

**Council**

**C/52/10**

**Fifty-Second Ordinary Session  
Geneva, November 2, 2018**

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**PROGRESS REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE, THE TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIES AND THE WORKING GROUP ON BIOCHEMICAL AND MOLECULAR TECHNIQUES, AND DNA-PROFILING IN PARTICULAR**

*Document prepared by the Office of the Union*

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1. At its fifty-third session, held in Geneva from April 3 to 5, 2017, the Technical Committee (TC) considered the work program for its fifty-fourth session and agreed that its work program could be covered by a session to be held on October 29 and 30, 2018.
2. The following program was agreed for the fifty-fourth session of the TC:
  1. Opening of the session
  2. Adoption of the agenda
  3. Report on developments in UPOV including relevant matters discussed in the last sessions of the Administrative and Legal Committee, the Consultative Committee and the Council
  4. Progress reports on the work of the Technical Working Parties, including the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, and DNA-Profiling in Particular (BMT)
  5. Matters arising from the Technical Working Parties
  6. TGP documents
  7. Cooperation in examination
  8. Approaches for obtaining plant material from breeders and on deciding on varieties whose existence is a matter of common knowledge
  9. Information and databases
    - (a) UPOV information databases
    - (b) Electronic application form
    - (c) Exchange and use of software and equipment
    - (d) Variety description databases
  10. Number of growing cycles
  11. Matters concerning variety descriptions
  12. Development of calculated thresholds for excluding varieties of common knowledge from the second growing cycle when COYD is used
  13. Statistical methods for visually observed characteristics
  14. Molecular techniques
  15. Discussion on:
    - (a) Minimum distances between varieties
    - (b) Increasing participation of new members of the Union in the work of the TC and the TWPs (including the provision of training on using UPOV tools to new members of the Union)

16. Variety denominations
17. Preparatory workshops
18. List of genera and species for which authorities have practical experience in the examination of distinctness, uniformity and stability
19. Test Guidelines
20. Program for the fifty-fifth session
21. Adoption of the report (if time permits)
22. Closing of the session

(see documents TC/53/31 "Report" and TC/54/1 "Draft Agenda")

3. It is anticipated that the report of the fifty-fourth session of the TC (document TC/54/[31]) will be made available on the UPOV website on October 31, 2018. Document TC/54/[31] will provide a progress report on the work and the work program for the TC, Technical Working Parties (TWPs) and Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, and DNA-Profiling in Particular (BMT).

4. An oral report on the fifty-fourth session of the TC and on the program for its fifty-fifth session will be made at the fifty-second ordinary session of the Council.

5. *The Council is invited to:*

*(a) note that an oral report on the fifty-fourth session of the TC and on the program for its fifty-fifth session will be made at the fifty-second ordinary session of the Council;*

*(b) note that it is anticipated that the report of the fifty-fourth session of the TC (document TC/54/[31]), including a progress report on the work and the work program for the TC, TWPs and BMT, will be made available on the UPOV website on October 31, 2018; and*

*(c) approve the progress report and work program for the TC, TWPs and BMT, as presented in the oral report at the fifty-second ordinary session of the Council and in document TC/54/[31].*

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