



TC/47/25

ORIGINAL: French

DATE: March 3, 2011

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GENEVA

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Forty-Seventh Session
Geneva, April 4 - 6, 2011

PROGRAM FOR THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Prepared by the Chair of the Technical Committee

1. The meetings of the Technical Committee (TC) always attract a large number of participants and it has not escaped the attention of every one of us that our working arrangements are rather routine and few participants take part in the discussions on the various subjects dealt with.
2. It is important to underline the quality of the work carried out prior to the meetings of the TC by the Technical Working Parties (TWPs) and by the Enlarged Editorial Committee, not forgetting the Office of the Union. This enables very elaborate documents to be submitted to the Technical Committee, based on the close discussions held beforehand. More often than not, there is no reason to re-open the discussions within the Technical Committee.
3. However, the role of the TC is vital in producing all the documentation provided to members of the Union and even more so with respect to understanding the protection system under the UPOV Convention and its implementation. Many of the cross-cutting issues require exchanges of points of view and discussions with experts dealing with the various groups of plants species and with representatives of UPOV members who do not necessarily participate in the meetings of the TWPs.

4. It should also be emphasized that not all UPOV members take part systematically in the meetings of the expert groups and that members view the meetings of the Technical Committee as places where they can present their views and enrich discussions. In order to provide a basis for the forthcoming discussions on this subject, I would like to propose some ways, firstly, for enabling us to free up some time for more discussions with speakers and, secondly, in plenary session or at specific meetings, for more comprehensively addressing the cross-cutting issues or subjects on which more speakers would be able to take the floor. The following actions are envisaged:

- (a) Submitting in-session reports of the TWPs in a more succinct and attractive manner with the highlighted essential points presented orally using visual support and providing a summary according to a standard arrangement to be attached to the report of the Technical Committee. A first step in this direction has been implemented this year; it is probably still possible to improve on this presentation of the work of the TWPs and your suggestions would be welcome.
- (b) Providing more time for discussions between members of the Technical Committee by giving the floor to more delegates. Without systematically gathering the opinions of each and every member, it would be worthwhile to provide each UPOV member with the opportunity to report on its experience of implementing the UPOV Convention and of the implementing arrangements from a technical viewpoint. The aim would not be to recall each time how the protection system has been implemented nor to present a complete activity report on the past year but rather to identify notable achievements, obstacles faced and issues which could be dealt with by the TWPs.

Particular attention could be paid to the most recent members of the Union in order to provide feedback on their recent experience of implementing the UPOV system.

- (c) Continuing to hold seminars such as those organized in 2010 and 2011 on issues identified during discussions proposed under (b) above with the participation of experts who could share their experience.

To ensure widespread participation, such seminars should be held jointly with the meeting of the Technical Committee. However, it is also possible to envisage regional seminars, as has been the custom in previous years.

5. The TC is invited to consider the suggestions in this document with regard to:

(a) the program for the forty-eighth session of the Technical Committee; and

(b) other activities that might contribute to the work of the Technical Committee.

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