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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GENEVA

**WORKING GROUP ON BIOCHEMICAL AND MOLECULAR
TECHNIQUES AND DNA PROFILING IN PARTICULAR**

Eleventh Session
Madrid, September 16 to 18, 2008

INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES ON MOLECULAR METHODOLOGIES

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1. This document explains the background to the presentations which will be made on the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the joint work of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
2. At its tenth session, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from November 21 to 23, 2006, the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, and DNA-Profiling in Particular (BMT) discussed the draft UPOV Guidelines for DNA-profiling: molecular marker selection and database construction (BMT Guidelines). In relation to Section B: 5.2 "Quality criteria", the BMT was informed that ISO and Codex were developing guidelines. The BMT agreed that it would be useful to invite relevant experts to make a presentation on those guidelines at the eleventh session of the BMT.
3. At its forty-third session, held in Geneva, from March 26 to 28, 2007, the Technical Committee (TC) agreed that relevant experts be invited to make a presentation concerning the work of ISO and Codex, in relation to quality criteria in molecular techniques, at the eleventh session of the BMT.
4. At its second session, held in Angers, France, on April 18, 2007, the *Ad Hoc* Crop Subgroups on Molecular Techniques for Rose (Crop Subgroup for Rose) was informed that the ISTA Variety Committee would discuss a protocol for variety identification at its Congress in May 2007.

5. At the forty-fourth session of the TC, held in Geneva from April 7 to 9, 2008, Mrs. Katalin Ertsey (Hungary), President of the Executive Committee of ISTA, reported that ISTA and OECD were jointly working on harmonization in molecular markers for variety verification and confirmed that ISTA would be glad to make a presentation on that subject at the eleventh session of the BMT. The TC agreed to invite ISTA and OECD to make a presentation on their joint work on harmonization in the development of sets of markers which might be used for variety verification, at the eleventh session of the BMT.

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