

Technical Committee

TC/53/29

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WEB-BASED TEST GUIDELINES TEMPLATE

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this document is to report on developments on the web-based Test Guidelines template (web-based TG template) since the fifty-second session of the Technical Committee.

2. The TC is invited to:

(a) note the comments by the TWPs, at their sessions in 2016, as presented in paragraphs 7 to 17 of this document;

(b) note the items resolved in Version 1.0 of the web-based TG template, as presented in paragraph 18 of this document;

(c) note the items currently being addressed in Version 1.0 of the web-based TG template, as set out in paragraphs 19 and 20 of this document;

(d) recall that the development of Version 2 of the web-based TG Template will not start before 2018, subject to availability of resources, after Version 1 has been fully stabilized and tested; and

(e) note the issues that will be considered for inclusion in Version 2.0, as set out in paragraphs 21 and 22 of this document.

3. The structure of this document is as follows:

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ANNEX Features of the Web-based TG Template

4. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

- TC: Technical Committee
- TC-EDC: Enlarged Editorial Committee
- TWA: Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops
- TWC: Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs
- TWF: Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops
- TWO: Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees
- TWPs: Technical Working Parties
- TWV: Technical Working Party for Vegetables

BACKGROUND

5. The TC, at its fiftieth session, held in Geneva from April 7 to 9, 2014, approved the plans for the implementation of the web-based TG Template, including the exclusive use of the web-based TG Template for the development of all Test Guidelines from 2015, as set out in document TC/50/10, paragraphs 56 to 58 (see document TC/50/37 "Report", paragraph 15)

6. The background to this matter is provided in document TC/52/28 "Revision of document TGP/7: Drafter's kit for Test Guidelines."

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2016

7. At their sessions in 2016, the TWC, TWO, TWV, TWA and TWF considered documents TWC/34/9, TWO/49/9, TWV/50/9, TWA/45/9 and TWF/47/9 "Revision of document TGP/7: Drafter's Kit for Test Guidelines", respectively, and received a demonstration by the Office of the Union of Version 1 of the web-based TG Template. (see documents TWC/34/32 "Report", paragraphs 23 to 29; TWO/49/25 "Report", paragraphs 17 to 23; TWV/50/25 "Report", paragraphs 23 to 28; TWA/45/25 "Report", paragraphs 23 to 27; and TWF/47/25 "Report", paragraphs 22 to 28).

8. The TWPs noted that the development of Version 2 of the web-based TG Template would not start before 2018, subject to availability of resources, after Version 1 had been fully stabilized and tested.

9. The TWPs noted that document TGP/7 would be revised to reflect the introduction of the web-based TG Template after Version 1 had been fully stabilized and tested.

10. The TWC noted that the system specifications of the web-based TG Template allowed the future development of a web-service application to allow data extraction from the web-based TG Template to other databases, which could offer possibilities to support the development of individual authorities' own test guidelines. The TWC noted that such functionality could be developed in the future if data mapping of their own databases was done by the authorities.

11. At their sessions in 2016, the TWO, TWV, TWA and TWF also considered documents TWC/34/17, TWO/49/17, TWV/50/17, TWA/45/17 and TWF/47/17 "Guidance for drafters of Test Guidelines", respectively, and received a demonstration by the Office of the Union on the tutorials for the following different user roles of the web-based Test Guidelines template. (see documents TWO/49/25 "Report", paragraphs 17 to 23; TWV/50/25 "Report", paragraphs 100 and 101; TWA/45/25 "Report", paragraphs 93 to 95; and TWF/47/25 "Report", paragraphs 64 to 66).

12. The TWO agreed that the tutorials should continue to be developed to include additional comments received from users of the web-based TG template. The TWO agreed that the tutorials should be made available on the TG drafter's web page and a link provided in the web-based TG template webpage.

13. The TWO welcomed Version 1 of the web-based TG template and proposed that the following issues should be addressed:

- to allow immediate visualization of updates made by the Leading Expert in the export file;
- to improve availability online of the tutorials (e.g. link on TG drafter's web page and web-based TG template);
- to open the Test Guidelines for drafting by Leading Experts as soon as possible after a TWP session;
- to add a shortcut to the print dialog box;
- to enable editing of a comment by an Interested Expert without replacing the text previously drafted;
- to generate a confirmation message when a comment by an Interested Expert had been successfully introduced;
- to improve formatting in TQ 5 to clarify that the applicant has an option to either fill in the RHS Colour Chart number or select to the appropriate color group from the list of color groups in a color characteristics;
- to adjust the standard wording for plant material supplied in the form of corms: "The material is to be supplied in the form of corms able to produce plants to show all the characteristics in the first year of examination."

14. The TWO and TWA noted that further comments by users of the web-based TG Template could be sent to the Office of the Union.

15. The TWA noted that the tutorials were available online on the TG Drafters' webpage of the UPOV website and that a copy was reproduced in the Annex to document TWA/45/17.

16. The TWV agreed that the link to the web-based TG Template on the UPOV website should be made more accessible, therefore should appear under "Quick links - Test Guidelines" and under "Meeting documents".

17. The TWO received a presentation by an expert from the Republic of Korea on the "Creation of illustrations for Test Guidelines", a copy of which is reproduced in document TWO/49/23. The TWO noted the use of Microsoft Power Point for creating illustrations of botanical structures used as explanations for characteristics in Test Guidelines, and received a demonstration on creating illustrations for plant growth habit, leaf shapes and flower structures. The TWO welcomed the demonstration and agreed that the method could be used for drafting illustrations to UPOV Test Guidelines (see document TWO/49/25 "Report", paragraph 70).

