

Comité Técnico

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MEDIDAS PARA MEJORAR EL APOYO PRESTADO AL EXAMEN DHE

Documento preparado por la Oficina de la Unión

Descargo de responsabilidad: el presente documento no constituye un documento de política u orientación de la UPOV.

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RESUMEN

1. El presente documento tiene por objeto informar de la evolución de las medidas acordadas por el Comité Técnico, en su quincuagésima novena sesión, para mejorar el apoyo prestado al examen DHE.

Medidas sobre las directrices de examen y herramienta en línea para redactarlas

2. Se invita al TC a:

- (a) examinar el informe del subgrupo sobre directrices de examen;
- (b) estudiar opciones para mejorar la estructura de las directrices de examen;
- (c) estudiar opciones para mejorar la herramienta en línea de redacción de directrices de examen.

Base de datos GENIE e información sobre la experiencia y la cooperación en el examen DHE

3. Se invita al TC a:

- (a) estudiar la forma en que los miembros de la UPOV pueden buscar información sobre la experiencia en el examen DHE y la conveniencia de elaborar nuevas orientaciones sobre el uso de cualquiera de las opciones disponibles.
- (b) estudiar el modo en que los miembros de la UPOV pueden buscar información sobre la cooperación en el examen DHE y la conveniencia de elaborar nuevas orientaciones sobre el uso de cualquiera de las opciones disponibles.

Documentos TGP: subgrupos y expertos principales

4. Se invita al TC a:

- (a) considerar la posibilidad de utilizar, según proceda, las orientaciones sobre la función del experto principal que figuran en el documento TGP/7 para las cuestiones relativas a la modificación o elaboración de orientaciones en los documentos TGP, tal como se expone en el párrafo 66 del presente documento; y
- (b) solicitar a los TWP que inviten a expertos de los miembros de la Unión a dirigir los debates sobre las propuestas de elaboración o modificación de las orientaciones, incluidos los documentos TGP.

Formación y educación a distancia

5. Se invita al TC a:

- (a) considerar las posibilidades de cooperación con los miembros de la UPOV para financiar la actualización del formato del contenido de los cursos de enseñanza a distancia de la UPOV.
- (b) apoyar la elaboración de nuevos cursos de formación sobre el examen DHE por parte de los miembros de la UPOV, como se expone en los párrafos 73 y 74 del presente documento;
- (c) tomar nota de que las nuevas oportunidades de formación ofrecidas por los miembros de la UPOV también podrían incluirse en el programa de certificados de protección de las obtenciones vegetales de la UPOV.
- (d) apoyar a los miembros de la UPOV en la promoción de oportunidades de formación a través del programa de certificados de protección de las obtenciones vegetales de la UPOV.

Lista de miembros dispuestos a proporcionar tutoría en la redacción de directrices nacionales de ensayo

6. Se invita al TC a que considere la posibilidad de invitar a las personas de contacto de los miembros de la Unión al TC para que faciliten información sobre los miembros dispuestos a proporcionar tutoría sobre la redacción de directrices de examen nacionales para su inclusión en la página Web de personas de contacto para la cooperación internacional en el examen DHE.

Indicadores de resultados

7. Se invita al TC a:

- (a) revisar el trabajo de los TWP sobre la base de los indicadores de resultados; y
- (b) considerar si deben establecerse otros indicadores de resultados para las medidas destinadas a mejorar el apoyo prestado al examen DHE.

2024 TWP Encuesta de satisfacción de los participantes

8. Se invita al TC a tomar nota de la encuesta de satisfacción realizada entre los participantes en las reuniones de los TWP en 2024, que se presenta en el Anexo V del presente documento.

9. La estructura de este documento es la siguiente:

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10. En este documento se utilizan las siguientes abreviaturas:

TC:	Comité Técnico
TWA:	Grupo de Trabajo Técnico sobre Plantas Agrícolas
TWF:	Grupo de Trabajo Técnico sobre Plantas Frutales
TWM:	Grupo de Trabajo Técnico sobre Métodos y Técnicas de Examen
TWO:	Grupo de Trabajo Técnico sobre Plantas Ornamentales y Árboles Forestales
TWP:	Grupos de Trabajo Técnico
TWV:	Grupo de Trabajo Técnico sobre Hortalizas
WG-DUS:	Grupo de Trabajo sobre asistencia en materia de DHE

ANTECEDENTES

Medidas para la participación física y virtual en las reuniones de los TWP

11. El TC, en su quincuagésima séptima sesión¹, acordó una serie de medidas para aumentar la participación física y virtual en las reuniones de los TWP. A este respecto, el TC acordó solicitar a la Oficina de la Unión que realice una encuesta sobre las necesidades de los miembros y observadores en relación con los TWP e informe al respecto al TC en su quincuagésima octava -sesión (véase el documento TC/57/25 "Informe", párrafos 61 a 66).

Encuesta sobre las necesidades de los miembros y del Grupo de Trabajo sobre asistencia en materia de DHE

12. El TC, en su quincuagésima octava sesión², examinó el documento [TC/58/18](#) "Encuesta sobre las necesidades de los miembros y observadores en relación con los TWP" y los resultados de las entrevistas a miembros y observadores sobre la mejora del apoyo técnico prestado por la UPOV para el examen DHE. El TC examinó las propuestas para abordar las cuestiones planteadas en las entrevistas y acordó establecer el Grupo de Trabajo sobre asistencia en materia de DHE (WGDUS-) para que formule recomendaciones sobre las propuestas presentadas en el documento TC/58/18 (véase el documento TC/57/25 "Informe", párrafos 64).

Recomendaciones del Grupo de Trabajo sobre asistencia en materia de DHE

13. El TC, en su quincuagésima novena sesión³, examinó el documento [TC/59/5](#) "Aumento de la participación de los nuevos miembros de la Unión en la labor del TC y reestructuración de la labor de los TWP". El TC aprobó las recomendaciones del documento TC/59/5, que se reproducen en el Anexo I del presente documento, incluidas las modificaciones acordadas durante la sesión (véase el documento TC/59/28 "Informe", [párrafos 56 a 62](#)).

14. En su quincuagésima novena sesión, el TC acordó evaluar la repercusión de las propuestas recomendadas mediante un conjunto de indicadores de rendimiento (véase la "recomendación [43]"). El TC acordó que la eficacia de los indicadores de rendimiento se revise periódicamente junto con la aplicación de las recomendaciones del documento TC/59/5 (véase el documento TC/59/28 "Informe", [párrafo 59](#)).

¹ TC, quincuagésima séptima sesión, celebrada por vía electrónica, los días 25 y 26 de octubre de 2021

² Celebrado en Ginebra, los días 24 y 25 de octubre de 2022

³ TC, quincuagésima novena sesión, celebrada en Ginebra los días 23 y 24 de octubre de 2023

Aplicación de medidas

15. El TC, en su quincuagésima novena -sesión, acordó agrupar por afinidad las recomendaciones para mejorar el apoyo al examen DHE a fin de permitir su aplicación mediante medidas similares. En el Anexo I del presente documento figura la lista de recomendaciones y las medidas de aplicación acordadas. En las siguientes secciones del presente documento se informa sobre los cuatro grupos de medidas acordados por el TC:

- Medidas que deben aplicarse con los presidentes del TC y de los TWP
- Medidas que deben aplicarse con los anfitriones de los PTT
- Medidas sobre las directrices de examen y la herramienta en línea para redactarlas
- Medidas para que la Oficina de la Unión elabore propuestas

MEDIDAS QUE DEBEN APLICARSE CON LOS PRESIDENTES DEL TC Y DE LOS TWP

16. La serie de recomendaciones que debían aplicarse con los presidentes de los TC y los TWP se pusieron en práctica en los TWP de 2024. Estas medidas también se reflejaron en la "*Información para los presidentes de los Grupos de Trabajo Técnico*", documento utilizado por la Oficina de la Unión para explicar la función de los presidentes de los TWP (véase el Anexo III del presente documento).

MEDIDAS QUE DEBEN APLICARSE CON LOS ANFITRIONES DE LOS GRUPOS DE TRABAJO TÉCNICO (GTT)

17. Las medidas que se acordó aplicar con los anfitriones de los TWP se incluyeron en la "*Nota orientativa para los anfitriones: Disposiciones del Grupo de Trabajo Técnico de la UPOV*" (Anexo IV del presente documento) y se aplicarán a partir de 2025. La "Nota de orientación para los anfitriones" es un documento utilizado por la Oficina de la Unión para explicar los requisitos de reunión a los miembros de la UPOV que acogen reuniones de los TWP.

MEDIDAS SOBRE LAS DIRECTRICES DE EXAMEN Y HERRAMIENTA EN LÍNEA PARA REDACTARLAS

18. El TC acordó crear un subgrupo encargado de elaborar opciones para abordar las recomendaciones sobre las directrices de examen, incluidas las opciones sobre la herramienta en línea para redactar directrices de examen (plantilla de los documentos TG en Internet) (recomendaciones [21]; [22]; [23]; [24]; [25]; [26] y [28]). El mandato del subgrupo figura en el documento [TC/59/28](#) "Informe", párrafo 61.

19. A continuación se presenta el informe de la experta principal, Margaret Wallace (Reino Unido).

Resumen de los resultados de la consulta sobre las directrices de examen de la UPOV

Directrices de examen - formato y contenido

20. El subgrupo convino en que las directrices de examen son importantes para la armonización del examen DHE. La mayoría utiliza las directrices de examen de la UPOV como base para su propio protocolo nacional. En estos casos, el documento de la UPOV no se consultó tras la elaboración del documento nacional.

21. Algunos examinadores utilizan el TG completo para preparar la prueba, mientras que la mayoría sólo consulta la tabla de características y las explicaciones asociadas; el resto del documento se conserva como referencia en caso necesario.

22. Algunos consideraron innecesaria la información de **las secciones primera a séptima** de las directrices de examen; otros manifestaron que era importante conservarla. En general, el grupo consideró que la información podría mostrarse de forma más sencilla para facilitar el acceso a los detalles.

23. A la mayoría también le gustaría revisar el contenido de esas secciones y considerar si hay una forma mejor de presentar la información estándar.

- Por ejemplo, ¿podría incluirse información relativa a todos los cultivos de un tipo específico en el documento de referencia, por ejemplo, remitirse al documento para las especies de polinización cruzada, en lugar de en cada una de las directrices técnicas?

24. El subgrupo estaba dividido en cuanto a los requisitos para el formato del documento, incluso entre los representantes de un mismo miembro de la UPOV:

- Algunos examinadores llevan una copia impresa en papel al lugar de la prueba (campo, invernadero, etc.).
- Algunos examinadores consultan el documento en dispositivos electrónicos, como teléfonos móviles, tabletas u ordenadores portátiles.

25. Todos estuvieron de acuerdo en que sería útil poder acceder más fácilmente a **la explicación de una característica**: actualmente, pasar de una sección a otra es un engorro para los usuarios de papel y electrónicos.

26. Se señaló la posibilidad **de utilizar vídeos o imágenes interactivas** en las explicaciones. Esto podría dar lugar a una mejor armonización (y proporcionar formación a los examinadores) sobre el método de observación para caracteres específicos. Esto se consideró más útil para caracteres intrincados en los que la parte de la planta no era inmediatamente obvia o el método particularmente específico. Sin embargo, se señaló que esto podría suponer una carga adicional para los redactores, por lo que podría restringir la participación de expertos en el proceso.

27. Se destacó que no es necesario que la **tabla de caracteres** contenga todas las lenguas de la UPOV. Esto podría liberar espacio para las explicaciones.

28. En general, el grupo consideró que el **Cuestionario Técnico (CT)** podría separarse de los TG. Esto permitiría revisar el Cuestionario Técnico sin revisar los TG. El Cuestionario Técnico debería revisarse siempre que se revisen los TG.

29. Algunas personas consideran que debe existir una forma sencilla de actualizar las directrices técnicas para reflejar los cambios en **la taxonomía**.

30. Los documentos TG deberían incluir un enlace al sitio web de la UPOV donde los usuarios puedan encontrar la lista de **caracteres adicionales**. Esto facilitaría el acceso sin confundir la situación de dichos caracteres.

31. **Las variedades ejemplo** se consideraron útiles, pero se destacaron la dificultad de acceso al material y los problemas de expresión en distintos entornos. No se propusieron soluciones, pero es un tema que puede merecer un examen futuro, además de la actual revisión de la Nota de orientación 28.

32. Se acordó totalmente que el formato debería facilitar la **traducción automática** para permitir un acceso más fácil a los numerosos miembros que trabajan en idiomas distintos del inglés, francés, alemán o español.

Herramienta de diseño de plantillas TG

33. Algunos miembros del Subgrupo no habían utilizado la herramienta de redacción. Muchos coincidieron en que la herramienta de redacción actual suponía una gran mejora con respecto al método anterior de redacción en documentos de Word, aunque existían algunas oportunidades de mejora.

