

Technical Committee

TC/62/1

**Sixty-Second Session
Geneva, October 19 and 20, 2026**

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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/2026/1)

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/62/5, TWA/55/XX, TWF/57/XX, TWM/4/31, TWO/58/XX, TWV/60/8)

The TC will receive presentations from the Chairs of TWPs and will consider topics of particular relevance for each TWP, including the proposed programs of work and Test Guidelines for discussion in 2027. The TC will consider the calendar of TWP sessions in 2027 and following years.

5. Matters arising from the Technical Working Parties (document TC/62/3)

The TC will be invited to consider and/or take note of matters discussed at the TWPs in 2026 which are not covered by specific agenda items.

6. Development of guidance and documents proposed for adoption by the Council
(document SESSIONS/2026/2)

(a) Information documents:

UPOV/INF/16 **Exchangeable Software (Revision)**
(document UPOV/INF/16/14 Draft 1)

Exchangeable software refers to software developed by UPOV members and made available to other UPOV members, subject to any specified conditions. Proposals for inclusion of new software are presented for review by the Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques (TWM). The TWM makes a recommendation to the Technical Committee (TC) on whether to include that software in document UPOV/INF/16.

The TC will receive a report on developments and consider the recommendations from the TWM, if any, on the inclusion of a new software for exchange in document UPOV/INF/16.

Based on the recommendations of the Consultative Committee in 2025, the Council will be invited to modify the “Procedure for inclusion of the software” in document UPOV/INF/16, so that future revisions of that document would be delegated to the Technical Committee and would not require formal adoption by the Council.

UPOV/INF/22 Software and Equipment Used by Members of the Union (Revision)
(document UPOV/INF/22/13 Draft 1)

Document UPOV/INF/22 is a catalogue of commercial software and equipment used by UPOV members for plant variety protection purposes. It covers tools for managing PVP applications, online application systems, variety denomination checking, and DUS trial design and data analysis. Members report annually on their use of the listed software and equipment, and the document is updated on a rolling basis.

Based on the recommendations of the Consultative Committee in 2025, the Council will be invited to modify the “Procedure for inclusion of the software/equipment” in document UPOV/INF/22, so that future revisions of that document will not require formal adoption by the Council.

(b) TGP documents:

TGP/5 Experience and Cooperation in DUS Testing: Section 11 “Examples of Policies and Contracts for Material Submitted by the Breeder” (Revision)
(document TGP/5 Section 11/2 Draft 1)

The Council will be invited to adopt a revision of document TGP/5 Section 11 to replace information previously provided by the European Union with the current policy on the status of plant material submitted for DUS testing.

TGP/7 Development of Test Guidelines (Revision)
(document SESSIONS/2026/2)

- Universal standard wording in Test Guidelines for “number of growing cycles”;
- Additional standard wording for “number of growing cycles” (ASW 2)
- Explanation of the growing cycle: Fruit species (ASW 3)

The Technical Committee will be invited to consider the proposed amendments to the standard wording of Test Guidelines for “number of growing cycles” to clarify when the testing of a variety may be concluded. Comments from the TWPs on this proposal will be reported.

TGP/15 Guidance on the Use of Biochemical and Molecular Markers in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) (Revision)
(document TGP/15/4 Draft 1)

The Council will be invited to adopt a revision of document TGP/15 to include procedures for validating characteristic-specific molecular markers; and a standard template for providing information in Test Guidelines on how to assess characteristics using these markers.

7. Measures to enhance cooperation in examination (document SESSIONS/2026/3)

The TC and CAJ will continue discussion on possible measures to increase cooperation in DUS examination and the acceptance of DUS test reports. A progress report will be provided on the webinars organized on: (1) environmental effects on the expression of characteristics, (2) completeness and relevance of variety collections, and (3) phytosanitary delays in DUS testing. The recorded webinar presentations are available on the UPOV website.

8. Measures to improve support provided for DUS examination (document TC/62/6)

In 2025, the UPOV web-based tool for drafting Test Guidelines (“TG template”) was used to record the outcomes of discussions on draft Test Guidelines at the TWF. The TC will receive a report on the use of this procedure in all TWPs held in 2026, aiming to streamline the process of drafting Test Guidelines. Additional proposals to further improve the TG template as a working tool for UPOV members will be considered by the TC, according to the outcome of discussions at the TWPs.

Following agreement from the TC, in 2026 the TWPs will provide an opportunity for UPOV members to present characteristics, approaches or challenges for DUS examination relevant for drafting national test guidelines. The objective is to support UPOV members developing national test guidelines according to UPOV guidance and are not connected to the development of internationally harmonized UPOV Test Guidelines. The TC will receive a report on the implementation of this new technical cooperation approach and consider whether adjustments would be required to the procedures implemented.

9. UPOV information databases (document SESSIONS/2026/5)

The TC will consider proposals to amend the UPOV codes for *Citrus* species no longer recognized as valid botanical names; the TC will note that the CAJ will be invited to consider the analysis of the outcome of the surveys of PLUTO users and data contributors and any resulting recommendations for the program of improvements of the PLUTO Database.

10. Molecular techniques (document SESSIONS/2026/6)

The TC will consider matters concerning the use of molecular techniques in the examination of distinctness, uniformity and stability, 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; and enforcement.

(b) discussions at the TWPs on cooperation on the use of molecular information, including joint development of molecular markers, managing variety collections and variety identification.

(c) cooperation with international organizations, including possible joint initiatives with OECD and ISTA:

- (i) harmonization of terms, definitions and methods in relation to molecular techniques;
- (ii) joint meeting with TWM, OECD Seed Schemes and ISTA Variety Committee; and
- (iii) establishing common sets of molecular markers for variety identification.

(d) the results of the 2026 survey on the use of molecular markers per crop.

11. TWP workshops and webinars (document TC/62/7)

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.

The TC will consider a report on the [webinars](#) organized in 2026 and proposals for webinars in 2027.

12. Discussion on: Environmental effect in expression of characteristics; Completeness and relevance of variety collections; Phytosanitary matters that impact access to plant material

At its sixty-first session, the TC agreed to hold an open discussion session on the above items, also considered under “Measures to enhance cooperation in examination” and subject of the [webinars](#) organized in 2026.

13. Test Guidelines (documents TC/62/2, TC/62/[xx])

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

14. Matters for information:

- (a) Developments concerning UPOV e-PVP (document SESSIONS/2026/4)
- (b) List of genera and species for which authorities have practical experience in the examination of distinctness, uniformity and stability (document TC/62/4)

15. Program for the sixty-third 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

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