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|  |  | ECAJ/70/11**ORIGINAL:** EnglishDATE:  March 20, 2015 |
| INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS  |
| Geneva |

ADministrative and legal committee

Seventieth Session
Geneva, October 13, 2014

Report

adopted by the Administrative and Legal Committee

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Opening of the session

[[1]](#footnote-2)\* The Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ) held its seventieth session in Geneva on October 13, 2014, under the chairmanship of Mr. Martin Ekvad (European Union).

\* The session was opened by the Chair, who welcomed the participants. The list of participants is reproduced in the Annex to this report.

\* The Chair reported that the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) had deposited its instrument of accession to the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention on June 10, 2014, becoming the 72nd member of the Union on July 10, 2014, and the second intergovernmental organization to join UPOV. The Chair noted that the number of States to which the UPOV Convention applied was now 91.

\* The Secretary-General introduced Ms. Hend Madhour, a database modeler who was working on the Electronic Application System project and Ms. Wegahtabrhan Sereke, an intern who was working on the Electronic Application System project and the UPOV Lex database.

\* The Chair confirmed that the report of the sixty-ninth session of the CAJ held in Geneva on April 10, 2014 (document CAJ/69/13), has been adopted by correspondence and was available on the UPOV website.

Adoption of the agenda

\* The CAJ adopted the draft agenda, as proposed in document CAJ/70/1 Rev.

Development of information materials concerning the UPOV Convention

\* The CAJ considered document CAJ/70/2.

\* The CAJ noted that new drafts of explanatory notes concerning propagation and propagating material, harvested material, essentially derived varieties, cancellation, nullity, variety denominations and provisional protection had been circulated in May 2014, and that comments had been received by CAJ members and observers, as set out in document CAJ/70/2, paragraphs 9 to 16.

\* The CAJ noted that, on the basis of comments received, new drafts of relevant explanatory notes had been posted on September 10, 2014, and would be considered by the CAJ-AG, at its ninth session, to be held on October 14 and 17, 2014.

\* The CAJ noted that a further review of document UPOV/INF/12 “Explanatory Notes on Variety Denominations under the UPOV Convention” might be necessary in relation to the development of a UPOV similarity search tool (see document CAJ/70/4).

\* The CAJ noted that the report on the work of the CAJ-AG at its ninth session would be presented to the CAJ, at its seventy-first session, to be held in March 2015.

 In relation to the CAJ-AG, the Chair recalled that the CAJ‑AG had been established as a small group of experts of members of the Union to facilitate the preparation of documents addressing complex issues for the CAJ and highlighted the important work accomplished by the CAJ-AG in that regard. He observed that the work of the CAJ-AG in clarifying the issues had been so effective that there was relatively little discussion in the CAJ. However, he also observed that there had been important developments since the first meeting of the CAJ‑AG, almost ten years previously. Firstly, the participation in the CAJ-AG had increased substantially and regularly comprised almost all the members of the Union that attended the CAJ. Secondly, the importance of considering the views of observers had created the need for a complex mechanism for them to present their views to the CAJ-AG, while also allowing the CAJ-AG to hold discussions in the absence of observers. He welcomed the increased involvement of members and observers in the CAJ-AG, but wondered if it was the time to reflect on whether all matters should be considered by the CAJ directly, where all members of the Union and observers were present. He suggested that this would be an approach to combine openness and efficiency in the work of the CAJ. Subject to endorsement by the CAJ, he proposed that all the items currently under consideration by the CAJ–AG be brought to the CAJ and that the CAJ-AG would only be convened, on an *ad hoc* basis, as considered appropriate by the CAJ. He suggested considering that proposal under item 9 of the agenda “Program for the seventy‑first session”.

\* The CAJ agreed to consider the program for the development of information materials and, in particular the work of the CAJ-AG, under item 9 “Program for the seventy-first session”.

\* The CAJ noted that the developments concerning the revision of document UPOV/INF/5 “UPOV Model Plant Breeders’ Rights Gazette” were provided in document CAJ/70/3.

\* The CAJ noted that the developments concerning the revision 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” were provided in document CAJ/70/5.

\* The CAJ noted that the Spanish, French and German versions of the proceedings of the “Seminar on essentially derived varieties”, (UPOV Publication No. 358) held in Geneva on October 22, 2013, had been posted on the UPOV website at \*<http://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=29782>.

