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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY FOR VEGETABLES**Forty-Sixth Session
near the city of Venlo, Netherlands, June 11 to 15, 2012**

WEBCASTING OF UPOV SESSIONS

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. The Technical Committee (TC), at its forty-seventh session, held in Geneva from April 4 to 6, 2011 noted that the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC), at its twenty-eighth session, had agreed to hold its twenty-ninth session in Geneva, Switzerland, from June 7 to 10, 2011, with the preparatory workshop on June 6, in order to facilitate the webcasting of the session (see documents TC/47/3, paragraph 14, and TC/46/26 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 11).
2. At its eighty-second session, held in Geneva on October 19, and on the morning of October 20, 2011, the Consultative Committee was informed that the webcast of the twenty-ninth session of the TWC was followed online by 25 participants from 10 members of the Union. The Consultative Committee was informed that no webcasting of UPOV sessions was planned for 2012. However, it was proposed that webcasting be considered for future UPOV symposia and seminars to be held in Geneva, on a case-by-case basis, where appropriate to reach a wider audience.
3. The Consultative Committee noted the report on the webcast of the twenty-ninth session of the TWC and approved the proposal to consider webcasting of future UPOV symposia and seminars to be held in Geneva, on a case-by-case basis. It further agreed to request the TC and the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ) to consider whether it would be appropriate to introduce the possibility to webcast sessions of the TC, CAJ and the Technical Working Parties (TWPs) with the opportunity to participate in such sessions by electronic means.
4. The TC, at its forty-eighth session, held in Geneva from March 26 to 28, 2012, agreed that it would be appropriate to consider broadcasting live webcasts, and place video recordings on the UPOV website, for future sessions of the TC, subject to arrangements to be agreed by the Consultative Committee. It noted that the WebEx facility for the Enlarged Editorial Committee (TC-EDC) meeting had been very effective and endorsed the continuation of that practice. The TC also agreed that the Office of the Union should discuss with the hosts of the TWPs in 2012 whether they would wish to arrange for WebEx to be used for selected Test Guidelines' subgroup (TG Subgroup) discussions. It welcomed the offer of France to test WebEx for [a] selected TG Subgroup[s] at the forty-first session of the TWA, to be held in Angers, France, from May 21 to 25, 2012, and invited the host and the Chairperson of the TWA to investigate a suitable TG Subgroup, in conjunction with the Office of the Union and the relevant Leading Expert[s]. It also noted that the Chairman of the TWC and the hosts of the thirtieth session of the TWC, to be held in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, June 26 to 29, 2012, would discuss possibilities to make selected presentations via the internet.
5. The TC, at its forty-eighth session, agreed to request the Office of the Union to prepare a report on the use of WebEx at the TWP session[s], in order that the TC could review how to develop that approach further.

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