



Updates on Plant Variety Protection

Issue #31, 7 December 2017

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1. Editorial

This issue of the Updates presents the APBREBES report of the UPOV autumn 2017 session. Furthermore, it highlights a press release by AFSA on the ARIPO's continuing disregard of principles of good democratic governance and participation as emphasized in multiple International Treaties and UN Human Rights guidance.

2. APBREBES report on the UPOV autumn 2017 session

The 2017 Autumn meetings for UPOV's decision-making bodies ended with a number of decisions with consequences for implementation of Farmers' Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Below a report is provided on some of the key decisions taken and its impact.

UPOV's bodies met in Geneva from 23rd to 27th October.

[Note: Meeting documents of the Consultative Committee and the Working Group on a Possible International System of Cooperation, are not publicly accessible. However, they may be accessed [here](#), posted by APBREBES obtained using the Freedom of Information Act.]

[Read more](#)

3. AFSA Press Release: Draconian Corporate Seed Law Must Be Stopped in its Tracks!

"The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) continues to pointedly exclude African civil society and farmer representation from its meetings, in blatant disregard of principles of good democratic governance and participation as emphasized in multiple

International Treaties and UN Human Rights guidance. This is going on despite public assurances by the ARIPO Secretariat to ensure greater public participation. It appears that the Secretariat is hell bent on pressurising its 19 Member States to operationalize a draconian regional intellectual property law that offers extremely strong protection of breeders' rights and that threatens Farmers' rights and sustainable agricultural development in the ARIPO region." (from the press release of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa)

[Read more](#)

4. IP Watch: UPOV Approves Budget, Explains Contribution to SDGs; Civil Society Disagrees

The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) met a few days ago and took a number of decisions, such as approving its budget for the 2018/2019 biennium, adopting a document describing the union's contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the extension of the appointment of its vice secretary general. Civil society, however, has issues with UPOV's take on its contributions to the SDGs. They also reiterated their request that farmers be included in UPOV's decision making. (From the article)

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Upcoming Events

UPOV 2018 Session

Monday, 29 and Tuesday, 30 October [Technical Committee](#)

Wednesday, 31 October [Administrative and Legal Committee](#)

Wednesday, 31 October (evening) [Working Group on a Possible International System of Cooperation](#)

Thursday, 1 November [Consultative Committee](#)

Friday, 2 November (morning) [Council](#)

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Feedback & Contact

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