-5/934 to determine the conformity of the Law to the International Convention on the Protection of New Varieties of Plants of December 2, 1961.

In connection with the above we consider it appropriate to support the proposal of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus on the use of Russian language in the UPOV system.

With respect and hope for mutually beneficial cooperation!

First Vice-Minister

K. Aituganov

[End of Annex VI and of document]