34. La plantilla actual depende en gran medida de las aportaciones de la Oficina de la UPOV. El grupo expresó su especial agradecimiento a Romy Oertel, que es el principal punto de contacto para la resolución de problemas.

35. Los puntos débiles de la plantilla actual son la carga de imágenes, ilustraciones y diagramas, que son difíciles de formatear y dimensionar correctamente.

36. El Grupo pidió que la plantilla se ajustara más al documento acabado para **poder ver los cambios en tiempo real** sin depender de la función de vista previa.

37. Una **función de chat** más sencilla **sería útil para la comunicación entre expertos**. Se destacaron las notificaciones como herramienta adicional, idealmente con la opción de silenciarlas.
38. Los datos de contacto de los expertos interesados deben estar fácilmente disponibles, preferiblemente en una lista de contactos para facilitar la comunicación por correo electrónico, por ejemplo, para **organizar sesiones de redacción en línea**. Indicar el huso horario de los expertos también sería útil a la hora de organizar debates.
39. Sería útil disponer de una mejor forma de **hacer un seguimiento de los cambios** durante las reuniones de los TWP de la UPOV. Si se utilizara la herramienta de redacción durante el debate para registrar directamente en la herramienta de redacción, se ahorraría la duplicación de esfuerzos.
40. Un sistema de seguimiento debería ser visible para **mostrar las etapas del proceso de redacción** con mayor claridad, de modo que las personas nuevas en el debate puedan ver de un vistazo en qué punto del desarrollo se encuentra el documento.
41. Sería útil disponer de funciones de traducción sencillas para que los expertos de todos los miembros puedan participar en el proceso de redacción.
42. La **elaboración de directrices nacionales de ensayo** fue considerada una buena idea por muchos, si la financiación lo permite.

Conclusiones

43. Aspectos que deberían tenerse en cuenta para futuras directrices de ensayo:
- (a) Formateado de tal manera:
 - (i) para permitir la traducción automática
 - (ii) acceso más fácil a los detalles
 - (iii) permitir la inclusión de información relacionada con las técnicas moleculares
 - (b) Separar el TQ del TG
 - (c) Herramienta de dibujo debe:
 - (iv) Uso intuitivo
 - (v) facilitar el intercambio de puntos de vista entre expertos
 - (vi) registrar los resultados de los debates durante las sesiones de los TWP.
 - (d) El sitio web de la UPOV debería permitir a los usuarios inscribirse para recibir notificaciones cuando se cargue una nueva versión de un documento técnico en el sitio web de la UPOV.
44. Cosas que podrían tenerse en cuenta para futuras directrices de ensayo:
- (e) Incluir imágenes y vídeos interactivos.
 - (f) Incorporar una función de introducción de datos para registrar mediciones o anotar observaciones. Lo que podría dar lugar a:
 - (g) Funcionalidad para crear informes finales y descripciones de variedades.

45. Se invita al TC a considerar:

- (a) *el informe del subgrupo sobre directrices de examen;*
- (b) *posibles opciones para mejorar la estructura de las directrices de examen;*
- (c) *posibles opciones para mejorar la herramienta en línea de redacción de directrices de examen.*

MEDIDAS PARA QUE LA OFICINA DE LA UNIÓN ELABORE PROPUESTAS

46. En las siguientes secciones se ofrecen opciones sobre los asuntos en los que se invitó a la Oficina de la Unión a elaborar propuestas para su examen por el TC, en su sexagésima sesión.

Base de datos GENIE: Experiencia práctica y cooperación en el examen DHE

47. Las recomendaciones 29 y 30 dicen lo siguiente:

Se recomienda [29] que la Oficina de la Unión revise la solicitud de información sobre conocimientos prácticos y cooperación en el examen DHE. La información sobre la experiencia práctica puede obtenerse buscando en la base de datos PLUTO los miembros que hayan recibido solicitudes recientes.

Se recomienda [30] desarrollar una guía para instruir a los usuarios en el uso de la base de datos PLUTO para obtener esa información.

Experiencia práctica en el examen DHE

48. Se invita cada año a las personas de contacto de los miembros de la Unión en el Comité Técnico a actualizar la lista de géneros y especies sobre los que tienen experiencia práctica en el examen DHE, utilizando la siguiente plantilla Excel:

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN DUS EXAMINATION		
Authority providing information:	<input type="text"/>	(2-letter ISO code)
Please check your information in GENIE and enter your changes in the following table		
ADDITIONS		
Botanical name	UPOV code	Note (e.g. certain types of varieties)

49. La información se recopila en el documento del TC "Lista de géneros y especies respecto de los cuales las autoridades tienen experiencia práctica en el examen DHE". El documento proporciona información en forma de lista de géneros y especies con las respectivas autoridades que declaran tener experiencia en el examen del cultivo, como sigue:

TC/59/4
page 5 / Seite 5 / página 5

LIST OF GENERA AND SPECIES FOR WHICH AUTHORITIES HAVE PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN DUS EXAMINATION

LISTE DES GENRES ET ESPÈCES POUR LESQUELS LES SERVICES ONT UNE EXPÉRIENCE PRATIQUE EN MATIÈRE D'EXAMEN DHS

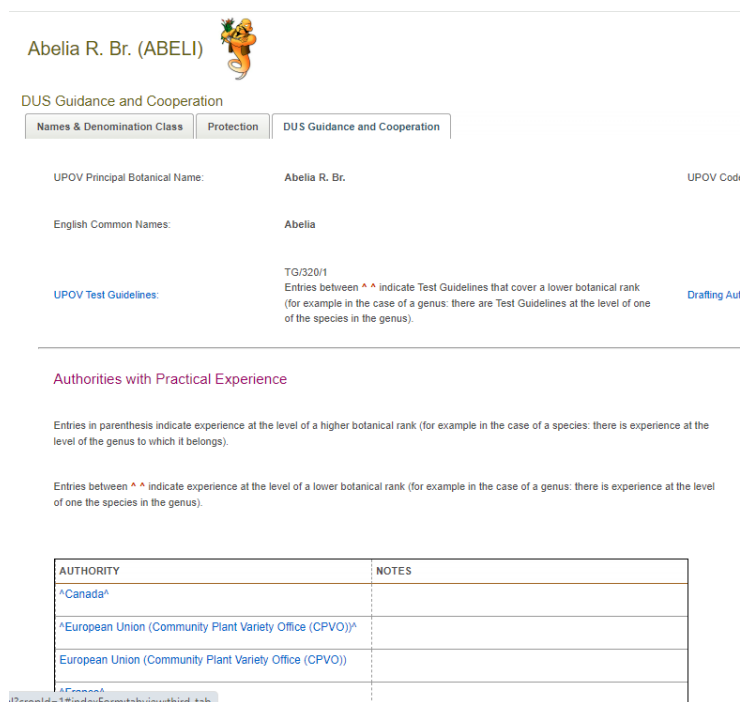
LISTE DER GATTUNGEN UND ARTEN, FÜR DIE DIE BEHÖRDEN ÜBER PRAKTISCHE ERFAHRUNG BEI DER DUS-PRÜFUNG

LISTA DE GÉNEROS Y ESPECIES RESPECTO DE LOS CUALES LAS AUTORIDADES POSEEN EXPERIENCIA PRÁCTICA EN EL EXAMEN DHS

Number of genera/species in list: 3,763
Number of taxa in list: 3,924

CODE / CÓDIGO	BOTANICAL NAMES* / NOMS BOTANIKES* / BOTANISCHE NAMEN* / NOMBRES BOTÁNICOS*	AUTHORITIES / SERVICES / BEHÖRDEN / AUTORIDADES
ABELI	Abelia R. Br.	FR GB JP NI NZ OZ ZA
ABELI_CHI	Abelia chinensis R. Br.	CA FR GB OZ
ABELI_ENG	Abelia engleriana (Graebn.) Rehder	FR GB OZ
ABELI_FLO	Abelia floribunda (M. Martens & Galeotti) Decne.	GB
ABELI_GPA	Abelia xgrandiflora x Abelia parvifolia; (Abelia chinensis x Abelia uniflora) x Abelia parvifolia; Abelia xgrandiflora x Abelia schumannii	FR GB OZ
ABELI_GRA	Abelia xgrandiflora Rehder; Abelia chinensis x Abelia uniflora	CA FR GB OZ ZA
ABELI_MOS	Abelia mosanensis I. C. Chung ex Nakai	FR OZ
ABELI_PAR	Abelia parvifolia Hemsl.; Abelia schumannii (Graebn.) Rehder	FR GB OZ

50. La misma información facilitada en el documento TC está disponible en la Base de datos GENIE:



The screenshot shows the GENIE database interface for 'Abelia R. Br. (ABELI)'. It includes a header with the name and a small logo. Below the header, there are tabs for 'Names & Denomination Class', 'Protection', and 'DUS Guidance and Cooperation'. The 'DUS Guidance and Cooperation' tab is selected. The main content area displays the following information:

- UPOV Principal Botanical Name:** Abelia R. Br.
- UPOV Code:**
- English Common Names:** Abelia
- UPOV Test Guidelines:** TG/320/1. Entries between ^ and * indicate Test Guidelines that cover a lower botanical rank (for example in the case of a genus: there are Test Guidelines at the level of one of the species in the genus).
- Drafting Aut:**

Below the main content area, there is a section titled 'Authorities with Practical Experience'. It contains two paragraphs of text explaining the meaning of the symbols used in the table below:

- Entries in parenthesis indicate experience at the level of a higher botanical rank (for example in the case of a species: there is experience at the level of the genus to which it belongs).
- Entries between ^ and * indicate experience at the level of a lower botanical rank (for example in the case of a genus: there is experience at the level of one of the species in the genus).

The table below lists the authorities with practical experience:

AUTHORITY	NOTES
^Canada^	
*European Union (Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO))^	
European Union (Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO))	

At the bottom of the table, there is a small text string: 'i17croold=1#indexForm:tabviewthird: tab'.

51. Desde 2019, un total de 28 miembros han facilitado información sobre su experiencia práctica en el examen DHE. El mayor número de contribuciones se recibió en 2024, cuando 14 miembros facilitaron información.

Otras fuentes de información

Base de datos PLUTO

52. La base de datos PLUTO permite buscar los miembros de la UPOV que reciben solicitudes y conceden títulos para los distintos géneros y especies. Las búsquedas pueden realizarse para un periodo de tiempo definido, como los últimos cinco o diez años.

53. Las búsquedas en la base de datos PLUTO permitirían identificar a los miembros de la UPOV con experiencia reciente en la tramitación de solicitudes para determinados cultivos. Sin embargo, no proporcionaría información sobre si el miembro de la UPOV ha realizado el examen DHE o posee el informe de examen. Sería necesario ponerse en contacto directamente con los miembros de la UPOV para obtener más información sobre su experiencia práctica con determinados cultivos.

Plataforma de intercambio de informes DHE e-PVP de la UPOV

54. La plataforma de intercambio de informes DHE e-PVP de la UPOV se puso en marcha en 2023 y está a disposición de todos los miembros de la UPOV. Permite a los usuarios encargar exámenes DHE e intercambiar informes de examen existentes. Se está poniendo progresivamente a disposición información sobre informes de examen DHE para intercambio y ofertas para realizar exámenes en nombre de autoridades de otros miembros de la UPOV. En la sexagésima sesión del TC se presentará un informe sobre las novedades.

Propuesta

55. El TC tal vez desee considerar la forma en que los miembros de la UPOV buscan información sobre la experiencia en el examen DHE y si conviene promover el uso preferente de alguna de las opciones disponibles.

56. Se invita al TC a estudiar la forma en que los miembros de la UPOV pueden buscar información sobre la experiencia en el examen DHE y la conveniencia de elaborar nuevas orientaciones sobre el uso de cualquiera de las opciones disponibles.

Cooperación en el examen DHE

57. Se invita periódicamente a los miembros de la UPOV a proporcionar y actualizar información sobre la cooperación en el examen DHE. La información se facilitará en hojas de cálculo, como se indica a continuación:

COOPERATION IN EXAMINATION UPDAT (b) ADDITIONS

Authority providing information:							
		column 2	column 3		column 4	column 5	
		AGREEMENTS FOR COOPERATION IN EXAMINATION			UTILIZATION OF EXISTING DUS REPORTS		
Botanical name	UPOV CODE	Offering authority/ examination office	Authorities receiving examination reports	Note (e.g. fruit varieties)	Utilizing authority	Providing authority/ examination office	Note (e.g. fru

58. La información se recoge en el documento del Consejo "Cooperación en materia de examen". El documento proporciona "notas generales" y una lista de géneros y especies con las autoridades que llevan a cabo el examen en nombre o utilizan informes DHE proporcionados por otras autoridades, como sigue:

GENERAL NOTES

Providing/Accepting existing DUS reports

- The following authorities have an agreement with Japan to provide and accept existing DUS reports for any taxa on request: Australia, Brazil, Canada, European Union, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Russian Federation, Singapore, Switzerland, Türkiye and Viet Nam.
- The following authorities have agreements with Kenya to provide and accept existing DUS reports for any taxa on request: Israel, New Zealand, Republic of Korea and United Republic of Tanzania.
- The following authorities have an understanding to provide and accept existing DUS reports for any taxa on request and without charge: Australia and New Zealand.
- The following authorities have an understanding to provide and accept existing DUS reports for any taxa on request: Brazil, Canada, Israel, Republic of Korea and Uzbekistan.

