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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
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TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY ON AUTOMATION AND COMPUTER PROGRAMS

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PRINCIPLES LYING BEHIND THE METHODS DESCRIBED IN TGP/8 PART II FOR PRODUCING VARIETY DESCRIPTIONS

Document prepared by experts from Finland and United Kingdom

1. At its twenty-seventh session, held in Alexandria, Virginia, United States of America, from June 16 to 19, 2009, the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC) considered document TWC/27/11 "Document TGP/8: Sections for separate development", as the basis for a future revision of document TGP/8 (document TGP/8/2). The TWC agreed that experts from Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kenya and United Kingdom should provide a short description of the principles underlying the detailed methods provided in Part II and that Mrs. Sally Watson (United Kingdom) would provide an example for Section 13.1 (see document TWC/27/21 "Report", paragraph 62).

2. The annex to this document contains the text prepared by Mrs. Sally Watson (United Kingdom) and Mr. Sami Markkanen (Finland).

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

Principles Lying Behind The Methods Described In Part II For Producing Variety Descriptions

1. To produce a variety description for a variety, a note is needed for each of the asterisked characteristics listed in the TQ for its species. If a characteristic is such that the distinctness of a variety is determined on the basis of notes for that characteristic, then the same note used to determine distinctness can be used in its variety description.

2. Whether notes or statistical methods are used to determine distinctness for a characteristic depends on the expression of the characteristic and the levels of variability in the characteristic both between and within varieties.

3. For characteristics that are quantitative in expression and vary within varieties, distinctness is determined in general by comparison of variety means through statistical analysis. Such characteristics often arise in cross-pollinated species and in some self-pollinated species. To produce a variety description for the variety, the means for these characteristics must be converted to notes. This is done by division of the range of expression of the characteristic into states. There are a number of methods that may be used to choose the states. For example, by having the states equally spaced, by use of regression, and by use of delineating or example varieties. These methods are described in Part II.

[End of Annex and of document]