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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**Eighty-Seventh Session
Geneva, April 11, 2014****MATTERS RAISED BY THE INTERNATIONAL SEED FEDERATION (ISF)***Document prepared by the Office of the Union**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

1. The Consultative Committee, at its eighty-sixth session, held in Geneva on October 23 and 24, 2013, considered document CC/86/11 "Matters raised by the International Seed Federation (ISF)" and received a presentation by ISF (see document CC/86/14 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraphs 80 to 85).
2. The purpose of this document is to report on developments concerning matters raised by ISF and to consider the problems faced and possible solutions in relation to ISF's ideas concerning: an international filing system; a UPOV quality assurance program; and a central examination system for variety denominations.

INFORMATION MATERIALS

3. The Consultative Committee, at its eighty-sixth session, agreed to the development of document UPOV/INF/15 "Guidance for Members of UPOV on Ongoing Obligations and Related Notifications and on the Provision of Information to Facilitate Cooperation" into an umbrella document that would identify key issues for the operation of a plant variety protection system and which would provide links to detailed information materials.
4. The Consultative Committee agreed to invite the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ) and Technical Committee (TC) to consider the ISF recommendations in relation to existing and possible future information materials, as indicated in the table in paragraph 6 of document CC/86/11, in parallel with the development of document UPOV/INF/15 into an umbrella document.
5. At its sixty-ninth session, to be held in Geneva on April 10, 2014, the CAJ will consider the matters referred to it by the Consultative Committee in relation to existing and possible future information materials, in parallel with the development of document UPOV/INF/15 into an umbrella document, on the basis of document CAJ/69/10 "Matters raised by the International Seed Federation (ISF)".
6. At its fiftieth session, to be held in Geneva, from April 7 to 9, 2014, the TC will consider the matters referred to it by the Consultative Committee in relation to existing and possible future information materials on the basis of document TC/50/10 "Report on developments in UPOV including relevant matters discussed in the last sessions of the Administrative and Legal Committee, the Consultative Committee and the Council".

PLUTO PLANT VARIETY DATABASE

7. With regard to the ISF recommendation for regular provision of information to PLUTO Plant Variety Database, the Consultative Committee, at its eighty-sixth session, noted:

(i) the Program for Improvements to the PLUTO Plant Variety Database (see document CAJ/68/6 “UPOV information databases”);

(ii) the report on data contributed to the plant variety database by members of the Union and other contributors and assistance that has been provided for data contribution;

(iii) that the CAJ, at its sixty-eighth session, held in Geneva on October 21, 2013, had endorsed a proposal to increase the frequency of updating of the PLUTO database; and

(iv) the inclusion of the section “Variety Denominations (PLUTO database)” in document UPOV/INF/15.

DATABASES OF VARIETY DESCRIPTIONS

8. The Consultative Committee, at its eighty-sixth session, agreed to invite ISF to express its views to the TC with regard to databases of variety descriptions and the criteria identified by the TC for the publication of variety descriptions, as set out in document TC/45/9 “Publication of Variety Descriptions” (as reproduced in Annex III to document CC/86/11).

9. The TC, at its fiftieth session, will be invited to consider databases of variety descriptions and the criteria identified by the TC for the publication of variety descriptions, as set out in document TC/45/9 “Publication of Variety Descriptions”, on the basis of document TC/50/10 “Report on developments in UPOV including relevant matters discussed in the last sessions of the Administrative and Legal Committee, the Consultative Committee and the Council”.

INTERNATIONAL FILING SYSTEM, UPOV QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM AND CENTRAL EXAMINATION SYSTEM FOR VARIETY DENOMINATIONS

10. The Consultative Committee, at its eighty-sixth session, requested the Office of the Union and ISF to elaborate the problems faced with the current situation and possible solutions in relation to ISF’s ideas concerning: an international filing system; a UPOV quality assurance program; and a central examination system for variety denominations, for consideration by the Consultative Committee at its eighty-seventh session.

11. At its forty-seventh ordinary session, held in Geneva on October 24, 2013, the Council noted the interest expressed by the representative of the International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Ornamental and Fruit-Tree Varieties (CIOPORA) to participate in the work reported in document C/47/15 Rev. “Report by the President on the work of the eighty-sixth session of the Consultative Committee; adoption of recommendations, if any, prepared by that Committee”, concerning the matters raised by ISF (see document C/47/19 “Report on the Decisions”, paragraph 17).

12. In accordance with the request of the Consultative Committee, the Office of the Union informed ISF of the request of the Consultative Committee and invited ISF to elaborate the problems faced and possible solutions in relation to ISF’s ideas concerning an international filing system, a UPOV quality assurance program and a central examination system for variety denominations.

13. In an e-mail of March 12, 2014, Mr. Howard Minigh, President & CEO, CropLife International, expressed the interest of CropLife International to participate in the work of UPOV on a “PCT like system”.

14. On March 24, 2014, ISF informed the Office of the Union that it would require more time to elaborate the problems faced and possible solutions in relation to ISF’s ideas.

15. On March 20, 2014, CIOPORA informed the Office of the Union that it would like to have the opportunity to provide its views on an international filing system, a UPOV quality assurance program and a central examination system for variety denominations and would welcome further time to make its contribution.

16. *The Consultative Committee is invited to:*

(a) note the developments concerning information materials and databases of variety descriptions, as set out in paragraphs 5, 6 and 9 of this document; and

(b) invite ISF, CIOPORA and CropLife International to elaborate the problems faced with the current situation and possible solutions offered by an international filing system, a UPOV quality assurance program and a central examination system for variety denominations, for consideration by the Consultative Committee at its eighty-eighth session.

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