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**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS**

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## THE UPOV EDITORIAL COMMITTEE–FUTURE MEMBERSHIP

*Document prepared by the Chairman of the Technical Committee***I. Background**

1. The UPOV Editorial Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “EC”) was originally established by the Technical Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”) to examine drafts of all UPOV Test Guidelines, produced by the various Technical Working Parties (hereinafter referred to as the “TWPs”), before these were put forward for adoption by the Committee. The role of the EC was to ensure consistency across the different Test Guidelines produced by the various TWPs and to check the alignment of texts across all the official UPOV languages.

2. Meeting over the same period as the Committee itself, usually in the evenings, the EC reported its proposed modifications of the various draft Test Guidelines back to the main session of the Committee, also taking into account any instructions from that Committee. In this role, its membership was selected from within the membership of the Committee both to provide broad experience of the UPOV system and also to represent the original three UPOV languages – English, French and German – later expanded also to include Spanish. The EC Chair was provided by the UPOV Secretariat.

## II. The Enlarged Editorial Committee

3. In 1996, the Committee began the task of revising the General Introduction to the Test Guidelines (document TG/1/2), and the membership of the EC was enlarged to assist with this work. As a result, its membership was extended to include the Chairmen of the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA), the Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF), the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO), the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV), the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC), and the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, and DNA-Profiling in Particular (BMT). The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee are also members of this 'Enlarged' Editorial Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "EEC").

4. Since 1996, it has become clear that, whilst the EEC continues to report to the Committee on all its drafting functions, it is now undertaking drafting and re-drafting on a much wider range of documents than was originally the case. In particular, following the adoption of a new General Introduction, it will have an important role in the refinement of the associated TGP documents for consideration by the Committee. In this situation, it is important that its membership fully reflects the need of the Committee for its documents to address the full spectrum of, for example, arrangements for DUS testing, new crop types, and new technologies.

## III. Future Membership – A Proposal

5. In order to meet the future needs of the Committee, it will be important to ensure that the EEC has all the necessary expertise and experience to deal with rapidly changing technical developments and the full range of circumstances encountered in DUS testing. However, it is also important to ensure that the EEC remains at a sufficiently compact size to act as an effective working group, for the refinement of proposals to be submitted for the approval of the Committee.

6. It is important to ensure that the EEC has a membership which can provide an effective service to the Committee and thereby enable the Committee to work efficiently. The Office of the Union would like to propose that membership of the EEC should continue to include the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, the Chairmen of the TWPs and the Chairman of the BMT. In addition, a small number of additional members could be included, where and when necessary, to ensure that there is an appropriate range of expertise and experience. The need for additional members would be identified by the Committee, or by the EEC itself. If these needs are agreed by the Committee, nominations for up to [three] additional members from within the Committee, each for a period of [three] years to coincide with the terms of the Chairmen of the TWPs, would be the responsibility of the Committee.

7. *The Committee is invited to consider this proposal.*

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