UPOV Code	Botanical Names	1				2		3		4		5	
		English	French	German	Spanish	Offering Authority/ examination Office	Authorities receiving Examination Reports	Utilizing Authority	Providing Authority / Examination Office	Utilizing Authority	Providing Authority / Examination Office	Utilizing Authority	Providing Authority / Examination Office
ABELI	Abelia R. Br.	Abelia	Abelia	Abelia	Abelia	FR	GZ			GZ	FR		
ABELI_GHI	Abelia chinensis R. Br.					FR	GZ			GZ	FR		
ABELI_GPA	Abelia xgrandiflora x Abelia parvifolia					FR	GZ			GZ	FR		
ABELI_GRA	Abelia xgrandiflora Rehder	glossy abelia		großblütige Abelia		FR	GZ			GZ	FR		
ABIES	Abies Mill.	Fir	Sapin	Tanne	Abeto	DE	GZ			GZ	DE		
ABIES_KOR	Abies koreana E. H. Wilson	Korean fir		koreanische Tanne		DE	GZ			GZ	DE		
ABIES_LAS	Abies lasiocarpa (Hook.) Nutt.					DE	GZ			GZ	DE		
ABUTI_DAR	Abutilon darwini Hook. f.					NL	GZ						
ABUTI_HYB	Abutilon hybridum hort. ex Voss					NL	GZ						
ABUTI_MEG	Abutilon megapotamicum (Spreng.) A. St.-Hil. & Naudin	Abutilon	Abutilon	Abutilon	Abutilon	NL	GZ						

59. La misma información que figura en el documento del Consejo está disponible en la Base de datos GENIE:

Abelia R. Br. (ABELI)



DUS Guidance and Cooperation

Names & Denomination Class Protection DUS Guidance and Cooperation

UPOV Principal Botanical Name: Abelia R. Br.

UPOV Code:

English Common Names: Abelia

UPOV Test Guidelines: TG/320/1
Entries between ^{AA} indicate Test Guidelines that cover a lower botanical rank (for example in the case of a genus: there are Test Guidelines at the level of one of the species in the genus).

Drafting Authority

Cooperation in DUS Examination (key to abbreviations)

- [Authorities with Practical Experience](#)
- [Agreements for Cooperation in DUS Examination](#)
- [Utilization of Existing DUS Reports](#)

Agreements for Cooperation in DUS Examination

<> in the receiving column indicates that the authority specified in the offering column offers to carry out examinations for any interested member of the Union.

(): Genus or species covered by agreement for a taxon of a higher rank to which it belongs (e.g. in the case of a species: the genus or family is covered by an agreement).

OFFERING AUTHORITY / EXAMINATION OFFICE	AUTHORITIES RECEIVING EXAMINATION REPORTS	NOTES
<>	(Switzerland)	(Switzerland): DUS tests are not conducted in Switzerland. In cases where a DUS test report is not available from a member of the Union, the Office of Plant Variety Protection will request an appropriate authority or testing of a member of the Union to perform a DUS test on its behalf.
France	European Union (Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO))	

Utilization of Existing DUS Reports

<> (utilizing) indicates that the authority specified in providing column will, in general, provide existing DUS reports to any member of the Union.

<> (providing) indicates that the authority specified in the utilizing column will, in general, utilize existing DUS reports provided by any member of the Union.

(): Genus or species covered by agreement for a taxon of a higher rank to which it belongs (e.g. in the case of a species: the genus or family is covered by an agreement).

UTILIZING AUTHORITY	PROVIDING AUTHORITY/EXAMINATION OFFICE	NOTES
<>	Australia	Australia will provide copies of all its DUS test reports to other UPOV members.
<>	Brazil	Brazil will provide copies of all its DUS test reports to other UPOV members.
<>	European Union (Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO))	
<>	South Africa	South Africa will provide copies of all its DUS test reports to other UPOV members.
Australia	<>	Australia generally accepts DUS reports from UPOV members for any taxon except Solanum tuberosum L. In deciding

60. Desde 2019, un total de 38 miembros han facilitado información sobre la cooperación en el examen DHE. El mayor número de contribuciones se recibió en 2024, cuando 14 miembros facilitaron información.

Otras fuentes de información

Base de datos PLUTO

61. La base de datos PLUTO no proporciona información sobre la cooperación en el examen DHE.

Plataforma de intercambio de informes DHE e-PVP de la UPOV

62. La plataforma de intercambio de informes DHE e-PVP de la UPOV permite a los usuarios encargar exámenes DHE e intercambiar informes de examen existentes. La información sobre las autoridades que ofrecen informes de examen DHE puede obtenerse directamente de la plataforma de intercambio de informes DHE UPOV e-PVP. En la sexagésima sesión del TC se presentará un informe sobre las novedades.

Propuesta

63. El TC tal vez desee examinar el modo en que los miembros de la UPOV buscan y utilizan la información sobre cooperación en el examen DHE y si conviene promover el uso preferente de alguna de las opciones disponibles.

64. Se invita al TC a estudiar el modo en que los miembros de la UPOV pueden buscar información sobre la cooperación en el examen DHE y la conveniencia de elaborar nuevas orientaciones sobre el uso de cualquiera de las opciones disponibles.

Documentos TGP: subgrupos y expertos principales

65. Las recomendaciones 31 y 32 establecen que:

"Se recomienda [31] que las cuestiones que requieran modificar o desarrollar orientaciones en los documentos TGP sean tratadas por subgrupos establecidos por el Comité Técnico (TC). Estos subgrupos se reunirían en línea y/o como reuniones híbridas junto con otras reuniones de la UPOV e informarían al TC de cualquier propuesta.

"Se recomienda [32] que los subgrupos TGP establecidos por el TC cuenten con un experto principal que presida los debates. El experto principal se encargaría de presentar las conclusiones del subgrupo y cualquier propuesta al TC y a los TWP."

66. En el documento TGP/7 "Elaboración de Directrices de Examen" se ofrecen orientaciones sobre los procedimientos para preparar proyectos de Directrices de Examen y la función del experto principal (véase el documento TGP/7, Secciones 2.2.3 y 2.2.4, también reproducidas en el Anexo III del presente documento). La misma orientación podría utilizarse para cuestiones que requieran modificar o elaborar orientaciones en los documentos TGP, según proceda, con las siguientes etapas generales:

- El Comité Técnico (TC) decidirá qué asuntos que requieran modificar o desarrollar orientaciones en los documentos TGP serán tratados por subgrupos.
- El CT acordará los expertos principales responsables de preparar los borradores de los documentos y establecerá subgrupos con los expertos interesados que deseen participar.
- Los expertos principales prepararían proyectos de documentos y los presentarían en las reuniones de los TWP y los TC.
- Los expertos principales podrán mejorar la consulta de los expertos interesados organizando reuniones de subgrupos conjuntamente con las reuniones de la UPOV o como reuniones separadas, con o sin la presencia de la Oficina de la Unión.
- El experto principal tiene en cuenta los resultados de los debates en la reunión del subgrupo cuando prepara un nuevo proyecto de los documentos para su examen por el TWP y el TC.

67. El procedimiento anterior podría utilizarse además de la práctica de invitar a un experto de un miembro de la UPOV a redactar una propuesta y dirigir los debates con los expertos interesados. Por ejemplo, la revisión actual del documento TGP/7, Nota orientativa 28 "Variedades ejemplo", fue dirigida por un experto de Alemania y debatida con los expertos interesados en los TWP de 2024. Estos procedimientos también tendrían en cuenta las recomendaciones restantes sobre los documentos TGP, como se indica a continuación:

"Se recomienda [33] que se mantenga informados a los TWP sobre los subgrupos establecidos por el TC para modificar o elaborar orientaciones en los documentos TGP y se les ofrezcan oportunidades de participar en los debates.

"Se recomienda [34] que la Oficina de la Unión preste apoyo administrativo a las reuniones de los subgrupos TGP del siguiente modo:

- "Para las reuniones organizadas durante los TWP, la participación de la Oficina de la Unión se acordaría entre el experto principal y la Oficina de la Unión.
- "Para las reuniones organizadas fuera de los TWP, no se proporcionaría apoyo administrativo. El experto principal facilitaría las reuniones y registraría las decisiones. La participación de la Oficina de la Unión se acordaría entre el experto principal y la Oficina de la Unión".

68. Se invita al TC a:

(a) considerar la posibilidad de utilizar, según proceda, las orientaciones sobre la función del experto principal que figuran en el documento TGP/7 para las cuestiones relativas a la modificación o elaboración de orientaciones en los documentos TGP, como se expone en el párrafo 66 del presente documento; y

(b) solicitar a los TWP que inviten a expertos de los miembros de la Unión a dirigir los debates sobre las propuestas de elaboración o modificación de las orientaciones, incluidos los documentos TGP.

Formación y educación a distancia

Actualización de los cursos a distancia

69. La recomendación 37 establece que:

Se recomienda [37] actualizar los cursos de formación a distancia. También podría estudiarse la posibilidad de que los obtentores y los solicitantes de protección de las obtenciones vegetales conozcan mejor los cursos de enseñanza a distancia.

70. La actualización del formato de los cursos de enseñanza a distancia de la UPOV requeriría la aportación de recursos para el desarrollo de archivos multimedia y formatos de contenido interactivo. El Comité Técnico podría considerar la posibilidad de cooperar con los miembros de la UPOV para financiar la actualización del formato de los contenidos de los cursos de enseñanza a distancia de la UPOV.

71. Se invita al Comité Técnico a considerar las posibilidades de cooperación con los miembros de la UPOV para financiar la actualización del formato del contenido de los cursos de enseñanza a distancia de la UPOV.

Desarrollo de nuevos cursos

72. La recomendación 38 establece que:

Se recomienda [38] seguir investigando la elaboración de un nuevo curso sobre la utilización de las orientaciones de la UPOV para el examen DHE (por ejemplo, la elaboración de directrices de examen nacionales), incluido el formato en que podría ofrecerse el contenido (por ejemplo, taller; vídeos).

73. El TC identificó oportunidades de formación adicional sobre el uso de las orientaciones de la UPOV para el examen DHE, incluida la elaboración de directrices de examen nacionales en ausencia de directrices de examen de la UPOV. Podrían utilizarse distintos formatos de contenido, como seminarios web y grabaciones en vídeo, para proporcionar orientación práctica a partir de la experiencia de los miembros de la UPOV y complementar los cursos de enseñanza a distancia. La elaboración de orientaciones prácticas dependería de que los miembros de la UPOV aportaran sus conocimientos y contenidos.

74. Los canales de comunicación de la UPOV (sitio web, YouTube) podrían servir de plataforma para el material de formación proporcionado por los miembros de la UPOV, según sea necesario. Las nuevas oportunidades de formación proporcionadas por los miembros de la UPOV también podrían incluirse en el programa de certificados de protección de las obtenciones vegetales de la UPOV.

75. Se invita al Comité Técnico a:

(a) apoyar la elaboración de nuevos cursos de formación sobre el examen DHE por parte de los

miembros de la UPOV, como se expone en los párrafos 73 y 74 del presente documento; y

(b) tomar nota de que las nuevas oportunidades de formación ofrecidas por los miembros de la UPOV también podrían incluirse en el programa de certificados de protección de las obtenciones vegetales de la UPOV.

Promover las oportunidades de formación

76. La recomendación 39 establece que:

Se recomienda [39] proporcionar más información en el sitio web de la UPOV sobre las posibilidades de formación que ofrecen los miembros y utilizar dicho sitio web de formación para promover las solicitudes y ofertas de formación y cooperación conexas que propongan los miembros y las organizaciones pertinentes.

77. En la siguiente página del sitio web de la UPOV se ofrece información sobre las oportunidades de formación: <https://www.upov.int/resource/en/training.html>. Además, la UPOV ha puesto en marcha el "Programa de certificados de la UPOV en materia de protección de las obtenciones vegetales" (Certificado de la UPOV en materia de protección de las obtenciones vegetales) para fomentar la adquisición de conocimientos y el reconocimiento de la experiencia, así como las oportunidades de formación continua en materia de protección de las obtenciones vegetales. Puede obtenerse más información en: https://www.upov.int/resource/en/pvp_certificate.html

78. Podrían promoverse las oportunidades de formación de los miembros de la UPOV y las entidades académicas mediante su inclusión en el programa de certificados de protección de las obtenciones vegetales de la UPOV.

79. Se invita al Comité Técnico a apoyar a los miembros de la UPOV en la promoción de oportunidades de formación a través del programa de certificados de protección de las obtenciones vegetales de la UPOV.