\* With regard to the format and style of CAJ documents, and their presentation at CAJ sessions, the CAJ agreed, as appropriate, to:

• include an executive summary;

• make reference to previous documents in footnotes;

• combine decision paragraphs relating to matters for information; and

• present a summary of the main points of the document in the form of a PowerPoint presentation at the CAJ session.

Revision of document UPOV/INF/5 “UPOV Model Plant Breeders’ Rights Gazette”

\* The CAJ considered document CAJ/70/3.

\* The CAJ noted the developments relevant for the updating of document UPOV/INF/5 concerning the development a prototype electronic form, essentially derived varieties, frequency of data submission and completeness of databases and the distance learning course “Examination of Applications for Plant Breeders’ Rights” (DL-305), reported in document CAJ/70/3.

\* The CAJ agreed that the Office of the Union should prepare a draft revision of document UPOV/INF/5 “UPOV Model Plant Breeders’ Rights Gazette” (document UPOV/INF/5/1 Draft 1) for consideration by the CAJ at its seventy-second session, to be held in October 2015, subject to its consideration of the program for the development of information materials.

Guidance for members of UPOV on ongoing obligations and related notifications and on the provision of information to facilitate cooperation (Revision)

\* The CAJ considered documents CAJ/70/5 and UPOV/INF/15/3 Draft 1.

\* The CAJ approved the revision of document UPOV/INF/15 as presented in document UPOV/INF/15/3  Draft 1, subject to the following changes:

“45. Prior to receiving applications for plant breeders’ rights, the PBR Office needs to develop relevant forms and be ready to assign a filing date and time and, if appropriate, an application reference.

[…]

46. Legal provisions in some UPOV members allow for the filing of applications in paper only. The use of electronic application forms to substitute or to complement paper applications, facilitates the use of databases and information management. In order to accept applications in electronic format, UPOV members may need to have auxiliary systems in place, such as for the recognition of digital signatures, electronic payment and security matters.

[…]

[…]

In relation to electronic publication, ~~and~~ including searchable databases, the completeness and correctness of the information is of particular importance. In particular, it is important to include information concerning applications for and grants of breeders’ rights, and proposed and approved denominations.

\* On the above basis, the CAJ agreed that a draft of document UPOV/INF/15/3 be presented for adoption by the Council at its thirty-second extraordinary session, to be held on March 27, 2015.

Molecular techniques

\* The CAJ considered document CAJ/70/6.

\* The CAJ noted that the Consultative Committee had requested the Office of the Union to prepare a draft question and answer concerning the information on the situation in UPOV with regard to the use of molecular techniques for a wider audience, including the public in general, on the basis of contributions from the members of the Union.

Variety denominations

\* The CAJ considered documents CAJ/70/4 and CAJ/70/4 Add.

\* The CAJ received a report from the Vice Secretary‑General on the first meeting of the Working Group for the Development of a UPOV Denomination Similarity Search Tool (WG-DST), which was held in Geneva on September 3, 2014. The CAJ noted that presentations had been made on the search tools available on the PLUTO database and that the WG-DST members had agreed to share their search tools and procedures with the WG-DST.

 The Delegation of the European Union questioned whether the Office of the Union intended to compare all information on trademarks in the WIPO database, or whether to restrict consideration to trademarks in an agricultural category, which would be most relevant.

 The Vice Secretary‑General explained that the rationale was to use a computer program to derive an algorithm for efficiently selecting similar denominations. He noted that for the approach to work it needed very large numbers of denominations that relevant experts considered to be similar to “test” denominations and it was not relevant whether those denominations had ever been used for plant varieties or not. He noted that a large number of participants was also necessary in order to cover the different ways that denominations might be considered similar across different UPOV members.

 The Delegation of Argentina recalled previous situations when data was not available and had to be created. It pointed out that it would be necessary to see the initial results and to assess if the tool needed to be amended to get the desired results. The Delegation explained the experience of the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC) with artificially generated data.

 The Vice Secretary‑General thanked the Delegation of Argentina for its suggestion. He noted that the data from the WIPO Global Brand Database would probably be sufficient but, if it was not the case, it might be feasible to generate a data set.

 The Delegation of the European Union agreed that the broadest and widest possible data set was needed for the study. It explained that, the approach of the Community Plant Variety Office of the European Union (CPVO) was to work with a smaller data set, for example, with trademarks in class 31 of the Nice Classification rather than all trademarks because the CPVO wanted to do more than just to draw comparisons. The Delegation noted that, if there was too much data, the work could become too complicated.

