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INVITATION OF OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO MEETINGS OF THE TECHNICAL BODIES OF UPOV

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. The Consultative Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") considered, at its last session, a report by the Vice Secretary-General that "Dr. D. Obst of the Commission of the European Communities had indicated that he would like it to be possible for one of his colleagues to be admitted as an observer to sessions of the Technical Committee and Technical Working Parties." The Committee noted that, as far as the Technical Working Parties were concerned, "the chairman of each already had the possibility of inviting special experts in a given technical field" (see document CC/XXX/4, paragraphs 36 and 37).

2. Immediately following the last session of the Committee, the Council, at its eighteenth ordinary session, decided that the Committee "should examine at its next session the question of inviting observers from intergovernmental organizations to the meetings of the technical bodies of UPOV" (see document C/XVIII/14 Prov., paragraph 96).

3. The Committee last considered the question of the admission of observers in general to sessions of the Technical Committee in April 1982, at its twenty-fifth session. In paragraph 11 of document CC/XXV/4, it is recorded that "only the signatory States of the 1978 Act of the Convention not yet being members of UPOV have been invited to be represented by observers at sessions of the Technical Committee." The Committee, having taken note of document CC/XXV/4, "did not give any additional instructions for further invitations" (see document CC/XXV/11, paragraph 20).

4. In view of the request from Dr. D. Obst of the Commission of the European Communities, referred to in paragraph 1, above, the Office of the Union has reviewed past discussions and decisions on the admission of observers from intergovernmental organizations to ordinary sessions of the Council and to sessions of the Administrative and Legal Committee and of the Technical Committee. The current situation is that:
(i) the following intergovernmental organizations are invited to ordinary sessions of the Council:

(a) EC (European Communities);
(b) EFTA (European Free Trade Association);
(c) ESARIPO (Industrial Property Organization for English-Speaking Africa);
(d) FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations);
(e) IBPGR (International Board for Plant Genetic Resources);
(f) JUNAC (Junta of the Cartagena Agreement);
(g) OAPI (African Intellectual Property Organization);
(h) OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development);

(ii) the following intergovernmental organizations are also invited to sessions of the Administrative and Legal Committee: EC; EFTA;

(iii) no intergovernmental organizations are invited to sessions of the Technical Committee.

5. The Committee, when considering the request from Dr. D. Obst of the Commission of the European Communities, might also wish to consider the possibility of asking other intergovernmental organizations whether they would wish to send observers to sessions of the Technical Committee. Of the organizations listed in paragraph 4(i), above, the following would seem most likely to have an interest in and possibly a contribution to make to the work carried out in that Committee:

(i) EFTA;
(ii) IBPGR;
(iii) FAO;
(iv) OECD.

Other organizations that might also warrant consideration by the Committee are:

(v) IPC (International Poplar Commission);
(vi) ISTA (International Seed Testing Association);
(vii) IWO/OIV (International Vine and Wine Office).

6. In 1981, at the request of the Committee, the Office of the Union collected information on a number of international organizations. That information was published in the Annex to document CC/XXIII/3. The information published in that Annex on the seven organizations referred to in paragraph 5, above, is reproduced in the Annex to this document, without having been updated, to assist the Committee in its deliberations.

7. The Committee is invited to take the necessary decisions.
(i) EFTA (European Free Trade Association)

Name: European Free Trade Association (in French: Association européenne de libre-échange); abbreviated to EFTA (in English) or AELE (in French).

Status: Intergovernmental organization.

Headquarters: Geneva.

Members: Austria, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland. Associate member Finland.


Objectives: To promote, in the area of the Association and in each member State, a sustained expansion of economic activity, full employment, increased productivity and the rational use of resources, financial stability and the continuous improvement of living standards; to ensure that trade between member States takes place under conditions of fair competition; to avoid significant disparity between member States in the conditions governing the supply of raw materials produced within the area of the Association; to contribute to the harmonious development and expansion of world trade and to the progressive removal of barriers to it.