Lista de miembros dispuestos a proporcionar tutoría en la redacción de directrices nacionales de ensayo

80. En la Recomendación 27 se propuso ampliar la lista de personas de contacto para la cooperación internacional en el examen DHE a fin de incluir información sobre los miembros dispuestos a proporcionar tutoría a otros en la redacción de directrices de examen nacionales. La lista de personas de contacto para la cooperación internacional en el examen DHE está disponible en el sitio web de la UPOV: https://www.upov.int/databases/en/contact_cooperation.html.

81. Esta recomendación podría aplicarse invitando periódicamente al TC a las personas de contacto de los miembros de la Unión para que faciliten información. En la página web de las personas de contacto para la cooperación internacional en el examen DHE se incluiría información sobre los miembros dispuestos a proporcionar tutoría en la redacción de directrices de examen nacionales.

82. Se invita al TC a que considere la posibilidad de invitar a las personas de contacto de los miembros de la Unión al TC para que faciliten información sobre los miembros dispuestos a proporcionar tutoría sobre la redacción de directrices de examen nacionales para su inclusión en la página Web de personas de contacto para la cooperación internacional en el examen DHE.

ASUNTOS PARA INFORMACIÓN

Seminarios y exposiciones para dar a conocer la evolución de los métodos y técnicas de ensayo

83. Las recomendaciones 16 a 18 establecen lo siguiente:

Se recomienda [16] explorar otros medios para dar a conocer los avances en los métodos y técnicas de ensayo, como seminarios y exposiciones (véase "f) Comité Técnico").

Se recomienda [17] que se organicen seminarios sobre métodos y técnicas de examen y otros avances en el examen DHE junto con las reuniones del Comité Técnico, como medio de aumentar el conocimiento de los avances.

Se recomienda [18] que se considere la posibilidad de realizar exposiciones de investigación con sesiones de pósters junto con los seminarios celebrados junto con las reuniones del Comité Técnico como medio de aumentar el conocimiento de los avances. La información de las sesiones de pósters también debería ponerse a disposición de los expertos que no estén físicamente presentes en las sesiones del CT.

84. En consulta con los presidentes de los Grupos de Trabajo Técnico, se propone organizar cada tres años un seminario sobre métodos y Técnicas de Examen en la misma semana que la sesión del Comité Técnico. Se invitaría a representantes de los miembros, observadores y expertos pertinentes para que informaran de los avances. El seminario podría organizarse durante media jornada o una jornada completa, según convenga. Se estudiaría la posibilidad de organizar sesiones de pósters junto con los presidentes del TC y del TWP para que los expertos e investigadores en DHE presenten información sobre los temas del seminario.

Procedimientos DHE documentados en la plataforma de intercambio de informes DHE de la UPOV

85. La recomendación 41 establece que:

Se recomienda [41] que la plataforma de intercambio de informes DHE también permita a los miembros de la UPOV poner a disposición sus procedimientos DHE documentados y la información sobre sus sistemas de calidad.

86. La plataforma de intercambio de informes DHE e-PVP de la UPOV se puso en marcha en 2023 y está a disposición de todos los miembros de la UPOV. La Plataforma se ampliará con la posibilidad de que los miembros de la UPOV proporcionen información sobre sus procedimientos DHE documentados e información sobre sus sistemas de calidad. En la sexagésima sesión del TC se presentará un informe sobre las novedades.

INDICADORES DE RESULTADOS

87. El TC, en su quincuagésima novena sesión, acordó los siguientes indicadores de resultados para evaluar el impacto de las propuestas recomendadas:

Procedimientos armonizados

- *Número de miembros de la UPOV que utilizan los Cuestionarios Técnicos (CT) de la UPOV*

88. En septiembre de 2024, 24 de los 37 miembros de la UPOV participantes utilizaban los cuestionarios técnicos de la UPOV en UPOV PRISMA.

- *Porcentaje de solicitudes de protección de las obtenciones vegetales en miembros de la UPOV cubiertas por las directrices de examen de la UPOV*

89. En 2023, el 94% de todas las solicitudes de protección de variedades vegetales de los miembros de la UPOV estaban cubiertas por las directrices de examen de la UPOV (374.534 de las 416.149 entradas de la base de datos PLUTO).

- *Utilización de directrices de examen de miembros de la UPOV por otros miembros de la UPOV para elaborar directrices de examen nacionales cuando no existan directrices de examen de la UPOV.*

90. En 2024, 2 miembros de la UPOV utilizaron las directrices de examen de otro miembro de la UPOV para elaborar sus directrices de examen nacionales en ausencia de directrices de examen de la UPOV (Cuestionario técnico GB para la remolacha azucarera: utilizado por MD, ZA).

- *Número de informes DHE elaborados por miembros de la UPOV que son utilizados por otros miembros*

90. Hasta septiembre de 2024, se habían intercambiado 7 informes de examen DHE a través de la plataforma de intercambio DHE e-PVP de la UPOV.

- *Tiempo necesario para que los TWP aprueben nuevos GTE o revisiones de GTE*

Proyecto completo de GT	Años transcurridos desde el primer PTT hasta la presentación al TC*.
Lavanda (<i>Lavandula</i> L.)	3
Leucanthemum (<i>Leucanthemum</i> Mill.)	2
Poinsettia (<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i> Willd. ex Klotzsch; <i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i> Willd. ex Klotzsch × <i>Euphorbia cornastra</i> (Dressler) Radcl.-Sm.) (Revisión)	3
Cáñamo, Cannabis (<i>Cannabis sativa</i> L.) (Revisión)	3
Césped Zoysia (<i>Zoysia</i> Willd.)	5
Vid (<i>Vitis</i> L.) (Revisión)	6
Revisiones parciales	Años transcurridos desde el primer TWP hasta la presentación al TC*.
Espárragos (<i>Asparagus officinalis</i> L.) - Car. 16 "Tipo de floración"	1
Pepino pepinillo (<i>Cucumis sativus</i> L.) - adición de resistencia al virus del mosaico del moteado verde del pepino	1
Lechuga (<i>Lactuca sativa</i> L.) - Resistencia a <i>Bremia lactucae</i> Razas 16EU a 27EU (chars. 38 a 47, incluidos los caracteres de agrupamiento) - revisión de <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> f. sp. <i>lactucae</i> Raza 1 - adición de resistencia a <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> f. sp. <i>lactucae</i> Raza 4	1

Formación

- *Número de examinadores y administradores DHE que poseen el Certificado Internacional de la UPOV sobre la Protección de las Obtenciones Vegetales*

91. En septiembre de 2024, 41 examinadores y administradores DHE estaban certificados.

Evaluación de resultados

92. El TC, en su quincuagésima novena sesión, acordó que :

- el trabajo de los TWP se revisó periódicamente sobre la base de los indicadores de rendimiento.
- Los miembros de la UPOV y las organizaciones observadoras fueron encuestados periódicamente sobre su satisfacción con el apoyo al examen DHE prestado por la UPOV a través del TC y los TWP.
- La elaboración de nuevos indicadores de resultados podría considerarse junto con la aplicación de las recomendaciones de este documento.

93. *Se invita al Comité Técnico a:*

(a) revisar el trabajo de los TWP sobre la base de los indicadores de rendimiento; y

(b) estudiar si deben establecerse nuevos indicadores de resultados para las medidas destinadas a mejorar el apoyo prestado al examen DHE.

2024 ENCUESTA DE SATISFACCIÓN DE LOS PARTICIPANTES EN LOS TWP

94. El TC, en su quincuagésima novena sesión, acordó que los miembros y observadores de la UPOV fueran encuestados periódicamente sobre su satisfacción con el apoyo al examen DHE prestado por la UPOV a través del TC y los TWP. Los resultados de la encuesta sobre el grado de satisfacción de los participantes en las sesiones 2024 de los TWP figuran en el Anexo III del presente documento.

95. Se invita al TC a tomar nota de la encuesta de satisfacción realizada entre los participantes en las reuniones de los TWP en 2024, que se presenta en el Anexo V del presente documento.

[Sigue el Anexo I]

ELEMENTS / ISSUES	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTING MEASURES
1. Technical Working Parties	Recommendation 1: The UPOV Technical Working Parties should aim to deliver the following: (a) Harmonized procedures; (b) Information on developments; (c) Interaction between experts and integration of new experts in UPOV's work; (d) Practical guidance on DUS examination procedures, including use of Test Guidelines.	Included in "Information for chairpersons of Technical Working Parties" and "Guidance note for hosts: UPOV Technical Working Party arrangements." Implemented with chairpersons in the TWPs.
1. Technical Working Parties	Recommendation 2: It is recommended not to proceed with the proposal for replacing Technical Working Party meetings by a single Annual Technical Conference.	No action required. Proposal discontinued
1. Technical Working Parties	Recommendation 3: It is recommended to take the following measures to address the issues raised in document TC/58/18 and the current arrangement of the technical work supporting DUS examination in UPOV (see recommendations 4 to 10).	Implementing measures listed below
1. Technical Working Parties (a) Periodicity and duration of TWP meetings	Recommendation 4: It is recommended to organize hybrid TWP meetings each year. The duration of the meetings should be four days. If no UPOV member offers to organize a hybrid meeting for a TWP in a given year, that meeting would be held electronically.	Included in "Guidance note for hosts: UPOV Technical Working Party arrangements"
1. Technical Working Parties (b) Discussions on DUS Procedures	Recommendation 5 It is recommended that more time during TWP meetings should be dedicated to discussions on DUS procedures, including technical visits, calibration exercises and related discussions.	Included in "Information for chairpersons of Technical Working Parties" and "Guidance note for hosts: UPOV Technical Working Party arrangements"
1. Technical Working Parties (b) Discussions on DUS Procedures	Recommendation 6 It is recommended that the guidance provided to hosts should be for one full day of technical visits to demonstrate the model and arrangements for DUS examination used by the UPOV member hosting the TWP meeting.	Included in "Guidance note for hosts: UPOV Technical Working Party arrangements"
1. Technical Working Parties (b) Discussions on DUS Procedures	Recommendation 7 It is recommended that the following elements be considered for inclusion in discussions on DUS procedures, according to the crops, facilities and procedures in the member of the Union hosting the TWP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to trials to see trial layout • Plots created to demonstrate particular characteristics or issues • Calibration exercises • Ring-tests • Management of variety collections (physical material, databases, selection of varieties or other) • Method for analyzing distinctness and uniformity • Using molecular marker techniques in variety examination • Demonstration of trial design and data analysis methodologies • Data recording methods and technology 	Included in "Guidance note for hosts: UPOV Technical Working Party arrangements"

ELEMENTS / ISSUES	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTING MEASURES
1. Technical Working Parties (b) Discussions on DUS Procedures	Recommendation 8 It is recommended that any member of the Union should be eligible to host a TWP meeting. In particular, [see recommendation 9]	TWP meeting structure and flexibility for hosts safeguard this possibility in "Guidance note for hosts: UPOV Technical Working Party arrangements"
1. Technical Working Parties (b) Discussions on DUS Procedures	Recommendation 9 It is recommended that there should be sufficient flexibility for hosts to organize technical visits according to local conditions.	Included in "Guidance note for hosts: UPOV Technical Working Party arrangements"
1. Technical Working Parties (b) Discussions on DUS Procedures	Recommendation 10 It is recommended that hosts enable virtual participation at technical visits whenever possible.	Included in "Guidance note for hosts: UPOV Technical Working Party arrangements"
1. Technical Working Parties (b) Discussions on DUS Procedures	Recommendation 11 It is recommended that, where virtual participation is not possible, the host record particular aspects of the visits and presentations about the DUS examination procedures discussed during the technical visits, to be made available on the UPOV website.	Included in "Guidance note for hosts: UPOV Technical Working Party arrangements"
1. Technical Working Parties (c) Matters for information	Recommendation 12 It is recommended that matters for information be made available online on the UPOV website as documents or prerecorded videos and presented during the session as agreed by the chairperson.	Included in "Information for chairpersons of Technical Working Parties"
1. Technical Working Parties (d) Presence of the Office of the Union	Recommendation 13 It is recommended that the Office of the Union be physically present at hybrid TWP meetings.	Included in "Guidance note for hosts: UPOV Technical Working Party arrangements"
1. Technical Working Parties (d) Presence of the Office of the Union	Recommendation 14 It is recommended to acknowledge that the staff of the Office of the Union would not be involved in organizing the technical visits and their presence on-site for the visits would be agreed with the chair and the host of the TWP.	Included in "Guidance note for hosts: UPOV Technical Working Party arrangements"
1. (e) Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques	Recommendation 15 It is recommended to retain the TWM with its current terms of reference while providing the same meeting arrangement possibilities as the other TWPs.	Included in "Guidance note for hosts: UPOV Technical Working Party arrangements"
1. (e) Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques	Recommendation 16 While acknowledging that the increased time for technical visits will increase the awareness of developments in testing methods and techniques, it is recommended to explore additional means of increasing awareness of developments in testing methods and techniques, such as through seminars and exhibitions (see "1. (f) Technical Committee").	UPOV Office will implement with TC and TWP chairpersons: see proposal in document TC/60/6
1. Technical Working Parties (f) Technical Committee	Recommendation 17 It is recommended that seminars on testing methods and techniques and other developments in DUS examination might be organized along with meetings of the Technical Committee as a means to increase awareness of developments.	UPOV Office will implement with TC and TWP chairpersons: see proposal in document TC/60/6

