

Technical Committee

TC/59/6

**Fifty-Ninth Session
Geneva, October 23 and 24, 2023**

Original: English
Date: September 1, 2023

PREPARATORY WORKSHOPS

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this document is to report on preparatory workshops in 2023 and present proposals for 2024.
2. Preparatory workshops are organized with the aim of helping some of the delegates to participate more actively at Technical Working Party (TWP) meetings. Since 2021, the preparatory workshops have been organized as webinars. The video recordings are available on the UPOV website, under the “TWP preparatory webinars 2021-2023” tab (https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/webinar_videos.html) and UPOV YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/upov>). Videos on the UPOV YouTube channel can display transcription and subtitles automatically generated in different languages (“closed caption”).
3. The TC is invited to consider whether to organize preparatory workshops in 2024 as a series of webinars, at suitable dates according to the schedule of TWP sessions, in conjunction with workshops with physical participation, where requested, as set out in paragraphs 17 to 20 of this document.
4. The following abbreviations are used in this document:
 - TC: Technical Committee
 - TWA: Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops
 - TWF: Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops
 - TWM: Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques
 - TWO: Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees
 - TWPs: Technical Working Parties
 - TWV: Technical Working Party for Vegetables
5. The structure of this document is as follows:

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BACKGROUND

6. The TC, at its thirty-eighth session¹, agreed, on the basis of document TC/38/12, to the holding of a preparatory workshop before each Technical Working Party (TWP) meeting, with the aim of helping some of the delegates to participate more actively at the meeting (see document TC/38/16 “Report”, paragraph 215).

¹ held in Geneva from April 15 to 17, 2002

7. The TC, at its fifty-fifth session², recalled that preparatory workshops were an opportunity for training local participants and agreed that TWP hosts should have the possibility to decide whether or not to organize a preparatory workshop prior to the TWP session (see document TC/55/25 “Report”, paragraphs 226 and 227).

8. The TC, at its fifty-fifth session, agreed that TWPs should be invited to discuss the possible organization of preparatory workshops when considering the date and place of their future sessions.

9. The TC, at its fifty-sixth session³, noted that the webinar presentations would be recorded and made available online, but not the discussions. The TC noted that the Office of the Union would provide content for the webinars and invite experts from members to act as panelists for discussions and to provide practical examples (see document TC/56/23 “Report”, paragraphs 71 and 75).

10. The TC, at its fifty-sixth session, noted that detailed arrangements concerning the webinars would be finalized by the Office of the Union in coordination with the chairpersons of the TC and TWPs.

11. The TC, at its fifty-sixth session, noted that, subject to a request by the hosts of the TWPs, workshops with physical participation could be organized in conjunction with the TWP sessions. In such cases, the content would be adapted to the particular context.

REPORT ON PREPARATORY WORKSHOPS IN 2023

12. A total of four preparatory webinars were conducted, on the morning and afternoon of April 18 and 19, 2023.

13. The content of the webinars was as follows:

- Webinar 1: Selecting similar varieties with electronic tools
- Webinar 2: Involving breeders in DUS examination

14. The following number of participants attended the webinars:

Combined numbers for both sessions (am/pm)	Selecting similar varieties with electronic tools	Involving breeders in DUS examination
Total number of participants	97	76
Participants from UPOV Members	95	69
Participants from observer States	1	1
Participants from observer organizations	1	6
Participants that had not attended a TWP	17	10

15. Video recordings of the webinars, excluding the discussion sessions, were made available on the UPOV webpage for the TC and each TWP session in 2023 (https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/webinar_videos.html) and on the UPOV YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/upov>). The UPOV YouTube channel provides the possibility to watch the videos with “closed caption” transcription and subtitles automatically generated in different languages.

16. The following number of views were registered on July 24, 2023:

UPOV TWP webpages:

Page views	Unique page views
197	98

² held in Geneva on October 28 and 29, 2019

³ held in Geneva on October 26 and 27, 2020

UPOV YouTube channel*:

Webinar	Views on UPOV website	Views on UPOV YouTube channel	Automatic subtitling and translation on YouTube
Involving Breeders in DUS examination	32	74	10 (EN) 1 (JP) 1 (LO) (Laos)
Selecting similar varieties with electronic tools	27	57	8 (EN) 1 (JP)

*As of July 24, 2023

PROGRAM AND FORMAT FOR PREPARATORY WORK IN 2024

Proposal:

17. It is proposed that the preparatory workshops in 2024 are organized as webinars at suitable dates according to the schedule of TWP sessions. The webinar presentations and panel discussions would be recorded and made available online. The session on questions and answers would not be recorded and/or made available online.

18. Experts from members would be invited to make presentations on selected contents and participate as panelists for discussion.

19. The detailed arrangements concerning the webinars would be finalized by the Office of the Union in coordination with the chairpersons of the TC and TWPs.

20. If requested by the hosts of the TWPs, workshops with physical participation could be organized in conjunction with the TWP sessions. In such cases, the content would be adapted to the particular context.

21. The TC is invited to consider whether to organize preparatory workshops in 2024 as a series of webinars, at suitable dates according to the schedule of TWP sessions, in conjunction with workshops with physical participation, where requested, as set out in paragraphs 17 to 20 of this document.

[Annex follows]

PROGRAM OF THE PREPARATORY WEBINARS IN 2023
Each webinar was delivered twice (8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Geneva time).

WEBINAR 1: TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023: SELECTING SIMILAR VARIETIES WITH ELECTRONIC TOOLS

Part I: Presentations

- (a) Introduction: document TGP/9 “Examining Distinctness”
(b) Examples of selecting similar varieties with electronic tools:

(Morning webinar)

- Ms. Valerie Uyttewaal (France)
- Mr. Yoshiyuki Ohno (Japan)
- Ms. Cécile Marchenay (Netherlands)
- Mr. Chris Barnaby (New Zealand)

(Afternoon webinar)

- Mr. Alberto Ballesteros (Argentina)
- Ms. Margarita Soto (Bolivia, Plurinational State of)

Part II: Session on Questions and Answers

WEBINAR 2: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023: INVOLVING BREEDERS IN DUS EXAMINATION

Part I: Presentations:

- (a) Introduction: document TGP/6 “Arrangements for DUS Testing”, Sections 2 and 3
(b) Examples of involving breeders in DUS examination:

(Morning webinar)

- Ms. Edwina Vandine (Australia)
- Ms. Valerie Uyttewaal (France)
- Mr. Yoshiyuki Ohno (Japan)
- Mr. Chris Barnaby (New Zealand)

(Afternoon webinar)

- Mr. Alberto Ballesteros (Argentina)
- Ms. Ashley Balchin (Canada)

Part II: Session on Questions and Answers