Organization: The highest organ is the Council, which usually meets twice a year at ministerial level and weekly at the level of the permanent representatives. There are a number of permanent committees and some specialized groups. EFTA has a permanent Secretariat.

Publications: Among other publications, EFTA issues the monthly EFTA Bulletin.

Contacts: EFTA maintains contacts with a number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. It is invited to ordinary sessions of the UPOV Council and is interested in participating in other UPOV meetings. The Administrative and Legal Committee has recommended the invitation of EFTA to be represented by observers at its sessions.

* * * * *

(ii) IBPGR (International Board for Plant Genetic Resources)

Name: International Board for Plant Genetic Resources, abbreviated to IBPGR.

Status: Autonomous, international, scientific organization under the aegis of the CGIAR.

Headquarters: Rome (FAO Headquarters).

Legal Basis: Informally established by the CGIAR in 1974, in agreement with FAO and UNDP.

Members (Contributors): Governments of Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America; United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Bank.

Objectives: To safeguard for mankind, through a global network of genetic resources centers, the genetic variation of cultivated plants of major economic importance, and to ensure their better and speedier availability to breeders.
Organization: The Board consists of 13 (1979) individual members, chosen by a Subcommittee of the CGIAR, and one ex officio representative each of FAO and UNEP. Six members of the Board form the Executive Committee. There is a permanent Secretariat, provided partly by FAO. It is directed by an Executive Secretary.

The IBPGR has established Crop Advisory Committees for Maize, Rice, Sorghum and Millet, Wheat and Phaseolus, a Regional Committee for Southeast Asia and consultations and working groups on the genetic resources of specific crops. 1979 meetings of such groups were convened for Beet, Coffee, Forage Plants, Groundnut and Vegetables for the Tropics. The most significant result of the activities of the IBPGR is said to be the increase in the number of national centers cooperating as part of the IBPGR network.

Activities: The IBPGR organizes a global network of national centers for the consultation of plant genetic resources. As part of this task general and individual needs for exploration, collection, conservation and evaluation of plant genetic resources are identified. Priorities are set in particular to ensure that the resources conserved are made available for plant breeding and scientific activities. Standards, methods and procedures for exploration and evaluation are developed. Minimum standards are laid down for conservation and regeneration of material. Recommendations are made on computerized information, storage and retrieval systems. Training activities are supported. Duplication of effort is eliminated. Information is spread and the public is informed on the need for conservation of genetic resources.

Publications: Annual reports; bibliographies of plant genetic resources, descriptions (for cultivated potato, wheat and Aegilops, winged beans, tropical fruits, Sorghum, Colocasia, yams), reports on regional meetings, a number of monographs and the FAO/IBPGR Plant Genetic Resources Newsletter. Enumeration of publications in Appendix VI of the Annual Report for 1979.

Contacts: The IBPGR maintains its closest contacts with FAO, the CGIAR, international, regional and national research institutes, breeding centers and gene banks. Occasional contacts with UPOV.

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(iii) FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

Name: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (in French: Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture; in Spanish: Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación; in German: Ernährungs- und Landwirtschaftsorganisation der Vereinten Nationen), abbreviated to FAO.

Status: Specialized Agency of the United Nations, intergovernmental organization.


Members: 136 States, namely:

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Objectives: To raise the levels of nutrition and standards of living of the populations placed under the jurisdiction of the member States; to improve the efficiency of production and distribution of food and agricultural products, including fishery and forestry products; to improve the conditions of the poorer populations; to contribute to the expansion of the world economy and the elimination of hunger in the world.

Organization: The highest organs are the Conference and the Council. The Conference, which meets every second year (years with uneven numbers) is composed of one representative of each member State. It determines the general policy of the Organization, approves the budget, establishes the work programs, adopts the general rules and the financial rules of the Organization, issues recommendations on questions concerning food and agriculture and examines decisions taken by the Council and its subsidiary bodies.