 The Vice Secretary‑General noted that it was crucial to have enough data but agreed that it was important also not to have too much data. He noted that the PLUTO data would not be sufficient and hoped that the approach outlined in documents CAJ/70/4 and CAJ/70/4 Add. would form the basis of a viable work plan and hoped that as many UPOV members as possible would participate in order to get the best results.

\* The CAJ noted that the WG-DST had agreed that the function of a UPOV similarity search tool would be to identify those denominations that were similar to existing denominations to the extent that they would require further, individual consideration before deciding if the denomination was (sufficiently) different from existing denominations. In that regard, the WG-DST had agreed to organize a test study to develop an effective denomination search tool, an overview of which was presented to the CAJ.

\* The CAJ agreed that the WG-DST should agree the details of the test study before participants were invited to start the study.

\* The CAJ agreed that the possibility to participate in the test study to develop an effective denomination search tool should be offered to all members of the Union.

\* The CAJ noted that the latest developments concerning the revision of document UPOV/INF/12 “Explanatory Notes on Variety Denominations under the UPOV Convention”, which would be considered by the CAJ-AG, at its ninth session on October 14 and 17, 2014, were reported in document CAJ/70/2 “Development of information materials concerning the UPOV Convention”.

Information and databases

*(a). Electronic application systems*

\* The CAJ considered document CAJ/70/7.

\* The CAJ noted the confirmation of the Delegations of France, Germany and the Netherlands that they wished to participate in the meetings on the development of a prototype electronic form.

\* The CAJ noted the developments concerning the development of a prototype electronic form as set out in document CAJ/70/7 and that a report of the meeting on the development of a prototype electronic form, to be held in Geneva on October 14, 2014, would be made to the CAJ at its seventy-first session in March 2015.

*(b) UPOV information databases*

\* The CAJ considered document CAJ/70/8.

\* The CAJ noted the plan to provide information on type of crop for UPOV codes, as set out in document CAJ/70/8, paragraph 6.

*(c) Exchangeable software*

\* The CAJ considered document CAJ/70/9.

\* The CAJ noted that the Technical Committee (TC), at its fifty-first session, to be held in Geneva, from March 23 to 25, 2015, would consider the discussions on the inclusion of the SISNAVA software in document UPOV/INF/16.

Program for the seventy-first session

\* The CAJ agreed that all matters under consideration by the CAJ-AG at its ninth session should, following the ninth session of the CAJ-AG, be considered by the CAJ and that the CAJ-AG should only be convened, on an *ad hoc* basis, as considered appropriate by the CAJ.

\* On that basis, the CAJ requested the CAJ-AG, at its ninth session, to advise the CAJ those documents to be considered at the seventy-first session of the CAJ, in March 2015.

\* The CAJ noted the interest to discuss the relationship and effects of the implementation of the “Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity” for the breeder’s exemption. The CAJ noted that this interest would be reported to the Consultative Committee and the Council.

\* The following program was agreed for the seventy-first session of the CAJ:

1. Opening of the session

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Report on developments in the Technical Committee

4. Development of information materials concerning the UPOV Convention

5. TGP documents

6. Molecular techniques

7. Variety denominations

8. Information and databases

(a) Electronic application systems

(b) UPOV information databases

(c) Exchangeable software

9. Program for the seventy-second session

10. Adoption of the report on the conclusions (if time permits)

11. Closing of the session

 *This report was adopted by correspondence.*

[Annex follows]

CAJ/70/11

ANNEXE / ANNEX / ANLAGE / ANEXO

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS / LIST OF PARTICIPANTS /

TEILNEHMERLISTE / LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

(dans l’ordre alphabétique des noms en français des membres/

in the alphabetical order of the names in French of the members/

in alphabetischer Reihenfolge der französischen Namen der Mitglieder/

por orden alfabético de los nombres en francés de los miembros)

I. MEMBRES / MEMBERS / VERBANDSMITGLIEDER / MIEMBROS

AFRIQUE DU SUD / SOUTH AFRICA / SÜDAFRIKA / SUDÁFRICA

Noluthando NETNOU-NKOANA (Mrs.), Director of Genetic Resources, Directorate: Genetic Resources, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Pretoria (e-mail: noluthandon@daff.gov.za)

