Consultative Committee	**CC/96/3 Add.**
Ninety-Sixth Session	**Original:** English
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**ADDENDUM
STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN**

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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1.   The purpose of this document is to consider a proposal to discontinue the arrangement between UPOV and WIPO concerning the UPOV Plant Variety Database (UPOV-WIPO arrangement).

Background

2.   At its seventy-sixth session, held in Geneva on October 29, 2008, the Consultative Committee, approved an arrangement between UPOV and WIPO, concerning the UPOV Plant Variety Database (UPOV-WIPO arrangement), as follows (see document CC/76/8 "Report", paragraph 38):

(a)   WIPO to undertake the collation of data for the UPOV-ROM and to provide the necessary assistance to deliver the program of improvements concerning, in particular, options for receiving data for the UPOV-ROM in various formats and assistance in allocating UPOV codes to all entries. In addition, WIPO to undertake the development of a web-based version of the UPOV Plant Variety Database[1], and the facility to create CD-ROM versions of that database, and to provide the necessary technical support concerning the development of a common search platform.

(b)   UPOV to agree that data in the UPOV-ROM Plant Variety Database may be included in the WIPO Patentscope® search service. In the case of data provided by parties other than members of the Union (e.g. the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)), permission for the data to be used in the WIPO Patentscope® search service would be a matter for the parties concerned.

3.   The work to provide support for the UPOV-WIPO Arrangement has been undertaken by WIPO staff, namely Ms. Lili Chen and Mr. Jose Appave.

4.   Following reorganization within WIPO and the appointment of Ms. Hend Madhour as UPOV IT Officer, it was concluded that it would be an appropriate time to rationalize the data management for the PLUTO database. A further important factor leading to this conclusion was the availability of new technologies and know-how accumulated in WIPO Global Databases Division that would enable a workflow for more efficient data management to be introduced for PLUTO.

5.   For this one-time knowledge transfer and rationalization of the PLUTO database data management, an external IT expert will be contracted for three months. The main task will be to refactor the data-loading workflow and to rewrite the current software code. At the end of the transfer, the UPOV-WIPO arrangement would be discontinued, meaning that WIPO would no longer have any responsibility for the collation of data for the PLUTO database, nor for providing assistance to deliver the program of improvements.

6.   The transfer of maintenance for the PLUTO database from WIPO to UPOV will entail some additional resourcing by UPOV, which underscores the relevance of the introduction of a "freemium" service for PLUTO (see document CC/96/3 "Strategic Business Plan", paragraph 13). However, the application of latest technology and improved data management will ensure that the resource burden for UPOV is sustainable and will, in the medium-term, provide opportunities to improve the service of data collection from contributors and services to users.

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[1] Created as the PLUTO database.

Proposal

7.   For the reasons provided in paragraphs 4 to 6 of this document, it is proposed to discontinue the arrangement between UPOV and WIPO concerning the UPOV Plant Variety Database (UPOV-WIPO arrangement) as soon as the knowledge transfer and rationalization of the PLUTO database data management has been completed to the satisfaction of the Office of the Union.

8.   The Consultative Committee is invited to agree to discontinue the arrangement between UPOV and WIPO concerning the UPOV Plant Variety Database (UPOV-WIPO arrangement) as soon as the knowledge transfer and rationalization of the PLUTO database data management has been completed to the satisfaction of the Office of the Union.

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