The Council is composed of representatives of 42 member States and chaired by an independent person. Its members are elected by the Conference. The Conference also delegates certain powers to the Council which acts for the Conference and directs the work of the Organization. It discusses the world food and agriculture situation. It has created a number of subsidiary organs which are named below.

The Programme (formerly Co-ordinating) Committee, composed of one President, six members and three deputy members, meets once a month in order to assist the Council in the fulfillment of its tasks.

The Finance Committee assists the Council in its task of controlling the application of the budget and the financial administration of the Organization. There is also the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, the Committee on Production and its Sub-Committees, the Committee on Fisheries, the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on the World Security on Alimentation, and numerous specialized commissions, committees, working groups and expert groups.
The FAO also has a large Secretariat which is directed by the Director General. Of its various divisions and departments the Department of Agriculture is the most important for UPOV.

Activities: The main activities of FAO consist in furnishing information and views to its member States on all aspects of the production, distribution and consumption of alimentary or agricultural products in relation to real needs.

Publications: FAO publishes a number of periodicals on specialized fields, mostly called Yearbooks. It also has issued more than 600 technical publications of a non-periodical character.

Contacts: Being a specialized agency of the United Nations, FAO naturally maintains close contacts with the United Nations and the other specialized agencies. It has also established relations with 55 other intergovernmental organizations, not including UPOV. The non-governmental organizations that aid FAO in achieving its aims, are granted special recognition by the Organization; they are given consultative status, specialized consultative status or liaison status. FAO has created national committees in 62 countries in order to maintain relations with the governments and the populations of those countries. These Committees are national bodies.

Contacts with UPOV: FAO has for some years been invited to be represented at sessions of the Council of UPOV and has accepted the invitation several times. It has also taken part in a number of special meetings of UPOV, most recently in the symposium during the fourteenth ordinary session of the Council of UPOV. It was represented by observers at the 1978 Diplomatic Conference. UPOV has so far not participated in FAO meetings.

(iv) OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)

Name: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (in French: Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques; in Spanish: Organizacion de Cooperacion y Desarrollo Economico), abbreviated to OECD in English and to OCDE in French and Spanish.

Status: Intergovernmental organization.


Members: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America. Yugoslavia has special status.


Objectives: To promote the economic and social welfare of all member States of the OECD and to assist member governments in directing their political measures to that end and to coordinate those measures; also to stimulate and harmonize the efforts of their members in favor of developing countries.

Organization: The highest organ is the Council, which is composed of one representative of each member State. The Council meets at permanent representative level usually once a week, and at ministerial level usually once a year. Decisions of the Council and recommendations are taken by mutual agreement of all members.

The Council elects each year an Executive Committee of 14 members.
Activities: The main activities of the OECD as a whole consist in studying various economic questions and giving reports or adopting recommendations on certain political actions. The working unit for seed certification and the seed schemes has special character, as it administers special technical and administrative measures. The main work of the Organization is done in numerous specialized Committees and Working Groups (more than 100). Several higher-level groups exist within the OECD for the study of special problems, for instance problems of raw materials and of economic relations between the member countries and developing countries. Several autonomous and semi-autonomous organisms also exist within the OECD. There is a permanent Secretariat under the authority of the Secretary General. The OECD is financed by contributions from member countries.

Of importance to UPOV is the working unit for the OECD seed certification and the seed scheme. The schemes are for varietal certification. They complement work on seed testing, coordinated by ISTA, which ensures species purity, germination, physical purity and so on. The OECD schemes involve continuity from one generation to another, based on field inspection, sampling and sealing of seed lots and growing out of seed samples in control plots. There are schemes for Herbage and Oil Seed, Cereal Seed, Beet Seed, Vegetable Seed, Subterranean Clover Seed and Maize Seed. There is a separate scheme for Forest Reproductive Material.