ALLEMAGNE / GERMANY / DEUTSCHLAND / ALEMANIA

Barbara SOHNEMANN (Frau), Justiziarin, Leiterin, Rechtsangelegenheiten, Sortenverwaltung, Gebühren, Bundessortenamt, Hannover (e-mail: barbara.sohnemann@bundessortenamt.de)

ARGENTINE / ARGENTINA / ARGENTINIEN / ARGENTINA

Raimundo LAVIGNOLLE, Presidente del directorio, Instituto Nacional de Semillas (INASE), Buenos Aires

(e-mail: rlavignolle@inase.gov.ar)

María Laura VILLAMAYOR (Ms.), Abogada, Unidad Presidencia, Instituto Nacional de Semillas (INASE), Buenos Aires (e-mail: mlvillamayor@inase.gov.ar)

BOLIVIE (ÉTAT PLURINATIONAL DE) / BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF) /

BOLIVIEN (PLURINATIONALER STAAT) / BOLIVIA (ESTADO PLURINACIONAL DE)

Sergio Rider ANDRADE CÁCERES, Director Nacional de Semillas, Instituto Nacional de Innovación Agropecuaria y Forestal (INIAF), La Paz (e-mail: rideran@yahoo.es)

Freddy CABALLERO LEDEZMA, Ingeniero Agronomo, Instituto Nacional de Innovación Agropecuaria y Forestal (INIAF), La Paz (e-mail: calefred@yahoo.es)

Martin Nelson CAZON ORTEGA, Ingeniero Agronomo, Instituto Nacional de Innovación Agropecuaria y Forestal (INIAF)

Luis Fernando ROSALES LOZADA, Primer Secretario, Misión Permanente de Bolivia ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas, Ginebra (e-mail: fernando.rosales@bluewin.ch)

BRÉSIL / BRAZIL / BRASILIEN / BRASIL

Fabrício SANTANA SANTOS, Coordinator, National Plant Variety Protection Office (SNPC),

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply, Brasilia (e-mail: fabricio.santos@agricultura.gov.br)

Cleiton SCHENKEL, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Cointrin, Switzerland (e-mail: cleiton.schenkel@itamaraty.gov.br)

CANADA / CANADA / KANADA / CANADÁ

Anthony PARKER, Commissioner, Plant Breeders' Rights Office, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Ottawa (e-mail: anthony.parker@inspection.gc.ca)

CHILI / CHILE / CHILE / CHILE

Hugo MARTÍNEZ, Asesor Ministro de Agricultura, Santiago de Chile

(e-mail: hugo.martinez@minagri.gob.cl)

Manuel TORO UGALDE, Jefe Subdepartamento, Registro de Variedades Protegidas, División Semillas,
Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero (SAG), Santiago de Chile (e-mail: manuel.toro@sag.gob.cl)

CHINE / CHINA / CHINA / CHINA

LV Bo, Division Director, Division of Variety Management, Bureau of Seed Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Beijing (e-mail: lvbo@agri.gov.cn)

HUANG Faji, Deputy Division Director, Office for the Protection of New Plant Varieties, State Forestry Administration, Beijing (e-mail: huangfaji@cnpvp.net)

Xue JIANG, Project Administrator, Beijing (e-mail: jiangxue@sipo.gov.cn)

COLOMBIE / COLOMBIA / KOLUMBIEN / COLOMBIA

Ana Luisa DÍAZ JIMÉNEZ (Sra.), Directora Técnica de Semillas, Dirección Técnica de Semillas, Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA), Bogotá (e-mail: ana.diaz@ica.gov.co)

CROATIE / CROATIA / KROATIEN / CROACIA

Ivana BULAJIĆ (Ms.), Head of Plant Health Service, Directorate for Food Quality and Fitosanitary Policy, Ministry of Agriculture, Zagreb (e-mail: ivana.bulajic@mps.hr)

DANEMARK / DENMARK / DÄNEMARK / DINAMARCA

Gerhard DENEKEN, Department of Variety Testing, The Danish AgriFish Agency (NaturErhvervestyrelsen), Skaelskoer (e-mail: gde@naturerhverv.dk)

ÉQUATEUR / ECUADOR / ECUADOR / ECUADOR

Lilián CARRERA GONZÁLEZ (Sra.), Directora Nacional de Obtenciones Vegetales, Instituto Ecuatoriano de la Propiedad Intelectual (IEPI), Quito (e-mail: lmcarrera@iepi.gob.ec)