ELEMENTS / ISSUES	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTING MEASURES
1. Technical Working Parties(f) Technical Committee	Recommendation 18 It is recommended that exhibitions of research with poster sessions might be considered along with the seminars held in conjunction with the Technical Committee meetings as a means of increasing awareness of developments. Information from the poster sessions should also be made available to experts not physically present at the TC sessions.	UPOV Office will implement with TC and TWP chairpersons: see proposal in document TC/60/6
2. UPOV Test Guidelines	Recommendation 19 It is recommended that discussions on Test Guidelines should continue as an important element of TWP meetings as a means of harmonizing DUS procedures and as a means of providing opportunities for interaction and sharing experiences between experts.	Implemented with TWP chairpersons. TWP agendas should provide sufficient time for discussion on Test Guidelines. Also included in "Information for chairpersons of Technical Working Parties"
2. UPOV Test Guidelines (a) Commissioning the drafting and revision of Test Guidelines	Recommendation 20 It is recalled that the procedures to prioritize work and nominate leading experts in charge of revising and drafting new TGs is set out in document TGP/7 "Development of Test Guidelines" and continues to be appropriate. It is recommended that these procedures continue to be applied to ensure that the work of the TWPs on TGs is most effective (see document TGP/7, Section 2.2 "Procedure for the introduction of Test Guidelines")	Implemented with TWP chairpersons. Included in "Information for chairpersons of Technical Working Parties"
2. UPOV Test Guidelines (b) Procedure for the development of Test Guidelines - Web-based TG template	Recommendation 21 It is recommended to provide more flexibility for the leading expert to decide on the use of the web-based TG Template in the process of drafting TGs, while requiring that the draft for adoption by the TC would need to be prepared in the web-based TG template format, and to amend document TGP/7 as appropriate.	See document TC/60/6 for report on subgroup on Test Guidelines
2. UPOV Test Guidelines (b) Procedure for the development of Test Guidelines - Subgroup meetings	Recommendation 22 While TG Subgroup meetings can continue to be arranged during TWP meetings, it is recommended that subgroup discussions should also be encouraged outside TWP meetings (e.g. online meetings, email) to increase the involvement of crop experts, broader participation of UPOV members and reducing the time required to complete Test Guidelines.	See document TC/60/6 for report on subgroup on Test Guidelines
2. UPOV Test Guidelines (b) Procedure for the development of Test Guidelines - Subgroup meetings	Recommendation 23 It is recommended that leading experts have flexibility to agree the frequency and duration of TG subgroup meetings, while reporting discussions back at the respective TWP.	See document TC/60/6 for report on subgroup on Test Guidelines
2. UPOV Test Guidelines (b) Procedure for the development of Test Guidelines - Subgroup meetings	Recommendation [23 bis] It is recommended to develop guidance on the role of leading experts.	See document TGP/7 "Development of Test Guidelines", Section 2, paragraphs 2.2.4.1 to 2.2.4.6, also provided as an Annex to document TC/60/6

ELEMENTS / ISSUES	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTING MEASURES
2. UPOV Test Guidelines (c) Role of the Office of the Union	Recommendation 24 It is recommended that the Office of the Union provide administrative support of TG subgroup meetings as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For meetings arranged during TWP meetings, the involvement of the Office of the Union would be agreed between the leading expert and the Office of the Union (e.g. facilitating discussions and/or reporting decisions). • For meetings arranged outside TWP meetings, administrative support would not be provided (leading experts to facilitate discussions and record decisions). Participation by the Office of the Union would be agreed between the leading expert and the Office of the Union. 	See report on subgroup on Test Guidelines
3. UPOV members test guidelines	Recommendation 25 It is recommended to consider expanding the web-based TG template or another UPOV tool to enable drafting of individual authorities' test guidelines.	See document TC/60/6 for report on subgroup on Test Guidelines
3. UPOV members test guidelines	Recommendation 26 It is recommended to direct members seeking assistance to develop their national test guidelines to the list of contact persons for international cooperation in DUS examination.	See document TC/60/6 for report on subgroup on Test Guidelines
3. UPOV members test guidelines	Recommendation 27 It is recommended to expand the list to include information on members willing to provide mentoring to others on drafting national test guidelines (see: https://www.upov.int/databases/en/contact_cooperation.html).	See proposal on document TC/60/6
3. UPOV members test guidelines	Recommendation 28 It is recommended that options for enabling UPOV members to make their national test guidelines available to other UPOV members would be investigated, including through the web-based TG Template or other options. The number of accesses to individual authorities' test guidelines information could be monitored as an indicator for possible development of new UPOV Test Guidelines.	See document TC/60/6 for report on subgroup on Test Guidelines
3. UPOV members test guidelines	Recommendation 29 It is recommended that the Office of the Union review the requesting of information on practical knowledge and cooperation in DUS examination. Information on practical experience can be derived by searching the PLUTO database for members receiving recent applications.	See proposal on document TC/60/6
3. UPOV members test guidelines	Recommendation 30 It is recommended that guidance be developed to instruct users to use the PLUTO database to obtain that information.	See proposal on document TC/60/6
4. TGP documents	Recommendation 31 It is recommended that matters that would require amending or developing guidance in TGP documents would be dealt with by subgroups established by the Technical Committee (TC). These subgroups would meet online and/or as hybrid meetings along with other UPOV meetings and would report to the TC any proposals.	See proposal on document TC/60/6
4. TGP documents	Recommendation 32 It is recommended that the TGP subgroups established by the TC would have a leading expert that would chair the discussions. The leading expert would be in charge of presenting the findings of the subgroup and any proposals to the TC and TWPs.	See proposal on document TC/60/6

ELEMENTS / ISSUES	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTING MEASURES
4. TGP documents	Recommendation 33 It is recommended that the TWPs are kept informed about subgroups established by the TC for amending or developing guidance in TGP documents and are provided opportunities to participate in discussions.	See proposal on document TC/60/6
4. TGP documents	Recommendation 34 It is recommended that the Office of the Union provides administrative support for TGP subgroup meetings as follows:• For meetings arranged during the TWPs, the involvement of the Office of the Union would be agreed between the leading expert and the Office of the Union.• For meetings arranged outside the TWPs, administrative support would not be provided. The leading expert would facilitate the meetings and record any decisions. Participation by the Office of the Union would be agreed between the leading expert and the Office of the Union.	UPOV Office will implement, in agreement with leading experts
5. Training	Recommendation 35 It is recommended to conduct training webinars to address topics of particular relevance, as defined by the TC in response to requests from members and/or observers, using a similar structure as the preparatory webinars held prior to TWP meetings.	UPOV Office will implement with TC and TWP chairpersons. See document TC/60/7 "TWP workshops and webinars"
5. Training	Recommendation 36 It is recommended that the Office of the Union organize the training webinars in conjunction with the members providing information.	UPOV Office will implement with TC and TWP chairpersons. See document TC/60/7 "TWP workshops and webinars"
5. Training	Recommendation 37 It is recommended to update the distance learning courses. Consideration could also be given to increasing awareness of distance learning courses by plant breeders and PVP applicants.	See proposal on document TC/60/6
5. Training	Recommendation 38 It is recommended to further investigate the development of a new course on using UPOV guidance for DUS examination (e.g. developing national test guidelines), including in which format could the content be offered (e.g. workshop; videos).	See proposal on document TC/60/6
5. Training	Recommendation 39 It is recommended to provide further information on the UPOV website on possibilities for training provided by members and to use that training website to promote requests and offers for training and related cooperation, as proposed by members and relevant organizations. [It is recalled that the UPOV International Certificate on Plant Variety Protection will provide a basis to demonstrate the level of expertise on plant variety protection according to the UPOV principles.]	See proposal on document TC/60/6
6. DUS report exchange platform (UPOV e-PVP)	Recommendation 40 It is recommended that the development of a DUS report exchange platform (UPOV e-PVP) is supported to enable exchange of existing DUS reports for: (1) UPOV members to make existing DUS reports available for download (2) UPOV members to request DUS reports	Already implemented

ELEMENTS / ISSUES	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTING MEASURES
6. DUS report exchange platform (UPOV e-PVP)	Recommendation 41 It is recommended that the DUS Report Exchange Platform also enable UPOV members to make their documented DUS procedures and information on their quality systems available.	A report will be provided at the sixtieth session of the TC on the development of the DUS Report Exchange Platform to provide information on documented DUS procedures
6. DUS report exchange platform (UPOV e-PVP)	Recommendation 42 It is recommended to propose not to pursue the development of a UPOV quality accreditation system at this time.	No action required
7. Performance Indicators	Recommendation 43 In relation to assessing the impact of the recommended proposals, the following performance indicators are recommended: (a) Harmonized procedures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of UPOV members using UPOV Technical Questionnaires • Percentage of PVP applications in UPOV members covered by UPOV Test Guidelines • Use of UPOV member test guidelines by other UPOV members to develop national test guidelines where there are no UPOV Test Guidelines • Number of DUS reports produced by UPOV members that are used by other members • Time required for TWPs to approve new TGs or revisions of TGs (b) Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of DUS examiners and administrators that have the UPOV International Certificate on Plant Variety Protection The development of further performance indicators could be considered along with the implementation of the recommendations.	UPOV Office to provide reports to TC on annual basis starting in 2024
7. Performance Indicators	Recommendation 44 It is recommended that the work of the TWPs is periodically reviewed on the basis of the performance indicators above.	UPOV Office to invite TC to consider on annual basis starting in 2024
7. Performance Indicators	Recommendation 45 It is recommended that UPOV members and observer organizations are regularly surveyed on their satisfaction with the support for DUS examination provided by UPOV through the TC and TWPs.	UPOV Office to invite TC to consider on annual basis starting in 2024

[Sigue el anexo II]

SUBGROUPS AND LEADING EXPERTS
EXTRACT FROM DOCUMENT TGP/7 “DEVELOPMENT OF TEST GUIDELINES”

2.2.3 STEP 3 Allocation of Drafting Work

2.2.3.1 The Technical Committee will decide which Technical Working Party (TWP) or Parties (TWPs) should be responsible for the drafting of the Test Guidelines in question. In general, where the proposal is made by a TWP, the Technical Committee will commission the work from that same TWP, but it may decide to request the approval of another TWP before a draft is submitted for adoption.

[...]

2.2.4 STEP 4 Preparation of Draft Test Guidelines for the Technical Working Party

2.2.4.1 The Leading Expert

The TWP will agree on a Leading Expert who will be responsible for preparing all drafts of the Test Guidelines until a document is agreed by the TWP.

2.2.4.2 The Subgroup of Interested Experts (Subgroup)

The TWP will establish a subgroup consisting of the Leading Expert and the other interested experts wishing to participate in the drafting of the Test Guidelines in question.

2.2.4.3 Preliminary Work on Draft Test Guidelines

Pending the commissioning of the work by the Technical Committee, the TWP may establish the subgroup (see 2.2.4.2) and preliminary work on the preparation of the Test Guidelines may commence.

2.2.4.4 Preparation of the Draft(s) by the Leading Expert with the Subgroup

2.2.4.4.1 The web-based TG Template is to be used for preparing draft UPOV Test Guidelines (see: <https://www3.wipo.int/upovtg/>).

2.2.4.4.2 In advance of the TWP session, the Leading Expert should prepare a preliminary draft of the Test Guidelines (“Subgroup draft”) for comments by the subgroup using the web-based TG Template.

2.2.4.4.3 The subgroup of interested experts participating in the drafting of the Test Guidelines will be invited to provide comments to the Leading Expert using the web-based TG template.

2.2.4.4.4 On the basis of the comments received from the subgroup, the Leading Expert should establish a first draft for the TWP(s). This draft is provided to the Office, which will produce a document for distribution to the members of the TWP(s) concerned for discussion at their session(s). Prior to the TWP session, the Office will make a preliminary check that the draft has been prepared according to the guidance provided in document TGP/7. A result of that check will be provided to the Leading Expert at least one week before the session.

2.2.4.4.5 In the case of Test Guidelines which have been considered by the relevant TWP(s) and where the responsible TWP has requested amendment of the draft, the Leading Expert should, after consulting the members of the subgroup, establish a further draft for consideration at the following TWP meeting in the manner explained above. To assist Leading Experts in preparing draft Test Guidelines the following guidance information and materials are provided on the UPOV website (see http://www.upov.int/resource/en/dus_guidance.html):

- (i) General Introduction to DUS;
- (ii) TGP Documents;
- (iii) Test Guidelines;
- (iv) Practical Technical Knowledge;

- (v) Cooperation in Examination;
- (vi) Web-based TG Template;
- (vii) Additional characteristics;
- (viii) Test Guidelines under development (document TC/xx/2);
- (ix) Summary information on quantity of plant material required on adopted Test Guidelines; and
- (x) Document TGP/14 “Glossary of Terms Used in UPOV Documents”.