CURRENT SITUATION

Items resolved

18. On the basis of the comments by the TWPs on Version 1 of the web-based TG Template, the Office of the Union addressed the following issues:

- immediate visualization of updates made by the Leading Expert in the export file;
- online availability of tutorials (web-based TG template webpage);
- editing of comments by Interested Experts without replacing previously drafted text;
- confirmation message after successful introduction of comments by Interested Experts;
- addition of a free text box for wording on "form of plant material to be supplied" (e.g. "*The material is to be supplied in the form of corms able to produce plants to show all the characteristics in the first year of examination.*")

Items currently being addressed

19. A general revision of the software code is currently underway to eliminate remaining reported malfunctioning issues and stabilize the system.

20. The Office of the Union has introduced a translator's interface for the generation of versions of Test Guidelines in the different UPOV official languages. Further developments of the interface will be needed before it can be used efficiently by the translators.

Development of Version 2.0

21. The following proposals by the Technical Working Parties will be considered for Version 2 of the web-based TG template:

- (i) Addition of hyperlinks in the exported documents to the symbols indicating that a characteristic has explanations covering individual and/or several characteristics in the Table of Characteristics in order to facilitate electronic navigation in the document;
- (ii) Possibility to display large tables in landscape format, such as for indication of growth types;
- (iii) Provide the comments by the Office of the Union on draft Test Guidelines in the web-based TG Template.

22. Subject to the completion of discussions on proposed amendments to document TGP/7 "Development of Test Guidelines", further changes will need to be introduced in the web-based TG Template (see document TC/53/5 "TGP documents").

23. *The TC is invited to:*

(a) note the comments by the TWPs, at their sessions in 2016, as presented in paragraphs 7 to 17 of this document;

(b) note the items resolved in Version 1.0 of the web-based TG template, as presented in paragraph 18 of this document;

(c) note the items currently being addressed in Version 1.0 of the web-based TG template, as set out in paragraphs 19 and 20 of this document;

(d) recall that the development of Version 2 of the web-based TG Template will not start before 2018, subject to availability of resources, after Version 1 has been fully stabilized and tested; and

(e) note the issues that will be considered for inclusion in Version 2.0, as set out in paragraphs 21 and 22 of this document.

[Annex follows]

FEATURES OF THE WEB-BASED TG TEMPLATE

(Extract from document TC/50/10 "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")

The web-based TG Template will be developed in two separate phases in the form of Versions 1 and 2.

Version 1

Version 1 of the web-based TG Template will be fully functional for the development of UPOV Test Guidelines by Leading Experts and will enable Interested Experts to provide comments. Version 1 of the web-based TG Template will be completed in 2016 and a demonstration will be made at the TWPs sessions in 2016.

Features

The main features of Version 1 are as follows:

- Draft Test Guidelines will be prepared by Leading Experts online via the web-based TG Template
- Fixed template containing all universal standard wording which is appropriate for all Test Guidelines (see document TGP/7 "Development of Test Guidelines", Section 3.1 "The TG Template")
- Options to add Additional Standard Wording (ASW) (see document TGP/7, Section 3.2 "Additional Standard Wording (ASW) for the TG Template")
- Links to Guidance Notes (GN) (see document TGP/7, Section 3.3 "Guidance Notes (GN) for the TG Template")
- A database of characteristics (in English, French, German and Spanish) from Test Guidelines adopted after the adoption of document TGP/7/1 "Development of Test Guidelines" the Collection of Approved Characteristics (adopted in 2004) (see document TGP/7, Annex 4 "Collection of Approved Characteristics").

The database will contain all information from the Table of Characteristics, including states of expression, notes, example varieties, etc. The database can be searched for relevant characteristics and a relevant characteristic uploaded into draft Test Guidelines with subsequent modification as required.

- Comments boxes for Interested Experts to complete online with a facility to view all comments
- Options to produce output in HTML or Word format.
- English only version
- Translators' facility for the Table of Characteristics (Chapter 7)

Characteristics uploaded, unchanged, from the database comprising the collection of approved characteristics will be indicated as not requiring translation. For other characteristics, translators will be able to search the database comprising the collection of approved characteristics and input the required translations. The translation of the other chapters of the Test Guidelines will be provided separately for Version 1.

Version 2

Version 2 of the web-based TG Template will provide the two following additional features:

Concurrent translation

In version 2 of the web-based TG Template, the French, German and Spanish language versions of the Test Guidelines will be automatically developed concurrently with the English draft for the standard wording, Additional Standard Wording (ASW) and characteristics uploaded, unchanged, from the database comprising the collection of approved characteristics. Text that has not been automatically translated will be indicated for translation in the language concerned.

Individual authorities' test guidelines

Version 1 of the web-based TG Template has been designed for the development of Test Guidelines for UPOV. However, it has also been designed such that Version 2 will enable members of the Union to use:

- (a) adopted UPOV Test Guidelines as a basis for the development of individual authorities' test guidelines;
- (b) the web-based TG Template and database of characteristics to develop individual authorities' test guidelines for which there are no UPOV Test Guidelines; and
- (c) use individual authorities' test guidelines, developed using the web-based TG Template, as the basis for draft UPOV Test Guidelines.

Version 2 will have a feature for individual authorities to modify the template wording, within the same structure, to act as a template for their own test guidelines and a feature to allow individual authorities to convert UPOV Test Guidelines into individual authorities' test guidelines, with necessary modifications.

[End of Annex and of document]