

Technical Committee

TC/61/7

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

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TWP WORKSHOPS AND WEBINARS

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this document is to report on TWP workshops and webinars in 2025 and present proposals for 2026.
2. 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. The video recordings are available on the UPOV website 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 technical webinars in 2026, at suitable dates according to the schedule of TWP sessions, and workshops with physical participation, where requested, as set out in paragraphs 16 to 19 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, agreed to organize preparatory workshops as a series of webinars at suitable dates according to the schedule of TWP sessions. The TC 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, 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 TECHNICAL WEBINARS IN 2025

11. A total of four webinars were conducted prior to the TWP sessions, on the morning and afternoon of March 11 and 12, 2025.

12. The content of the webinars was as follows:

- Webinar 1: Drafting Test Guidelines
- Webinar 2: Characteristics used in Test Guidelines

13. The following number of participants attended the webinars:

Combined numbers for both sessions (am/pm)	Drafting Test Guidelines	Characteristics used in Test Guidelines
Total number of participants during live session	158	141

14. Video recordings of the webinars, excluding the discussion sessions, were made available on the UPOV webpage for the TC and each TWP session in 2025 and on the UPOV YouTube channel. The UPOV YouTube channel provides the possibility to watch the videos with “closed caption” transcription and subtitles automatically generated in different languages.

15. The following number of accumulated views of webinar videos were registered until the publishing of this document:

Year	Pageviews	Unique visitors
2024	502	225
2025 (partial data)	1,076	449

² held in Geneva on October 28 and 29, 2019

³ held in Geneva on October 26 and 27, 2020

PROGRAM AND FORMAT FOR PREPARATORY WORK IN 2026

Proposal:

16. It is proposed that technical webinars are organized in 2026 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.

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

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

19. 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.

20. The TC is invited to consider whether to organize technical webinars in 2026, at suitable dates according to the schedule of TWP sessions, and workshops with physical participation, where requested, as set out in paragraphs 16 to 19 of this document.

[Annex follows]

PROGRAM OF THE TECHNICAL WEBINARS IN 2025
Each webinar delivered twice (8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Geneva time - CET)

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025: **WEBINAR 1: DRAFTING TEST GUIDELINES**

Part I: Presentations

- Introduction to drafting UPOV Test Guidelines
Ms. Romy Oertel - Office of the Union
- Drafting national test guidelines in the absence of UPOV Test Guidelines
Ms. Hilary Papworth – United Kingdom

Part II: Session on Questions and Answers

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025: **WEBINAR 2: CHARACTERISTICS USED IN TEST GUIDELINES**

Part I: Presentations:

- Developing shape and color characteristics (document TGP 14 “Glossary of Terms Used in UPOV Documents”)
Mr. Chris Barnaby – New Zealand
- Type of characteristics and their effect on Distinctness (document TGP/9 “Assessing Distinctness”)
Ms. Pavla Bímová – Czech Republic

Part II: Session on Questions and Answers

[End of Annex and of document]