

Technical Committee

TC/55/INF/7

**Fifty-Fifth Session
Geneva, October 28 and 29, 2019**

Original: English
Date: August 12, 2019

VARIETY DENOMINATIONS – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this document is to report on the possible development of a UPOV similarity search tool for variety denomination purposes, the expansion of the content of the PLUTO database, non-acceptable terms, date and program of the next meeting of the Working Group on Variety Denominations (WG-DEN) and the revision of the ninth edition of the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP).

2. Matters for consideration by the Technical Committee (TC) on proposals to revise the list of classes in document UPOV/INF/12/5 “Explanatory Notes on Variety Denominations under the UPOV Convention” are presented in document TC/55/8 “Variety denominations”.

3. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

- CAJ: Administrative and Legal Committee
- IUBS Commission: International Commission for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants of the International Union for Biological Sciences
- ICNCP: International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants
- TC: Technical Committee
- WG-DEN: Working Group on Variety Denominations

4. The structure of this document is as follows:

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REVISION OF THE NINTH EDITION OF THE ICNCP

5. On August 5, 2018, the Office of the Union was notified of a “Call for proposals to revise the Cultivated Plant Code” by Mr. John C. David, the Chairman of the International Commission for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants of the International Union for Biological Sciences (IUBS Commission). Proposals to amend the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP) were requested to be sent to the Chairman of the IUBS Commission, by January 1, 2019 (see document CAJ/75/7 Add. “Addendum to variety denominations”, paragraphs 3 and 4).

6. The Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ), at its seventy-fifth session, held in Geneva, on October 31, 2018, agreed that the Office of the Union contribute to the revision of the ninth edition of the ICNCP

on the basis of document UPOV/INF/12/5 “Explanatory notes on variety denominations under the UPOV Convention” and the work of the WG-DEN (see document CAJ/75/14 “Report”, paragraph 45).

7. On December 17, 2018, the Office of the Union was notified by Mr. David that the next meeting of the IUBS Commission would be delayed until late 2019 or early 2020. On July 8, 2019, the Office of the Union was informed by Mr. David that the next meeting of the IUBS Commission responsible for the amendment of the ICNCP Code is scheduled to be held in Angers, France, in early 2020. Proposals to amend the ICNCP were requested to be sent to the Chairman of the IUBS Commission by the end of November 2019. The Office of the Union will consult the CAJ, at its seventy-sixth session, held in Geneva, on October 30, 2019, on proposals to make to the ICNCP.

POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF A UPOV SIMILARITY SEARCH TOOL FOR VARIETY DENOMINATION PURPOSES

8. The background to this matter is provided in document TC/54/12 “Variety Denominations”, paragraph 12.

9. The WG-DEN, at its fifth meeting, held in Geneva, on October 30, 2018, agreed that the Office of the Union should restart its work to explore possibilities to improve the UPOV Denomination Similarity Search Tool in conjunction with the Community Plant Variety Office of the European Union (CPVO) (see document UPOV/WG-DEN/5/3 “Report”, paragraph 28).

10. The Office of the Union will report on the latest developments concerning this matter to the WG-DEN, at its sixth meeting, to be held in Geneva on October 29, 2019, and to the CAJ, at its seventy-sixth session.

EXPANSION OF THE CONTENT OF THE PLUTO DATABASE

11. The background to this matter is provided in document TC/54/12 “Variety Denominations”, paragraph 14.

12. The WG-DEN, at its fifth meeting, agreed to propose (see document UPOV/WG-DEN/5/3 “Report”, paragraph 30):

(a) to accept accents and special characters in denominations in the PLUTO database while noting that the denomination search tool on the PLUTO database would only use the character set ASCII representation, as defined in ISO Standard 646;

(b) to revise the “Program for Improvements to the Plant Variety Database”, Section 3.1.3, in order to change the acceptable character set to ISO/IEC Standard 8859 1: 1998;

(c) to invite members of the Union to check whether they have relevant variety data that is no longer included in the PLUTO database but was submitted to the PLUTO database previously;

(d) that the Office of the Union should explore possibilities to introduce a unique identifier for variety records in the PLUTO database in order that new data submissions would add to the existing data rather than replacing it;

(e) that additional data should not be included in PLUTO but accessible via a search platform for independent databases; and

(f) that the Office of the Union to issue a circular to invite members of the Union to propose data that they would wish to include in the PLUTO database or make accessible via a search platform for independent databases.

13. The CAJ, at its seventy-fifth session, held in Geneva on October 31, 2018, noted the oral report on developments on this matter at the fifth meeting of the WG-DEN made at the seventy-fifth session of the CAJ, as set out in paragraph 12 of this document (see document CAJ/75/14 “Report”, paragraph 41).

Accents and special characters in denominations in the PLUTO database

14. Proposals concerning accents and special characters in denominations in the PLUTO database, as set out in paragraph 12 (a) and (b) above, are presented in document TC/55/5 “UPOV Information databases”.

Variety data no longer included in the PLUTO database (historical data)

15. With regard to the invitation for members of the Union to check variety data no longer included in the PLUTO database, as set out in paragraph 12 (c) above, the Office of the Union will issue a circular to invite contributors to the PLUTO database to inform the Office of the Union if they have relevant variety data that is no longer included in the PLUTO database but was submitted to the PLUTO database previously. Information received in response to that circular, where appropriate, will be presented to the WG-DEN.

16. With regard to the possible introduction of a unique identifier for variety record in the PLUTO database, as set out in paragraph 12 (d) above, the Office of the Union will present proposals on this matter at the sixth meeting of the WG-DEN.

Other varieties (new data)

17. With regard to the inclusion of other varieties (new data) in the PLUTO database, as set out in paragraphs 12 (e) and (f) above, on June 28, 2019, the Office of the Union issued Circular E-19/082 to the designated persons of the members of the Union in the Council, CAJ and WG-DEN, inviting them to propose, by July 31, 2019, additional types of record that they would wish to include in the PLUTO database or make accessible via a search platform for independent databases. Information received in response to that circular and consequent proposals, where appropriate, will be presented to the WG-DEN.

NON-ACCEPTABLE TERMS

18. The background to this matter is provided in document TC/54/12 “Variety Denominations”, paragraph 16.

19. The WG-DEN, at its fifth meeting, agreed to propose not to pursue further the matter in relation to this item “Non-acceptable terms” (see document UPOV/WG-DEN/5/3 “Report”, paragraph 32).

DATE AND PROGRAM OF THE NEXT MEETING

20. The WG-DEN, at its fifth meeting, agreed that the sixth meeting of the WG-DEN should be held in Geneva, in the evening of October 29, 2019.

21. The following program was agreed for the sixth meeting of the WG-DEN:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Revision of document UPOV/INF/12/5 “Explanatory Notes on Variety Denominations under the UPOV Convention”
4. UPOV denomination similarity search tool
5. Expansion of the content of the PLUTO database
6. Date, place and program of the next meeting

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