ESPAGNE / SPAIN / SPANIEN / ESPAÑA

Luis SALAICES, Jefe del Área del Registro de Variedades, Subdirección general de Medios de Producción Agrícolas y Oficina Española de Variedades Vegetales (MPA y OEVV), Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente (MAGRAMA), Madrid (e-mail: luis.salaices@magrama.es)

José Antonio SOBRINO, Jefe del servicio de registro de variedades, Oficina Española de Variedades Vegetales, Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, Madrid

(e-mail: jasobrino@magrama.es)

ESTONIE / ESTONIA / ESTLAND / ESTONIA

Renata TSATURJAN (Ms.), Chief Specialist, Plant Production Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Tallinn
(e-mail: renata.tsaturjan@agri.ee)

ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE / UNITED STATES OF AMERICA / VEREINIGTE STAATEN

VON AMERIKA / ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA

Kitisri SUKHAPINDA (Ms.), Patent Attorney, Office of Policy and External Affairs, United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Alexandria (e-mail: kitisri.sukhapinda@uspto.gov)

Ruihong GUO (Ms.), Deputy Administrator, AMS, Science & Technolgoy Program, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Washington D.C. (e-mail: ruihong.guo@ams.usda.gov)

Karin L. FERRITER (Ms.), Intellectual Property Attaché, United States Mission to the WTO, Chambesy

(e-mail: karin\_ferriter@ustr.eop.gov)

FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE / RUSSIAN FEDERATION / RUSSISCHE FÖDERATION /

FEDERACIÓN DE RUSIA

Yuri A. ROGOVSKIY, Deputy Chairman, Head of Methodology and International Cooperation,

State Commission of the Russian Federation for Selection Achievements Test and Protection,

Moscow (e-mail: yrogovskij@yandex.ru)

Viktor I. STARTCEV, Deputy Chairman, State Commission of the Russian Federation for

Selection Achievements Test and Protection, Moscow (e-mail: gossort@gossort.com)

Antonina TRETINNIKOVA (Ms.), Deputy Head, Methodology and International Cooperation Department, State Commission of the Russian Federation for Selection Achievements Test and Protection, Moscow (e-mail: tretinnikova@mail.ru)

Vitaly S. VOLOSHCHENKO, Chairman, State Commission of the Russian Federation for Selection Achievements Test and Protection, Moscow (e-mail: gossort@gossort.com)

FRANCE / FRANCE / FRANKREICH / FRANCIA

Anne CHAN-HON-TONG (Mme), Chargée d'étude pôle semences, Bureau des semences et de la santé des végétaux, Direction Générale de l'Alimentation, Paris

(e-mail: anne.chan-hon-tong@agriculture.gouv.fr)

Virginie BERTOUX (Mme), Responsable, Instance nationale des obtentions végétales (INOV), INOV-GEVES, Beaucouzé (e-mail: virginie.bertoux@geves.fr)

GÉORGIE / GEORGIA / GEORGIEN / GEORGIA

Nana PANTSKHAVA (Ms.), Chief Examiner, Department of Invention, Design and New Varieties and Breeds, National Intellectual Property Centre (SAKPATENTI), Mtskheta

(e-mail: npantskhava@sakpatenti.org.ge)

HONGRIE / HUNGARY / UNGARN / HUNGRÍA

Szabolcs FARKAS, Head, Patent Department, Hungarian Intellectual Property Office (HIPO), Budapest (e-mail: szabolcs.farkas@hipo.gov.hu)

Katalin MIKLÓ (Ms.), Head of Chemical and Agricultural Division, Agriculture and Plant Variety Protection Section, Hungarian Intellectual Property Office, Budapest (e-mail: katalin.miklo@hipo.gov.hu)

IRLANDE / IRELAND / IRLAND / IRLANDA

Donal COLEMAN, Controller of Plant Breeders' Rights, National Crop Evaluation Centre, Department of Agriculture, National Crop Evaluation Centre, Leixlip (e-mail: donal.coleman@agriculture.gov.ie)

ITALIE / ITALY / ITALIEN / ITALIA

Antonio ATAZ, Official of the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, Council of the European Union, Brussels (e-mail: antonio.ataz@consilium.europa.eu)

