



Updates on Plant Variety Protection

Issue # 7 – April 17, 2014

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1. Editorial

This issue of the APBREBES Updates on Plant Variety Protection focuses on the Draft ARIPO Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants modelled on the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention. This issue highlights global protest over the Draft African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) Protocol and UPOV breaking its own rules to enable membership of African countries to UPOV 1991. Currently only a handful of developing countries are members of the 1991 Act.

2. Open Letter to UPOV Members on the ARIPO Draft Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants

The Draft ARIPO Protocol was put before the UPOV Council for an examination for conformity with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention and for a decision that ARIPO and contracting parties to the Draft Protocol be allowed to become members of UPOV 1991 once the Draft Protocol enters into force.

In response, 75 civil society and smallholder farmer organisations and networks from Africa and all over the world sent an open letter to UPOV Members asserting that the

ARIPO Draft Protocol modelled on UPOV 1991 lacks credibility and legitimacy. Organisations signed onto the letter urged UPOV Members to reject the Draft Protocol.

For the Open Letter to UPOV Members see [here](#)

3. APBREBES press release: UPOV breaking its own rules to tie-in African countries

On 11th April, the UPOV Council confirmed that the Draft ARIPO Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants is in conformity with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention and agreed that if the Draft Protocol entered into force with no changes, the ARIPO Office as well as contracting parties to the Draft Protocol could become members of UPOV 1991. Following the decision by the UPOV Council, APBREBES issued a press release stating "In order to bring in more African countries the UPOV Council has blatantly broken its own rules".

[Read more](#)

4. UPOV approves ARIPO draft legislation spreading Plant Variety Protection to Africa

IP Watch, 15 April 2014 - The African Regional Intellectual Property Office last week obtained a positive decision at the international level on its draft law to protect new varieties of plants. Amid protest from civil society, the regional office now has to adopt the draft law and has said it would convene a diplomatic conference (high-level negotiation) in 2014 in order to do so.

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Calendar of Events

Autumn session of UPOV bodies, 13 to 17 October 2014

- [Administrative and Legal Committee](#): Monday, 13 and Tuesday, 14 October 2014
- Consultative Committee: Wednesday, 15 October 2014 (closed to observers)
- [Council](#): Thursday, 16 October 2014

See also the [Upcoming Events](#) on our website

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Feedback & Contact

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