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| International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants |  |

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| Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques  and DNA-Profiling in Particular  Sixteenth Session La Rochelle, France, November 7 to 10, 2017 | BMT/16/9 Rev.  Original: English  Date: November 9, 2017 |

THE USE OF MOLECULAR DISTANCE AS A CHARACTERISTIC? ASSESSMENT OF THe REFERENCE VARIETY MODEL BASED ON GEVES SNP MAIZE DATA

Document prepared by experts from France

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As a follow up to the previous presentations by the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) (document BMT/14/5 “The Use of Reference Varieties in Varietal Distinction: an Approach under Investigation in the US for Potential Application in Plant Variety Protection”), and the Netherlands (document BMT/15/22 Rev “Can Molecular Distance be used as Characteristic?”), we are testing this new concept based on genetic distances to so called “reference” varieties. Our study explores different calculations to transform genetic distances into characteristics and highlights some consequences of the potential use of this approach in DUS examination.

[Annex follows]

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