JAPON / JAPAN / JAPAN / JAPÓN

Akira MIYAKE, Senior Policy Advisor, New Business and Intellectual Property Division, Food Industry Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Tokyo (e-mail: akira\_miyake@nm.maff.go.jp)

LETTONIE / LATVIA / LETTLAND / LETONIA

Iveta OZOLINA (Mrs.), Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Riga

(e-mail: iveta.ozolina@zm.gov.lv)

Daiga BAJALE (Miss), Senior Officer, Seed Control Department, Division of Seed Certification and Plant Variety Protection, State Plant Protection Service, Riga (e-mail: daiga.bajale@vaad.gov.lv)

MAROC / MOROCCO / MAROKKO / MARRUECOS

Zoubida TAOUSSI (Mrs.), Responsible of Plant Variety Protection, Division of Seed and Plant Control,

The National Office for Food Safety, Rabat (e-mail: ztaoussi67@gmail.com)

MEXIQUE / MEXICO / MEXIKO / MÉXICO

Eduardo PADILLA VACA, Director de Registro de Variedades Vegetales, Servicio Nacional de Inspección y Certificación de Semillas (SNICS), México (e-mail: eduardo.padilla@sagarpa.gob.mx)

NORVÈGE / NORWAY / NORWEGEN / NORUEGA

Tor Erik JØRGENSEN, Head of Department for National Approvals, Norwegian Food Safety Authority, Brumunddal (e-mail: tor.erik.jorgensen@mattilsynet.no)

Marianne SMITH (Ms.), Senior Advisor, Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Oslo

(e-mail: marianne.smith@lmd.dep.no)

ORGANISATION AFRICAINE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE / OAPI - AFRICAN

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION / AFRIKANISCHE ORGANISATION FÜR

GEISTIGES EIGENTUM / ORGANIZACIÓN AFRICANA DE LA PROPIEDAD

INTELECTUAL

Juliette DOUMATEY AYITE (Mme), Directeur Général Adjoint, Organisation africaine de la propriété intellectuelle (OAPI), Yaoundé (e-mail: ayijuliette@yahoo.fr)

Wéré Régine GAZARO (Madame), Directeur, Protection de la propriété industrielle, Organisation africaine de la propriété intellectuelle (OAPI), Yaoundé (e-mail: were\_regine@yahoo.fr)

PAYS-BAS / NETHERLANDS / NIEDERLANDE / PAÍSES BAJOS

Kees Jan GROENEWOUD, Secretary, Plant Variety Board (Raad voor Plantenrassen), Naktuinbouw, Roelofarendsveen (e-mail: c.j.a.groenewoud@naktuinbouw.nl)

Jacob SATTER, Senior Policy Officer, Seeds and Propagation Materials, Ministry of Economic Affairs, The Hague (e-mail: j.h.satter@minez.nl)

Kees VAN ETTEKOVEN, Head of Variety Testing Department, Naktuinbouw NL, Roelofarendsveen

(e-mail: c.v.ettekoven@naktuinbouw.nl)

POLOGNE / POLAND / POLEN / POLONIA

Edward S. GACEK, Director General, Research Centre for Cultivar Testing (COBORU), Slupia Wielka

(e-mail: e.gacek@coboru.pl)

Marcin BEHNKE, Deputy Director General for Experimental Affairs, Research Centre for Cultivar Testing (COBORU), Slupia Wielka (e-mail: m.behnke@coboru.pl)

Alicja RUTKOWSKA (Mrs.), Head, National Listing and Plant Breeders' Rights Protection Office, The Research Centre for Cultivar Testing (COBORU), Slupia Wielka (e-mail: a.rutkowska@coboru.pl)

RÉPUBLIQUE DE CORÉE / REPUBLIC OF KOREA / REPUBLIK KOREA / REPÚBLICA DE COREA

Seung-In YI, Deputy Head, Plant Variety Protection Division, Korea Seed & Variety Service (KSVS), Gyeongsangbuk-Do (e-mail: seedin@korea.kr)

Kwang-Hong LEE, Agricultural Researcher, Korea Seed and Variety Service (KSVS), Gyeongsangnam-Do (e-mail: grin@korea.kr)

RÉPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA / REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA / REPUBLIK MOLDAU /

REPÚBLICA DE MOLDOVA

Mihail MACHIDON, Chairman, State Commission for Crops Variety Testing and Registration (SCCVTR), Chisinau (e-mail: info@cstsp.md)