2.2.4.5 *Subgroup Meetings*

The relevant TWP may enhance the consultation of interested experts for certain Test Guidelines by the arrangement of Test Guidelines Subgroup meetings. These Subgroup meetings may be held in conjunction with other UPOV meetings or may be organized as a separate meeting, with or without the Office being present. The Leading Expert takes the results of the discussions in the Subgroup meeting into account when preparing a new draft of the Test Guidelines for consideration by the TWP.

[...]

[Sigue el anexo III]

INFORMATION FOR CHAIRPERSONS OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIES

1. TWP Chairpersons are invited to read the following documents in conjunction with this guidance:

- “Guidance Note: UPOV Technical Working Party Arrangements”:
- “Rules Governing the Granting of Observer Status to States, Intergovernmental Organizations and International Non-Governmental Organizations in UPOV Bodies”:

http://www.upov.int/members/en/pdf/rules_observer_status.pdf

- “Rules governing access to UPOV documents”:

http://www.upov.int/edocs/infdocs/en/upov_inf_20_1.pdf

Introduction

2. The TC, at its fifty-ninth session, agreed that the UPOV Technical Working Parties should aim to deliver the following:

- (a) Harmonized procedures;
- (b) Information on developments;
- (c) Interaction between experts and integration of new experts in UPOV’s work;
- (d) Practical guidance on DUS examination procedures, including use of Test Guidelines

3. The following issues to improve the technical support provided at TWPs:

- (1) avoid unnecessary repetition of content across meetings;
- (2) increasing interaction among TWM experts and those at TWPs and TC, including 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 training;
- (7) to ensure that the work of the TWPs on Test Guidelines (TGs) is most effective;
- (8) TGs discussions as hybrid meetings during TWPs or as online meetings to increase the involvement of crop 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 Technical Working Parties (TWP) (e.g. TGP documents, UPOV Codes etc.).

4. The possibility of online participation is offered for members not able to attend TWP sessions in person, as experts that would not attend otherwise. It is important that TWP chairpersons are aware of virtual participants and their contributions to the meetings.

Before the TWP Session

(a) Invitations

5. The Office of the Union will prepare the draft participation and hotel reservation form (see “Guidance Note: UPOV Technical Working Party Arrangements”) in consultation with the host and the TWP Chairperson. In parallel, the Office of the Union will prepare the draft agenda in consultation with the TWP Chairperson, on the basis of the draft agenda agreed at the previous TWP session and any additional items determined by the TC or the Council. Once all elements are completed, which must be no later than 3 months before the TWP session, the TWP chairperson will be requested to approve

the issuing of the letter of invitation, which will be issued (by e-mail) with the draft TWP agenda and the participation and hotel reservation form.

6. Invitations will be sent to the designated experts of the members of the Union and observer States and Organizations. Where agreed by the relevant TWP Chairperson and the Office of the Union, an ad hoc invitation may be made to an intergovernmental or international non-governmental organization or a relevant expert to attend a particular session of a TWP (see “Rules Governing the Granting of Observer Status to States, Intergovernmental Organizations and International Non-Governmental Organizations in UPOV Bodies”, paragraph 2(e): http://www.upov.int/members/en/pdf/rules_observer_status.pdf). Such invitations will subsequently be reported to the Consultative Committee.

7. To avoid confusion, the TWP Chairperson is encouraged to copy the Office of the Union with any communications which they may have with the hosts.

(b) Approval of documents

8. The TWP Chairperson is invited to approve all documents, excluding draft Test Guidelines and TGP documents, before they are posted on the UPOV website. Therefore, to avoid delays in posting documents, it is important that the TWP Chairperson is available in the weeks before the TWP session. In particular, if any significant absences are planned in the 3 months before the TWP session, it would be very helpful to inform the Office of the Union.

TWP Preparatory Webinars and Workshops

9. Preparatory webinars or workshops may be organized in preparation for the Technical Working Party sessions. The Chairpersons may be invited to make presentations on particular topics during the preparatory webinars or workshops.

The TWP Session

(a) Planning meeting between Chairperson, hosts and Office of the Union

10. The Office of the Union will arrange for the TWP Chairperson, the host and the Office of the Union to meet together at the venue at least the day before the start of the TWP session in order to:

- finalize the detailed draft workplan (as a basis for discussion the Office of the Union will have prepared a detailed preliminary workplan in advance of the TWP session, in consultation with the host and the TWP Chairperson
- check the room layout and facilities (including electronic communication facilities);
- check when the host would like to make a presentation on its plant variety protection (PVP) system;
- check the protocol for the opening of the session and official dinner (names of dignitaries etc.);
- confirm domestic arrangements (e.g. coffee, lunch, dinner, official dinner, technical visit) etc.

11. On the basis of these discussions, the Office of the Union will prepare the draft workplan for consideration by the TWP in conjunction with the adoption of the agenda.

(b) Organization of the TWP session

12. The TWP Chairperson is invited to discuss with the Office of the Union the way in which (s)he would like to organize the session, for example concerning the introduction of documents, in particular those documents prepared by the Office of the Union.

13. Matters for information will be made available online on the UPOV website before the meeting. The Chairperson should decide which information matters should be introduced and discussed during the session.

(c) Presentation of documents

14. At the end of the discussion the Chairperson should provide an oral summary of the conclusion or should invite the Office of the Union to provide a summary of the conclusion.

(d) Sequence of the week and agenda

15. The sequence of the week will be adjusted according to the importance of topics and priorities for the group. The draft agenda will be presented at the opening of the sessions.

(e) Opening of the session

16. The opening of the TWP session will normally proceed as follows:

(i) Welcome by hosts;

(ii) TWP Chairperson to:

- welcome participants, with particular welcome to States / Organizations participating for the first time (to be named) and new individual participants (it is not necessary to mention individuals by name). If there are participants from a State / Organization that has become a member of the Union since the last session, that should also be announced. The Office of the Union will provide that information;
- thank hosts and, as appropriate, say a few words about the member of the Union and the location (please bear in mind that the TWP Chairperson will also be called on to make a vote of thanks at the official dinner, which should not be identical to the opening). The Office of the Union can provide information about the history of the member of the Union in UPOV, e.g. date of becoming a member, previous TWP sessions hosted, key contributions to UPOV's work, etc.
- welcome participants attending the meeting via electronic means (online). The Office of the Union may assist in monitoring their participation, such as requests for the floor.

(iii) Adoption of agenda and approval of draft workplan. The workplan will subsequently be used to keep track of the discussions and periodically updated. This is particularly relevant for online participants to be aware of any changes on the program.

(iv) TWP Chairperson and/or host to announce domestic arrangements (meal arrangements/practical arrangements)

(v) Presentation by host on the PVP system in the member of the Union concerned (this is usually included as the first contribution to the agenda item "Short Reports on Developments in Plant Variety Protection: (a) Reports from members and observers", but may be placed at another time during the week, e.g. in conjunction with the technical visit).

(f) Official Dinner

17. The TWP Chairperson will be required to make a short speech of thanks during the official dinner. The protocol for the short speech should be discussed with the hosts.

(g) Technical Visit

18. The main function of the TWP Chairperson is to make, or arrange for, a short speech of thanks at each location visited. If more than one location is visited, the TWP Chairperson may wish to nominate a different expert (perhaps starting with the incoming TWP Chairperson (if known)) to make a short speech of thanks at each location. In such cases, it is important to inform the experts concerned at the

beginning of the visit to ensure that they have sufficient time to take notes during the visit (e.g. names and responsibilities of persons hosting the visit, points of interest etc.).

(h) Approval of Test Guidelines

19. At its forty third session (2007), the TC noted that the TC-EDC had encountered problems in its work because some of the Test Guidelines submitted for adoption had not fulfilled the requirements for “final” draft Test Guidelines as set out in document TGP/7/7, Chapter 2.2.5.4 and were missing important information. The TC agreed that the TWPs should ensure that the requirements for Test Guidelines to be submitted to the TC were fulfilled and agreed that Test Guidelines which did not fulfill those requirements should be referred back to the relevant TWP.

20. It was also agreed that, in order to establish a realistic workload, the TWPs should take into account the factors for prioritizing the commissioning of Test Guidelines, as set out in document TGP/7/1, Section 2.2.2.2.

- o With respect to the request of the TC concerning Test Guidelines, the TWP Chairpersons may wish to review all “final” draft Test Guidelines before the TWP session and should attend the subgroup sessions at which “final” draft Test Guidelines are being discussed.

- o To assist in prioritizing the commissioning of Test Guidelines, where requested sufficiently in advance, the Office of the Union would be able to provide relevant information from the PLUTO Plant Variety Database (e.g. number of applications) and the GENIE database (e.g. number of members of the Union with practical experience) (see recommendations in document TGP/7/3).

(i) Report preparation

21. Where possible, during the evenings of the TWP session, the Office of the Union will prepare a draft report of the TWP session. The Office of the Union may seek the advice of the TWP Chairperson on the drafting of specific points; however, it is a matter for the TWP Chairperson to decide the extent to which they wish to approve the elements of the report as it develops during the week. In particular, priority should be given by the TWP Chairperson to being sufficiently rested and prepared for chairing the TWP session and not to overnight reading of the draft report. The TWP Chairperson will have an opportunity to read the draft report along with all other TWP participants on the final day.

Report

22. The report will be made available in electronic format. The Office of the Union will not provide printed copies of the report.

Adoption of the report at the end of the TWP session

23. The Chairperson will present the draft report item-by-item and moderate any discussions and/or amendments to the draft report. No particular agenda items should be reopened during the adoption of the report.

(j) Closing remarks

24. The TWP Chairperson should thank the hosts and participants. Where particular facilities have been provided, e.g. interpretation, a particular mention should be made.

Term and selection of future TWP Chairpersons

25. The term of chairmanship is three years, starting with the nomination by the Council and ending with the nomination of the subsequent chairperson. Chairpersons should consult the UPOV members at their respective TWP or TC for selecting the next chairperson.

26. The procedure for nomination of Chairpersons is as follows:

- (i) TWP recommendation to Technical Committee (TC)

- (ii) TC recommendation to Council
- (iii) Nomination of TWP Chairpersons by the Council

Future Venues of the Technical Working Party Session

27. The Office of the Union will inform the Chairperson of offers which have been received for hosting of future TWP sessions and will seek your advice on the future schedule (year and date) of venues. The choice of year and date is likely to be indicated by the proposed hosting authority, but it should be noted that there may be other UPOV activities which may have a bearing on the scheduling. The Office of the Union will keep the Chairperson informed of any developments in a timely way. To avoid confusion, the TWP chairpersons are requested to inform the Office of the Union if they are approached, even tentatively, by any member of the Union expressing a wish to host a future TWP session.

28. At the beginning of each TWP session, the host of the subsequent TWP session will be invited to announce its offer to host that TWP session. However, it should be noted that it is the UPOV Council, at its October session, which is responsible for approval of the venues of all TWPs.

Council, Technical Committee and Enlarged Editorial Committee (TC EDC)

(a) Participation

29. The TWP Chairpersons are invited to make a report at the TC sessions (normally late October or November) and to participate in the meetings of the TC EDC (during the week of the TC session plus two additional meetings).

30. The outgoing TWP Chairpersons are invited to attend the TC session in October immediately following their last session as Chairperson (e.g. 2023), because the documents will have been prepared by a TWP session under their chairmanship. The incoming TWP Chairpersons are also invited to attend. In general, the incoming TWP Chairpersons make the report on the work of the TWP at the TC session (see below).

(b) Reporting on the Work of the Technical Working Party to the Technical Committee and Council

31. At the TC session, the TWP Chairperson will be required to make a presentation under the agenda item "Progress reports on the work of the Technical Working Parties."

32. Subject to the TC meeting arrangements, the TWP Chairpersons will be requested to make an oral report focusing only on selected items of particular interest that arose in their respective TWP session. A visual support (e.g. PowerPoint) may be used.

33. A written summary report containing all relevant information on the TWP session (see items (i) to (ix) below) should also be provided to the Office of the Union, for inclusion in a TC document.

34. Information to be provided to the Office of the Union in a written summary report:

35. Please specify the following in the report:

- (i) date and place of session and Chairperson;
- (ii) number of participants at TWP session and at the preparatory workshop (members of the Union, observer States, observer organizations: Office of the Union will provide);
- [(iii) if there is a particular issue arising from the preparatory workshop this might be mentioned, although an overview of the preparatory workshops is presented in a TC document.]
- (iv) mention of presentation on the PVP system in the hosting country;
- (v) main topics covered, highlighting key issues (bearing in mind that those issues may be covered in detail under the relevant item of the TC agenda);
- (vi) Test Guidelines agreed for submission to TC (plus any issues arising with regard to specific Test Guidelines);

- (vii) number of Test Guidelines to be discussed at next session (no need to list them all as that information is provided in document TC/[session]/2, but it is useful to highlight any Test Guidelines of particular interest or importance;
- (viii) proposed date and place of next session;
- (ix) outline of items on the agenda.

