

Working Group on DUS Support (WG-DUS)

WG-DUS/1/1

First Meeting
Geneva, November 25, 2022**Original:** English
Date: January 23, 2022**REPORT***Adopted by the Working Group on DUS Support**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance***OPENING OF THE MEETING**

1. The Working Group on DUS Support (WG-DUS) held its first meeting as a hybrid meeting on November 25, 2022, chaired by Mr. Peter Button, Vice Secretary-General of UPOV. The Terms of Reference of the WG-DUS are presented in Annex I to this report.
2. The meeting was opened by the Chair, who welcomed the participants.
3. The list of participants is reproduced in Annex II to this report.

AGENDA

4. The WG-DUS agreed that the first meeting should provide the opportunity for comments from participants on what UPOV should aim to deliver in its support to the work on DUS and particular aspects that should be considered in the review of proposals in document TC/58/18 "Survey on the needs of members and observers in relation to TWPs".

COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS

5. Participants from the following members and observers provided their views on what should UPOV aim to deliver in its support for the work on DUS, including particular aspects that should be considered: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, European Union, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, AFSTA, CIOPORA, CropLife International, Euroseeds and ISF.

List of issues

6. On the basis of the inputs provided from delegations at the meeting, it was concluded that the list of issues in Circular E-22/215 should be modified to read as follows:

- What we should aim to deliver:

- a. Harmonized procedures
- b. Information on developments
- c. Interaction between experts and integration of new experts in UPOV's work
- d. Training

- Aspects to be considered:

1. avoid unnecessary repetition of content across meetings
2. integrating TWM-related matters into meetings/events with DUS examiners
3. time for members' presentations on DUS procedures

4. visits to field trials with sufficient time for engagement (e.g. ring-tests)
5. providing opportunities for experts to meet and exchange views
6. facilitating hands-on training
7. focus Test Guidelines discussion on revising existing TGs, including improving explanations and usability;
8. hybrid or online Test Guidelines meetings to increase involvement of experts and members
9. facilitate drafting national test guidelines through access to other members' test guidelines and experts who can assist drafting
10. other cross-cutting matters historically considered by TWPs (e.g. TGP documents, UPOV code etc.)

NEXT STEPS

7. The WG-DUS agreed to invite the Office of the Union to prepare a document with proposals in relation to the recommendations in document TC/58/18, on the basis of the above issues and the views expressed during the meeting. The document would be circulated prior to the second meeting of the WG-DUS.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

8. The WG-DUS agreed to hold its second meeting as an online meeting on February 8, 2023, from 11.30 to 14.00 (CET), and its third meeting as a hybrid meeting in Geneva on March 20, 2023, from 13.00 to 15.30 (CET).

9. *The Working Group on DUS Support adopted this report by correspondence on January 22, 2023*

[Annexes follow]

ANNEX I

“TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE
“WORKING GROUP ON DUS SUPPORT (WG-DUS)

“PURPOSE:

“The purpose of the WG-DUS is to make recommendations to the Technical Committee at its fifty-ninth session on the proposals presented in TC/58/18 “Survey on the needs of members and observers in relation to TWPs”.

“COMPOSITION:

“(a) the following members of the Union and observers that expressed an interest to be part of the WG-DUS: Argentina; Australia, Belarus, Brazil; Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, European Union, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand; Republic of Korea; Romania, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, CIOPORA, CropLife International, ISF and SAA.

“(b) other members of the Union would be free to participate at any meeting of the WG-DUS; and

“(c) meetings to be chaired by the Vice Secretary-General

“MODUS OPERANDI:

“(a) The WG-DUS to:

- (i) draft recommendations on the proposals presented in TC/58/18 “Survey on the needs of members and observers in relation to TWPs”, including the possibility to present new proposals that would address the issues identified by participants in the interviews;
- (ii) specify the objectives of each of the recommended proposals and identify performance indicators that would enable an objective measurement of the success of those proposals;
- (iii) clarify the role of the Office of the Union, as appropriate, in each of the proposals;
- (iv) present draft recommendations at the Technical Working Parties at their meetings in 2023; and
- (v) present recommendations to the Technical Committee at its fifty-ninth session.

“(b) the WG-DUS to meet at a time and frequency to address its mandate, by physical and/or virtual means, as agreed by the WG-DUS; and

“(c) the documents of the WG-DUS to be made available to the TC.”

[Annex II follows]

ANNEX II

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS / LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

(dans l'ordre alphabétique des noms français des membres /
in the alphabetical order of the French names of the Members /
por orden alfabético de los nombres en francés de los miembros)

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