ROUMANIE / ROMANIA / RUMÄNIEN / RUMANIA

Mihaela-Rodica CIORA (Mrs.), Senior Expert, State Institute for Variety Testing and Registration (ISTIS), Bucarest (e-mail: mihaela\_ciora@yahoo.com)

Cristian Irinel MOCANU, Head of Legal and Administrative Department, State Institute for Variety Testing and Registration, Bucharest (e-mail: irinel\_mocanu@istis.ro)

ROYAUME-UNI / UNITED KINGDOM / VEREINIGTES KÖNIGREICH / REINO UNIDO

Andrew MITCHELL, Policy Team Leader, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Cambridge (e-mail: andrew.mitchell@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

SLOVAQUIE / SLOVAKIA / SLOWAKEI / ESLOVAQUIA

Bronislava BÁTOROVÁ (Mrs.), National Coordinator for the Cooperation of the Slovak Republic with UPOV/ Senior Officer, Department of Variety Testing, Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture (ÚKSÚP), Nitra (e-mail: bronislava.batorova@uksup.sk)

SUISSE / SWITZERLAND / SCHWEIZ / SUIZA

Eva TSCHARLAND (Frau), Juristin, Direktionsbereich Landwirtschaftliche Produktionsmittel, Bundesamt für Landwirtschaft, Bern (e-mail: eva.tscharland@blw.admin.ch)

Manuela BRAND (Ms.), Plant Variety Rights Office, Federal Department of Economic Affairs Education and Research EAER Plant Health and Varieties, Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG, Bern

(e-mail: anuela.brand@blw.admin.ch)

UNION EUROPÉENNE / EUROPEAN UNION / EUROPÄISCHE UNION / UNIÓN EUROPEA

Thomas Peter WEBER, Policy Officer, DG Sanco, European Commission, Bruxelles
(e-mail: thomas.weber@ec.europa.eu)

Isabelle CLEMENT-NISSOU (Mrs.), Policy Officer - Unité E2, Plant Reproductive Material Sector, Direction Générale Santé et Protection des Consommateurs, Commission européenne (DG SANCO), Bruxelles (e-mail: isabelle.clement-nissou@ec.europa.eu)

Martin EKVAD, President, Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO), European Union, Angers
(e-mail: ekvad@cpvo.europa.eu)

Muriel LIGHTBOURNE (Mme), Legal Adviser, Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO), Angers
(e-mail: lightbourne@cpvo.europa.eu)

II. OBSERVATEURS / OBSERVERS / BEOBACHTER / OBSERVADORES

RÉPUBLIQUE-UNIE DE TANZANIE / UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA / VEREINIGTE

 REPUBLIK TANSANIA / REPÚBLICA UNIDA DE TANZANÍA

Juma Ali JUMA, Deputy Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources Zanzibar

(e-mail: j\_alsaady@yahoo.com)

Patrick NGWEDIAGI, Registrar, Plant Breeders' Rights Office, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives, Dar es Salaam (e-mail: ngwedi@yahoo.com)

Sidra Juma AMRAN (Ms.), Legal Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Zanzibar
(e-mail: sidraamran@yahoo.com)

ÉGYPTE/ EGYPT/ ÄGYPTEN/ EGIPTO

Samy Hamed EL DEIB SALLAM, Head, Technical Secretary of Variety Registration Committee, Central Administration for Seed Certification (CASC), Giza, Egypt (e-mail: sllamsam@yahoo.com)

III. ORGANISATIONS / ORGANIZATIONS / ORGANISATIONEN / ORGANIZACIONES

ASSOCIATION FOR PLANT BREEDING FOR THE BENEFIT OF SOCIETY

Susanne GURA, (Ms.) Coordinator, Association for Plant Breeding for the Benefit of Society (APBREBES) (email: contact@apbrebes.org)

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES PRODUCTEURS HORTICOLES (AIPH) /

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HORTICULTURAL PRODUCERS (AIPH) /

INTERNATIONALER VERBAND DES ERWERBSGARTENBAUES (AIPH) / ASOCIACIÓN

INTERNACIONAL DE PRODUCTORES HORTÍCOLAS (AIPH)

Mia BUMA (Mrs), Secretary, Committee for Novelty Protection, International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH), Reading, United Kingdom (e-mail: info@miabuma.nl)