36. If required, examples of the TWP Chairpersons reports in previous years can be found in the TC document "Progress reports on the work of the Technical Working Parties".

37. A copy of the written report (covering items (i) to (ix)) is requested to be provided to the Office of the Union at least 3 weeks in advance of the meeting.

38. The TWP Chairpersons report to the TC will also be used for the report to be included in the Council document "Progress report of the work of the Technical Committee, the Technical Working Parties.

(c) Technical Committee: Test Guidelines

39. The TWP Chairperson is invited to examine the list of Test Guidelines being developed or revised by all TWPs, as set out in document TC/[session]/2, Annex II. As far as possible, the Office of the Union will try to identify Test Guidelines which may have relevance for TWPs other than the TWP by which it is proposed. However, the TWP Chairperson is requested to check if its TWP would wish to be involved in any of the Test Guidelines being developed or revised by other TWPs.

[Sigue el anexo IV]

ANEXO IV

(EN INGLÉS SOLAMENTE)

GUIDANCE NOTE: UPOV TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY ARRANGEMENTS

96. This guidance note has been developed to help the hosts of Technical Working Party (TWP) sessions to make the necessary arrangements for the TWP session and workshop for local participants.

97. The structure of this document is as follows:

A.	OFFERS TO HOST A UPOV TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY SESSION	1
B.	HOSTING UPOV TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY SESSIONS.....	1
C.	PRELIMINARY PLANNING	2
1.	Meeting location.....	2
2.	Session Schedule	2
(a)	Workshop:.....	2
(b)	Main TWP Session:	2
(c)	Participation by electronic means (hybrid meeting):	2
3.	Session Venue:.....	2
(a)	Transportation from the hotel to the session room (if necessary)	3
(b)	Session room arrangements:.....	3
(c)	Test Guidelines subgroups: (TWA, TWF, TWO and TWV only)	3
(d)	Printing and copying facilities:.....	3
(e)	Coffee breaks:	3
(f)	Internet and electronic communication facilities:.....	3
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	Annex I Session room arrangement	
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A. OFFERS TO HOST A UPOV TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY SESSION

98. Hybrid TWP meetings will be organized each year, according to the program of work approved by the Council. The duration of the meetings should be four days. If no UPOV member offers to organize a hybrid meeting for a TWP in a given year, that meeting would be held electronically.

99. Members of the Union who wish to offer to host a TWP session are requested, in the first instance, to contact the Office of the Union for information on the future planned schedule of the TWP concerned and how to proceed with their offer.

B. HOSTING UPOV TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY SESSIONS

100. The host office is responsible for providing all the necessary facilities for the session to take place without a charge to the participants for attending the session itself. No financing is provided by the Office of the Union for the hosting of TWPs.

101. The host is expected to designate a suitable hotel or similar accommodation ("designated hotel(s)") within the vicinity of the session venue, with the participants being responsible

for paying for their accommodation. If transport from the designated hotel(s) to the session venue is required, it is expected that the host will provide this without a charge to participants.

102. The host may offer to provide, or make arrangements for, services beyond the basic session requirements, such as meals (e.g. lunch with special dietary provisions, if necessary), visits (including transport), etc. Where such additional services are to be offered, and where a charge would be made to participants choosing to take up these offers, these services and related costs must be specified in the participation and hotel reservation form, annexed to the invitation (Please see Section E "PREPARING THE OFFICIAL INVITATION").

103. Protocol issues such as official country name, local responsibilities, etc. should be checked with the Office of the Union.

C. PRELIMINARY PLANNING

1. Meeting location

104. In cases where the meeting location does not have simple connections to an *international* airport, the host should arrange for safe and secure transport to the meeting venue from the airport. It should be borne in mind that international participants may arrive at any time during the day or night and may have linguistic difficulties both with the spoken and written language.

2. Session Schedule

The earliest date for a TWP to be organized should be eight (8) weeks after the session of the Technical Committee to allow sufficient time for preparation of meeting documents and for experts' internal consultation in advance of the session.

(a) Workshop:

It is possible for the host to arrange with the Office of the Union to hold a workshop for local participants to benefit from the presence of international experts and staff of the Office of the Union. In such cases, the workshop is normally held on the day before the main TWP session.

(b) Main TWP Session:

In general, the TWP session starts at 8.30 or 9.00 a.m. and ends at 5.30 or 6.00 p.m. In practice, discussions may continue into the evening, and therefore meeting rooms should be available beyond 6.00 p.m., as necessary. The closing time of the session should be checked with the Office of the Union.

(c) Participation by electronic means (hybrid meeting):

The host should provide the necessary arrangements for participation via electronic means (hybrid meeting). The physical meeting should be integrated to a video conference organized by the host or the Office of the Union. The microphones in the meeting room should be connected to the video conference and vice-versa. A video feed from the meeting room should be provided to the video conference (e.g. webcam). The host should contact the Office of the Union for further practical arrangements.

Online participants may join the session from different time zones. Flexibility should be applied in case meeting times should be adjusted, in particular for TG subgroups. In such case, access to facilities for videoconferencing may be required and organized in advance with the local hosts and online participants.

3. Session Venue:

The venue can be, for example, a suitable meeting room at the hotel where the participants will be accommodated, a DUS testing station, a government building, or at another suitable location.

This is left to the host office to decide according to their circumstances. The following services should be available:

(a) *Transportation from the hotel to the session room (if necessary)*

(b) *Session room arrangements:*

It is recommended to arrange the session room according to Annex I.

- The proposed arrangement allows all participants to see each other clearly, which facilitates discussion.
- Name plates should be in place on the table in front of each participant's place before the start of the meeting. The name plate should include the following information, according to the participants' list, provided and checked by the Office of the Union:
 - Name of the participant
 - Official country or organization name (use the country / organization names as indicated in the draft participant list provided by the Office of the Union).
- Name badges for participants

The session room should have good acoustics and be equipped with:

- Video projection facilities (computer, projector, etc, for presentations and documents)
 - the screen should be sufficiently large for all participants to see the presentations clearly. Multiple screens may be used to facilitate visualization.
 - the computer-projector cable should be long enough to reach from the projector to the Chairperson's and UPOV officer's table. Please consider using signal boosters to avoid loss of signal when projecting from the computer.
- Whiteboard or Flipchart
- Microphone system and connection to the video conference (e.g. Zoom)
- Wi-Fi internet connection available in all meeting rooms
- Electric sockets for participants to connect to laptops

(c) *Test Guidelines subgroups: (TWA, TWF, TWO and TWV only)*

During certain parts of the session, the participants will be grouped into two subgroups which will discuss different Test Guidelines. An additional room will be needed at these times, which may be smaller than the main session room. Connectivity for online participation would be necessary, along with video projection facilities.

(d) *Printing and copying facilities:*

The Office of the Union will not bring paper copies of documents for the participants at the meeting. Participants should bring their own paper copies in case they wish. The Office of the Union will provide a list of documents relevant to the meeting, which will be made available on the UPOV website.

Only a few pages are expected to be printed during the meeting. A small printer could address this need.

(e) *Coffee breaks:*

During working days, two coffee breaks per day should be provided, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

(f) *Internet and electronic communication facilities:*

Access to the internet is an important requirement for the meeting and the hosts are requested to ensure that internet facilities are provided at the hotel and at the meeting venue. An example of an electronic communication facility set up is provided in Annex IV.

4. Working Languages

In the invitation, it is said that the working languages of the session will be English, French, German and Spanish and no interpretation will be provided. In practice, the sessions are usually conducted in English.

5. Selection of Designated Hotel(s)

The following notes are intended to help the host in selecting an appropriate hotel:

- Where the chosen session venue is a hotel, experience has shown the practical convenience of having the session in the hotel where the participants are all accommodated. It is very helpful for a transfer service to be provided to the international airport at which the participants will be arriving;
- Most of the participants are government officials or researchers and may have budgetary restrictions in the authorized level of expenses. Therefore, a reasonably priced hotel is recommended. For security reasons, it is recommended to avoid hotels with a very large number of floors (skyscraper buildings) and/or to avoid reserving rooms above the seventh floor;
- It is requested to choose a hotel which has internet connection in the rooms. In particular, it is requested that the rooms for the Office of the Union staff have internet connection;
- Currency exchange facilities at the hotel, or nearby, would be an advantage;
- Experts may welcome the opportunity to have dinner outside the hotel, particularly if the session takes place in the hotel. A hotel with other restaurants nearby would therefore be an advantage;
- The hosts are requested to ensure that a suitable chair and desk/table are provided in the rooms of the Office of the Union staff and the Chairperson of the Technical Working Party, because they will need to work on the preparation of the meeting report in their room(s).

D. ROOM RESERVATION:

Once the hotel(s) has(have) been chosen, the host office should make an advance provisional reservation ("block booking") to ensure that there will be enough rooms for all the participants.

The Office of the Union can provide an estimate of the number of participants expected to attend the session.

E. PREPARING THE OFFICIAL INVITATION

In order to finalize the invitations, to be sent six months in advance of the sessions, the host office should provide the Office of the Union with the highlighted missing information in the draft participation and hotel reservation form in Annex II, as follows:

- (a) The name of the hotel(s), or office, at which the participants should make their reservations, together with the address, telephone numbers, e-mail and contact person if possible.
- (b) The full price (including taxes etc.) per night of a single and of a double room, specifying if breakfast is included. (Currency to be clearly stated.)
- (c) The deadline for making reservations and the cancellation policy.
- (d) A list of credit cards accepted by the hotel(s).
- (e) The name and address of the venue of the session.

(f) Information concerning travel arrangements and visa requirements.

The annex to the invitation should include information about activities, field visits, as well as information on accommodation (hotel, meals, diet, food restrictions), in order that participants can make the necessary travel plans.

In the official invitations issued by the Office of the Union, the participants are asked to send their hotel reservation request directly to the hotel, usually by e-mail, with a copy to the local organizer and the Office of the Union for information.

The host may offer to provide, or make arrangements for, services beyond the basic session requirements, such as meals (taking into account special dietary restrictions delegates may have) (e.g. lunch), social visits (including transport), etc. Where such additional services are to be offered, and where a charge would be made to participants choosing to take up these offers, these services and related costs must be specified in the participation and hotel reservation form.

F. VISIT / RECEPTION

According to their circumstances, the host usually offers:

Reception

A reception (generally a dinner) is usually offered to the participants and any companions.

Technical visit

A technical visit is customary (usually a one-day visit). Where a charge would be made to participants choosing to take part in the technical visit, the costs must be specified in the participation and hotel reservation form. Hosts are requested to ensure that the transport for the technical visit is safe and secure.

The following non-exclusive list of elements may be considered for inclusion in the technical visit, according to the crops, facilities and procedures in the member of the Union hosting the TWP:

- Visit to trials to see trial layout
- Plots created to demonstrate particular characteristics or issues
- Calibration exercises
- Ring-tests
- Management of variety collections (physical material, databases, selection of varieties or other)
- Method for analyzing distinctness and uniformity
- Using molecular marker techniques in variety examination
- Demonstration of trial design and data analysis methodologies
- Data recording methods and technology

The host should have sufficient flexibility to organize technical visits according to local conditions. The host is invited to enable virtual participation at technical visits whenever possible. Where virtual participation would not be possible, the host is invited to consider recording particular aspects of the visits and presentations about the DUS examination procedures discussed during the technical visits, which would be made available on the UPOV website.

G. WORKPLAN

A workplan for the meeting is prepared by the Office of the Union in conjunction with the Chairperson of the TWP and the host office. This workplan for the session is combined with information on the reception and technical visit to provide an overall program of activities, which will be circulated on the first morning of the session. A model workplan is included in Annex III for illustration purpose and could be adjusted according to local conditions.

H. FURTHER ARRANGEMENTS BEFORE THE SESSION

Additional useful information for the participants is welcome (for example, vaccination requirements for entry into the country, how to get from the airport to the hotel, electricity voltage and plug type, tourist information, weather, etc.). This is usually issued directly to participants by the host office and can be sent after the deadline for hotel reservations.

Some participants may need to obtain a visa to travel to the host country. In some cases, a personal note or invitation is requested, which, depending on the country, should be sent by the Office of the Union or by the organizer directly.

The hosts are requested to provide the Office of the Union with a list and contact details of all local participants, at least one week before the session, to enable the Office of the Union to prepare a list of participants.

I. ARRANGEMENTS AT THE SESSION

It is requested that the host office provide information for the participants at the time of their arrival at the hotel. This should include at least details of how to get to the session room and the start time of the main session.

It is particularly helpful for participants if the hosting office can provide a contact person for handling practical queries (within reasonable limits) and to arrange the reconfirmation of participants' flights. A list of contact details for the relevant country Missions / Embassies would also be helpful.