Publications: The OECD issues a number of publications, an annual report, reports of the Secretary General on the activities of the OECD and national economic studies of the OECD, which are published every two months. There are monthly Newsletters and every six months a publication called "Economic Outlook" appears. A number of information bulletins, technical bulletins and statistics are also published, as well as numerous monographs and specialized reports from the different fields of economics and life.

Contacts: The closest contacts seem to be with the Commission of the European Communities which are based on a special protocol. The Commission participates in a very general manner in the work of the OECD. Contacts also exist with EFTA and with a number of specialized agencies and other organizations within the UN family including—to name those of possible interest to UPOV—FAO, GATT and UNCTAD. There is a special arrangement for cooperation with the Council of Europe. The unit responsible for the Seed Certification Schemes cooperates closely with FIS and ISTA.

The Office of UPOV regularly receives invitations to the annual meeting of the OECD seed certification and the seed schemes, but has accepted such invitations only twice. Several representatives of UPOV member States have acted or act as officers in that OECD body, from which moreover UPOV receives all documentation.

* * * * * *

(v) IPC (International Poplar Commission)

Name: International Poplar Commission (in French: Commission internationale du Peuplier; in Spanish: Comisión Internacional del Alamo); abbreviated to IPC.

Status: Intergovernmental organization under the auspices of FAO.

Headquarters: Rome (at the headquarters of FAO).
Members:

Argentina
Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Canada
Egypt
France
Germany (Federal Republic of)
Hungary
India
Iran
Iraq
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Korea (Republic of)
Lebanon
Morocco
Netherlands
New Zealand
Pakistan
Portugal
Romania
Spain
Switzerland
Syria
Tunisia
Turkey
United Kingdom
United States of America
Yugoslavia


Objectives and Activities: To study the scientific, technical, social and economic aspects of poplar and willow cultivation; to promote in this field of cultivation the exchange of ideas and material between research workers, producers and users; to promote the organization of congresses combined with study tours; to report and make recommendations to the Conference of FAO, through the Director-General of FAO; to make recommendations to the National Poplar Commissions, through the Director-General of FAO and the governments concerned.

Organization: The highest organ is the Commission, in which each member State has one vote. It holds one regular session every four years of the Director-General of FAO. Special sessions may be convened by the Director-General of FAO in consultation with the chairman of the Executive Committee (see below).

An Executive Committee consisting of 12 members is elected by the Commission to act on behalf of the Commission as executive organ between sessions. The Executive Committee may co-opt one to five additional members of its body.

If necessary, sub-commissions, committees or working parties are established. The existing three working parties, which report to the Executive Committee, are the Working Party for Logging and Utilization of Poplar Wood, the Working Party on Poplar Insect Pests and the Working Party on Poplar Diseases.

The Director-General of FAO appoints the Secretary of the Commission from amongst the senior staff of FAO.

Each member State has to establish a National Poplar Commission or, if not possible, designate some other suitable national body.

Contacts: Mainly with FAO. UPOV established contacts with the IPC in order to harmonize as far as possible the IPC identification form for cultivated poplars with the UPOV Test Guidelines for Poplar.

Several of the experts participating in the work of the UPOV Technical Working Party for Forest Trees are also working as experts in bodies of the IPC.

* * * * *
(vi) ISTA (International Seed Testing Association)

Name: International Seed Testing Association (in French: Association internationale d'essais de semences; in German: Internationale Vereinigung für Saatgutprüfung), abbreviated to ISTA.

Status: Sometimes referred to as a semi-governmental organization as its members are not the States themselves but governmental offices or persons authorized by governmental offices. It should be regarded as an intergovernmental organization.

Headquarters: The headquarters of ISTA is always at the place of the office of the Secretary-Treasurer elected by the General Assembly. The ISTA Secretariat is established there. This might be changed in the coming years; the establishment of a permanent Secretariat independent of the official headquarters of the Secretary-Treasurer is under serious discussion. At present the headquarters is at Zurich/Reckenholz, Switzerland.