COMMUNAUTÉ INTERNATIONALE DES OBTENTEURS DE PLANTES ORNEMENTALES ET

FRUITIÈRES À REPRODUCTION ASEXUÉE (CIOPORA) / INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

OF BREEDERS OF ASEXUALLY REPRODUCED ORNAMENTAL AND FRUIT PLANTS

(CIOPORA) / INTERNATIONALE GEMEINSCHAFT DER ZÜCHTER VEGETATIV VERMEHRBARER ZIERUND OBSTPFLANZEN (CIOPORA) / COMUNIDAD INTERNACIONAL DE OBTENTORES DE

VARIEDADES ORNAMENTALES Y FRUTALES DE REPRODUCCIÓN ASEXUADA (CIOPORA)

Andrea MANSUINO, President, International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Ornamental and Fruit Plants (CIOPORA), Hamburg, Germany (e-mail: a.mansuino@yahoo.it)

Edgar KRIEGER, Secretary General, International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Ornamental and Fruit Plants (CIOPORA), Hamburg, Germany (e-mail: edgar.krieger@ciopora.org)

Dominique THÉVENON (Mme), Board member, Treasurer - AIGN, International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Ornamental and Fruit Plants (CIOPORA), Hamburg, Germany

(e-mail: t.dominique4@aliceadsl.fr)

Bruno ETAVARD, Board Member, Meilland International, Le Cannet des Maures

(e-mail: bruno@meilland.com)

Lars HENRIKSEN, Licensing Manager, International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Ornamental and Fruit Plants (CIOPORA), Denmark

(e-mail: l.henriksen@dnagreengroup.com)

INTERNATIONAL SEED FEDERATION (ISF)

Stevan MADJARAC, Representative, American Seed Trade Association (ASTA), Alexandria,
United States of America (e-mail: smadjarac@gmail.com)

Sietske WOUDA (Mrs.), Lead Global Germplasm PVP/MA, Nyon, Suisse
(e-mail: sietske.wouda@syngenta.com)

EUROPEAN SEED ASSOCIATION (ESA)

Hélène GUILLOT (Mlle), Lawyer, Union Française des Semenciers (UFS), Paris, France
(e-mail: helene.guillot@ufs-asso.com)

Judith DE ROOS - BLOKLAND (Mrs.), Lawyer, Regulatory and Legal Affairs, Plantum NL, Gouda, Pays-Bas (e-mail: j.blokland@plantum.nl)

SEED ASSOCIATION OF THE AMERICAS (SAA)

Diego RISSO, Secretary General, Seed Association of the Americas (SAA), Montevideo, Uruguay
(e-mail: drisso@saaseed.org)

IV. BUREAU DE L’OMPI / OFFICE OF WIPO / BÜRO DER WIPO / OFICINA DE LA OMPI

Michael JUNG, Head, External Web Applications Section, IP Office Business Solutions Division, Global Infrastructure Sector

Monica DEDU (Ms.), Project Manager, External Web Applications Section, IP Office Business Solutions Division, Global Infrastructure Sector

Glenn MAC STRAVIC, Head, Brand Database Section, Global Databases Service, Global Infrastructure Sector

Lili CHEN (Ms.), Software Developer, Brand Database Section, Global Databases Service, Global Infrastructure Sector

Young-Woo YUN, Senior Industrial Property Information Officer, Global Infrastructure Sector

José APPAVE, Senior Service Data Administration Clerk, Brand Database Section, Global Databases Service, Global Infrastructure Sector

V. BUREAU / OFFICER / VORSITZ / OFICINA

Martin EKVAD, Chair

VI. BUREAU DE L’UPOV / OFFICE OF UPOV / BÜRO DER UPOV / OFICINA DE LA UPOV

Francis GURRY, Secretary-General

Peter BUTTON, Vice Secretary-General

Yolanda HUERTA (Mrs.), Legal Counsel

Jun KOIDE, Technical/Regional Officer (Asia)

Ben RIVOIRE, Technical/Regional Officer (Africa, Arab countries)

Leontino TAVEIRA, Technical/Regional Officer (Latin America, Caribbean countries)

Hend MADHOUR (Ms.), Data Modeler

Wegahtabrhan SEREKE (Ms.), Intern

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1. \* An asterisk next to the paragraph number indicates that the text is reproduced from the Report on the Conclusions (document CAJ/70/10). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)