

Technical Committee

TC/61/1

Sixty-First Session
Geneva, October 20 and 21, 2025

Original: English
Date: June 19, 2025

ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA

prepared by the Office of the Union

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1. Opening of the session

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Developments in UPOV and overview of relevant matters for the Technical Committee (document SESSIONS/2025/1)

A presentation will be made on strategic matters with access to a video on developments in UPOV.

Matters for consideration:

4. Progress reports on the work of the Technical Working Parties (documents TC/61/5, TWA/54/7, TWF/56/xx, TWM/3/29, TWO/57/10, TWV/59/19)

The TC will receive presentations by the Chairs of TWP's and will consider topics of particular relevance for each TWP, including the proposed programs of work and Test Guidelines for discussion in 2026. The TC will consider the calendar of TWP sessions in 2026 and following years, including the TWP's with and without offers for hosting future sessions.

5. Matters arising from the Technical Working Parties (document TC/61/3)

The TC will be invited to consider and/or take note of matters discussed at the TWP's in 2025 which are not covered by specific agenda items, including:

- Examination in one growing cycle where minimum duration of tests should normally be two growing cycles
- Number of growing cycles and concluding examination of fruit crops
- Uniformity assessment by characteristics not featured in Test Guidelines
- Report on court case of general interest: *Allium cepa* L. "SK20"
- Disease resistance characteristics in Test Guidelines: Using qualitative (QL) scale of notes for characteristics with continuous range of expression
- Survey proposal: could additional characteristics not included in Test Guidelines constitute a barrier to taking over test reports?

6. Development of guidance and documents proposed for adoption by the Council
(document SESSIONS/2025/2)

(a) Information documents:

UPOV/INF/22 Software and Equipment Used by Members of the Union (Revision)
(document UPOV/INF/22/12 Draft 1)

(b) TGP documents:

TGP/5 “Experience and Cooperation in DUS Testing”

Section 6 “UPOV Report on Technical Examination and UPOV Variety Description” (Revision):
Additional explanations for “UPOV report on technical examination and UPOV variety
description” (document TGP/5, Section 6/5 Draft 2)

The TC will consider a revision of the explanations for the “UPOV Variety Description” on how
to provide information to items 16 (Similar varieties / differences) and 17 (Additional
information) and a revised document structure indicating section “Variety Description” as an
annex to the “Report on Technical Examination” and explanations as an appendix.

TGP/7 “Development of Test Guidelines”, Guidance Note 36 “Example Varieties” (revision):
Situations where illustrations could complement or replace example varieties
(document SESSIONS/2025/2)

The TC will consider the proposal to clarify the situations when example varieties must be
indicated in characteristics used in Test Guidelines and when illustrations could replace them.

7. Measures to enhance cooperation in examination (document SESSIONS/2025/3)

The TC will receive a report on the background and preparatory work for a seminar to create awareness
on cooperation with breeders in DUS examination, to be held in the afternoon on Wednesday,
October 22, 2025, including the series of webinars preceding the seminar.

8. Measures to improve support provided for DUS examination (document TC/61/6)

The TC will receive a report on discussions and consider measures to improve Test Guidelines (TGs)
and the online tool for drafting TGs (“web-based TG template”). The TC will consider inviting UPOV
members to propose existing training initiatives for drafters of Test Guidelines for inclusion in the
“UPOV PVP Certificate Program”.

9. UPOV information databases (document SESSIONS/2025/5)

The TC will consider proposals to: (a) discontinue the section “Cooperation in examination” [list of
cooperation agreements for variety examination] in the “Genera and Species database” (GENIE); and
(b) amend the UPOV codes for genera and species no longer recognized as valid botanical names in
the *Citrus* complex (*Citrus spp.*; ×*Citroncirus*, *Fortunella* and *Poncirus*) and others.

10. Molecular techniques (document SESSIONS/2025/6)

The TC will consider developments at the TWPs in 2025, including:

(a) Developments at the Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques (TWM) in
relation to the use of molecular markers in DUS examination; variety identification; assessment of
essential derivation; enforcement; and cooperation with international organizations.

(b) Guidance proposals on (i) standard protocol harmonizing information to be provided in
Test Guidelines when molecular markers are used as alternative method for characteristic assessment;
and (ii) procedures for validating characteristic-specific molecular markers proposed for inclusion in
Test Guidelines as alternative methods of characteristic assessment.

(c) Policies on confidentiality and access to molecular data, including a proposed survey among UPOV members.

(d) Possible joint initiatives with OECD and ISTA, including: (i) harmonization of terms, definitions and methods in relation to molecular techniques; (ii) Joint meeting with TWM, OECD Seed Schemes and ISTA Variety Committee participants to discuss cooperation on the use of molecular markers for the purposes of each organization; and (iii) establishing common sets of molecular markers for variety identification.

11. TWP workshops and webinars (document TC/61/7)

The TC will consider a report on the webinars organized in 2025 and proposals for webinars in 2026.

Workshops and webinars are organized with the main objective of helping some of the delegates to participate more actively at Technical Working Party (TWP) sessions. Since 2021, workshops have been organized as webinars prior to TWP sessions and their video recordings available on the UPOV website.

12. Discussion on: New technologies in DUS examination

The TC will be invited to: (a) consider the presentations on new technologies used for efficiency gains in DUS examination, such as unmanned vehicles and phenotyping platforms for data capture and analysis; and (b) discuss current practices and future plans, cooperation opportunities and policy considerations concerning their use.

13. Test Guidelines (documents TC/61/2, TC/61/[xx])

The TC will be invited to (a) consider the program for development and revision of Test Guidelines; (b) note additional characteristics / states of expression notified by UPOV members; and (c) consider the experiences with new types and species discussed at the TWPs in relation to: Ornamental Apple; Maple; and Oil Pumpkin varieties.

14. Matters for information:¹

(a) Report on Meetings on Electronic Applications (EAM)
(document SESSIONS/2025/4)

(b) List of genera and species for which authorities have practical experience in the examination of distinctness, uniformity and stability (document TC/61/4)

15. Program for the sixty-second session

The TC will be invited to consider its future program of work including the selection of a topic for the “discussion session”.

16. Adoption of the report (if time permits)

17. Closing of the session

[End of document]

¹ Document SESSIONS/2025/INF/1 will contain the list of persons registered in advance for the session. The final list of persons who attended the session will be published as an annex to the adopted report of the session.