

(b) the Secretariat General, entitled the Office of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants.

#### **Article 16**

##### **Composition of the Council; Votes**

(1) The Council shall consist of the representatives of the member States of the Union. Each member State of the Union shall appoint one representative to the Council and one alternate.

(2) Representatives or alternates may be accompanied by assistants or advisers.

(3) Each member State of the Union shall have one vote in the Council.

#### **Article 17**

##### **Observers in Meetings of the Council**

(1) States not members of the Union which have signed this Act shall be invited as observers to meetings of the Council.

(2) Other observers or experts may also be invited to such meetings.

#### **Article 18**

##### **President and Vice-Presidents of the Council**

(1) The Council shall elect a President and a first Vice-President from among its members. It may elect other Vice-Presidents. The first Vice-President shall take the place of the President if the latter is unable to officiate.

(2) The President shall hold office for three years.

#### **Article 19**

##### **Sessions of the Council**

(1) The Council shall meet upon convocation by its President.

(2) An ordinary session of the Council shall be held annually. In addition, the President may convene the Council at his discretion; he shall convene it, within a period of three months, if one-third of the member States of the Union so request.