Members: Membership is somewhat complicated. The core of members is formed by national seed testing institutes (testing stations, institutions or laboratories; at present 137). Only governmental stations or stations under governmental supervision which in addition are accredited by the government (usually by the competent ministry) may become members. Countries in which one or several members have their headquarters are considered member countries (at present 59); they are represented by the accrediting authority (ministry or other governmental organ). In addition there are personal members. Personal members are persons which have been named by the accrediting authority and are authorized by that authority to participate on the latter's behalf in ISTA affairs. Personal members must be active, scientifically or practically, in seed testing or in the technical control of seed testing. Membership fees are calculated per station; the first station of the country pays the basic fee (at present about SF 2,000) while further stations pay a reduced fee.


Organization: The highest organ is the General Assembly, which meets at intervals of three years (in the framework of the ISTA Congress). The General Assembly elects the Executive Committee, which at present comprises 11 members, the President (or more accurately, the First Vice President, who after three years automatically becomes the President), the Second Vice-President and the Secretary-Treasurer. It approves the accounts and fixes the annual contributions of members. If a vote is taken, each country has one vote only.

The Executive Committee, the members of which are accredited ISTA members, determines the members of the Technical Committees and the work program of those Committees, decides on the acceptance of new members and authorizes stations for the issuing of ISTA certificates; it handles all financial matters, decides on the organization of the Secretariat and the employment of secretarial staff; it determines the editors of the periodical "Seed Science and Technology." The term of office of the President is three years. Between Congresses the Committee meets in so-called interconvention meetings.

Activities: According to Article III of the Statutes the main purpose of ISTA is to develop standard procedures for the taking of samples and the testing of seed, to have standard procedures adopted and to publish them as well as to promote the uniform application of these procedures in the testing of seed. ISTA also promotes the research in all fields of seed science and technology, including the taking of samples, the testing, the storing, the preparation and the distribution of seed. ISTA supports the certification of seeds, participates in conferences and seminars which serve its aims and establishes and maintains contacts with other organizations which have the same or related interests in seed.

ISTA has established 17 Technical Committees, each of which is, in a separate technical field, competent for scientific and technical problems of the testing of seed and questions connected with it. The results of the work of the Technical Committees provide the basis for the publication of scientific articles and of the improvement of the international rules for seed testing. The work of the Technical Committees is the main part of ISTA activities.
Publications: ISTA publishes a quarterly called "Seed Science and Technology" (600 to 1000 pages a year); it contains scientific articles covering the whole field of seed science, namely multiplication, the taking of samples, testing, storing, preparation and distribution and also the morphology and physiology of seed. "Seed Science and Technology" also contains reports on ISTA Congresses. ISTA issues another publication at irregular intervals called "Advances in Research and Technology of Seeds," which contains reviews of recent literature. The publication on the ISTA methods, the International Rules for Seed Testing, is a standard work of international reputation. It is constantly reexamined, amended and revised. It exists in English, French and German and has been translated into Spanish. The rules are completed by handbooks on special fields of seed testing, for instance the "ISTA List of Stabilized Plant Names" or the "Handbook for Seedling Evaluation." A great number of such handbooks is in preparation. Finally the "ISTA News Bulletin" appears three or four times a year. It reports on current events in ISTA.

Meetings: An ISTA Congress takes place every three years. The Congress itself lasts for about one week. It is preceded by Committee meetings which last for two or three days, and followed by excursions which occupy some four to six days. The Congress comprises a scientific lecture and discussion meeting and a meeting of the General Assembly. It is public. In addition to its members, ISTA invites all international organizations with which it has contacts. Invitations are also sent to recipients of the "News Bulletin."

Workshops are held at irregular intervals, normally every three years. They last for ten to 14 days; their aim is to train in testing methods and the unified application of ISTA methods." Participants are mostly the heads of laboratories of ISTA testing stations, of which about 100 exist. The public has no access to this work.

ISTA supports and occasionally even organizes courses on seed testing in developing countries. It cooperates in this respect with FAO and with national counterparts. The contribution of ISTA to these courses is less of a financial nature, consisting more in the proposal of experts, the furnishing of teaching material etc.

Contacts: Close contacts have been established between ISTA and the International Federation of the Seed Trade (FIS). The introduction of seed testing certificates (orange, green and blue certificates) was a joint achievement of ISTA and FIS.

Contacts have also been established with the OECD seed certificate scheme, FAO, the European Economic Community, ISO and UPOV. UPOV has been invited to ISTA Congresses and has twice accepted the invitation. UPOV invited ISTA to the 1978 Diplomatic Conference, in which ISTA duly participated.

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(vii) IWO/OIV (International Vine and Wine Office)

Name: International Vine and Wine Office (in French: Office International de la vigne et du vin; in German: Internationales Weinamt), abbreviated to IWO (in English) or OIV (in French).

Status: Intergovernmental organization.

**Members:**

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<td>Germany (Federal Republic of)</td>
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**Legal Basis:** Founded in 1924 by eight governments.

**Objectives:** The IWO studies all problems concerned with the growing of vines, the production and consumption of fresh or dried grapes and the production and consumption of wine.

**Organization:** The highest organ is the General Assembly, which is constituted by the governmental delegates of each member State. It meets in a member State at least once a year. Every third year an International Vine and Wine Congress is organized in connection with the annual meeting of the General Assembly.

A Council composed of a President and four Vice-Presidents ensures the proper functioning of the institution.

There are three Standing Technical Commissions, one for viticulture (vine growing), one for oenology (wine making) and one for the viti-vinicultural economy (wine and wine trade). Methods for the analysis of wine and the microbiology of wine are examined by special subcommittees.

A number of expert groups meet, for instance for table grapes, for the selection of vines, for wine-making technology, for the international code of oenological practice and for international collaboration to suppress fraudulent practices.

Occasionally a special problem may be treated in the form of a symposium, workshop, round-table-discussion or seminar.

The day-to-day work is handled by the Director (elected by the General Assembly) and his staff.

**Activities:** In the field of viticulture the IWO studies in particular the clonal and sanitary aspects of vine cultivation, the creation of new varieties, treatments including the cutting and irrigation of vines, the quality of the vintage, the mechanization of work in the vineyard, the phytosanitary protection of vineyards and the training of vine growers.

In the wine-making field, the techniques of the production of wine are discussed, for instance fermentation, the application of low temperatures and heat in wine production, the equipment used for the production of wine, the microbiology of wine, analytical methods and their international standardization, and the training of wine producers.

In the economic field questions are discussed such as the reasonable consumption of wine and the fight against alcoholism, the consumption of fresh or dried grapes and their effect on human health, the production and consumption of drinks with low alcohol content, concentrates and grape sugar. World policies on wine production and on the maintenance of the quality of wine are also discussed, and measures are taken to obtain yearly statistical indications on worldwide wine production.
Publications: IWO has published a monthly technical and economic review for more than 50 years. It has published a "Memento," a voluminous work on production, commercialization and legislation in the winegrowing countries of the whole world. This work is re-edited every fifth year. Another major work of the IWO is the Technical Dictionary on Vine and Wine which is published in seven languages. There exists an international Ampelographical Register containing 500 monographs on the various vine varieties. There is a review of international methods for the analysis of wine, describing more than 70 analytical methods, an international Oenological Codex, describing 400 products used in oenology, the International Code of Oenological Practices containing definitions of grape juice, wine (including special wines) and the description of 45 practices for the treatment of these products, and finally there is a directory of viticultural and oenological stations and laboratories, giving the addresses and other useful information of 280 stations and laboratories.

Contacts: The IWO cooperates with all international organizations interested in vine-growing and wine-making problems. UPOV cooperates with the IWO (together with the IBPGR) in the compilation of a "Universal List of Characteristics of the Genus Vitis" which the IWO is at the moment revising to ensure that there is as far as possible a common wording for the characteristics used to describe vine varieties.

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