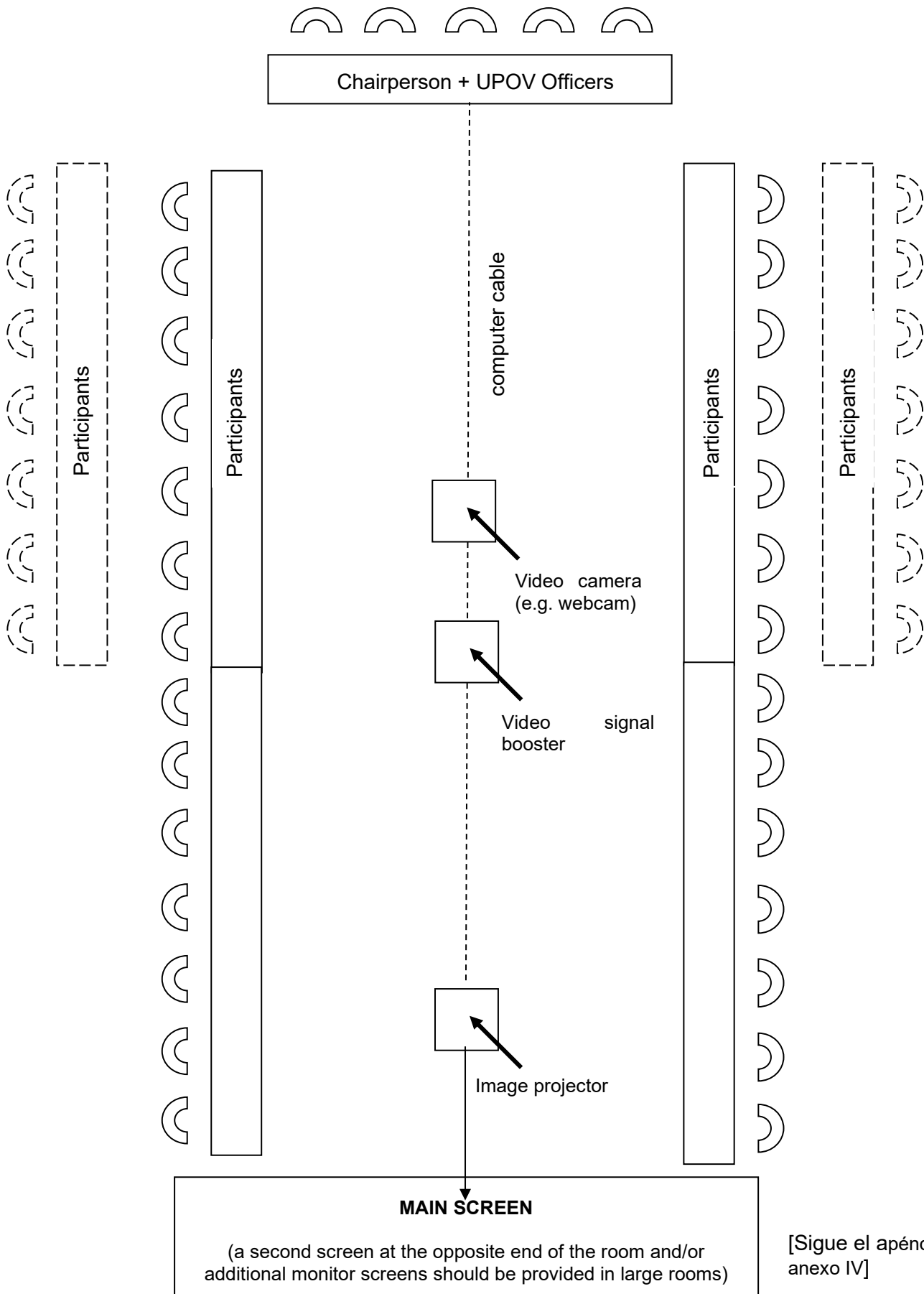
It would be of particular interest to the participants if the hosting office could make a presentation on the plant breeders' rights situation in the country. This is usually provided at the beginning of the session and further information may also be provided during the technical visit.

The Office of the Union will provide the platform for virtual participation at the TWP session, in agreement with the host.

[Sigue el apéndice I del anexo IV]

GUIDANCE NOTE: TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY ARRANGEMENTS

SESSION ROOM ARRANGEMENT



APENDICE II DEL ANEXO IV

GUIDANCE NOTE: TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY ARRANGEMENTS – ANNEX II

Annex to Circular U **xxxx (*)**

UPOV TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY FOR **xxx**

xxx (*) Session, **City, Country, Month and Date to Date, Year**

REGISTRATION FORM

Please return this form (**first page only**) by **month date, year**, at the latest to:

Host Office Information

Tel.: **+ xxx**
Fax: **+ xxx**
E-mail: **xxx**

and to:

UPOV
34, chemin des Colombettes
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland
Tel.: +41-22 338 **xxxx (*)**
Fax: +41-22 733 0336
E-mail: upov.mail@upov.int

State or organization:

Title: ☐ Mr. ☐ Ms.

Name:

Job title:

Address:

.....

Tel.:

E-mail:

I will attend the session: ☐ in person (**City, Country**) ☐ online

Hotel reservation

Information is available under Additional Information.

Visa

☐ Please provide me with a personalized invitation letter for visa purposes (please attach a copy of passport information page).

Photographs

I agree that photographs at the session may be used for UPOV social media purposes

☐ yes ☐ no

Signature:

Date:

APENDICE II DEL ANEXO IV

Additional information to page 1 of Circular U xxxx: (*)

Meeting venue

The TWX session will be held in the xxxxxxxxxx Room of the Hotel xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx [or the venue address if it is different from the hotel] and will start on [starting date] at 9 a.m. and end on [ending date] at [ending time].

[The preparatory workshop will take place on [date] at [venue], starting at [starting time] and end on [ending date] at [ending time]].

Hotel

[pro domo: hotel reservation should be made directly with secure site of hotel – in order to avoid security issues with credit card details]

Rooms can be reserved at:

Novotel Atria Nîmes Centre
5 Boulevard de Prague
30000 NIMES, France
Tel.: + 33 4 66 76 56 00
E-mail: h0985-sb1@accor.com

Hotel reservations must be made by the participants themselves by **May 1, 2023**, to benefit from special rates. The booking code **TWF54** must be mentioned on the email.

Please note that each hotel reservation e-mail means a definite booking at the hotel in question and commits the participant *vis-à-vis* the hotel (note: please see Cancellation Policy below). Any further changes thereafter, i.e. changing of dates, prolongation or cancellation of stay by a participant, have to be negotiated and paid by the participant in question. Any bills sent to UPOV or the hosting office will be forwarded to the participant concerned.

The price (tax, buffet breakfast and internet wi-fi included) per night will be:

Single room: 120 €
Double room: 130 €

The hotel accepts VISA / MASTER CARD / AMEX

The Hotel has a restaurant with buffet for lunch and dinner. In addition, there are many restaurants around the hotel where participants will be able to find several options for lunch and dinner.

Cancellation policy

There will be no hotel charge for cancellations made 30 days prior to the arrival date.

Hotel reservation e-mail draft

To: [name and e-mail of hotel]

Reference: UPOV TWX/##

APENDICE II DEL ANEXO IV

Dear Sir, Madam,

I will be attending the UPOV TWX/##meeting which will be held in your hotel from [dates], and would like to make a room reservation as follows:

Arrival date:

Departure date:

No. of nights:

Room type: Single [insert price] / Double [insert price] [breakfast included] (delete as necessary)

Name of guest(s):

e-mail for confirmation:

Please could you confirm payment instructions

[Add any meal options that need to be indicated to the hotel]. [delete as appropriate]

Travel arrangements

Frequent connections with bus or train are available from airport to [city name]. Further information concerning the hotel and [city name] will be sent later to each participant.

[Additional information to be added, as necessary]

Visas

Please check if you require a visa for [country]. If an official invitation issued by the host country is required for your visa, please indicate this by ticking a box on the registration form and attach a copy of your passport when you send your registration form to the [host institute and host email:].

Exchange rate

The currency in France is the Euro (EU). The currency exchange is approximately: 1USD = 0.9 € (as of January 3, 2023)

Climate

The month of July is characterized by temperatures of 31°C (maximum) and 19°C (minimum). July is in the beginning of summer and a dry season. The length of the day is around 15h12 of daylight (sunrise at 6:11am and sunset at 21:23pm). We will provide sunscreen lotion and mosquito repellent for the technical visit, do not forget your sun hat!

Electricity supply

TC/60/6

APENDICE II DEL ANEXO IV



The voltage in France is 230 volts, plug type E (fits to type C as well).

[Sigue el apéndice III del anexo IV]

APENDICE III DEL ANEXO IV

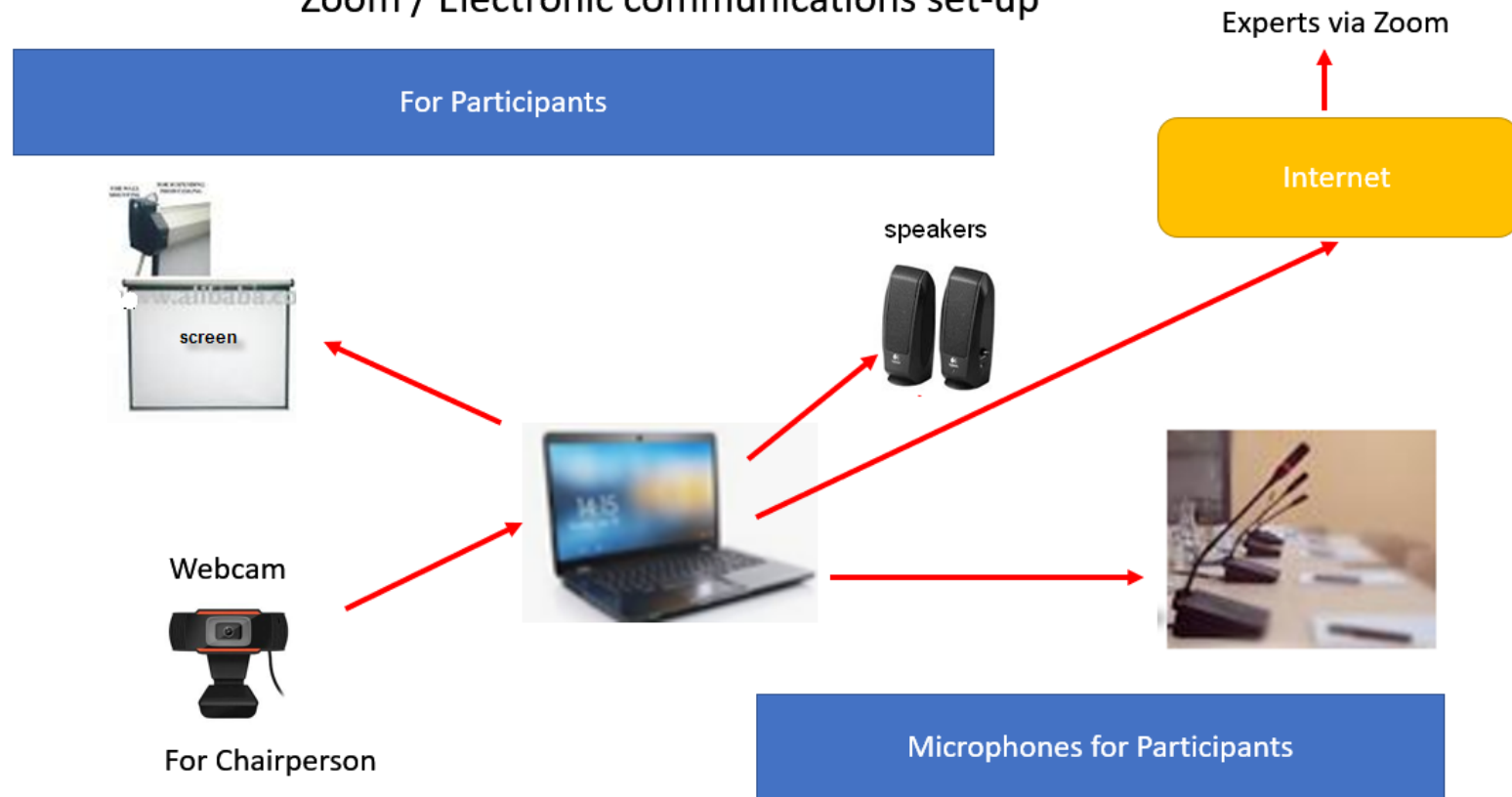
UPOV Technical Working Party for (TWA/TWF/TWM/TWO/TWV) xxth Session,
place, country, date: Draft Workplan

	Day 0	Day 1		Day 2		Day 3	Day 4	
09.00	[TECHNICAL WORKSHOP] (optional)	<u>Opening / Adoption of the agenda</u> <u>Short reports on developments in PVP</u> (items 3 and 4)		<u>Documents and agenda items other than Test Guidelines</u>		TECHNICAL VISIT* Program: Visit 1 Calibration exercise Visit 2 *(Reception and Technical Visit may be held on the same day)	<u>[Documents and agenda items other than Test Guidelines]</u> <u>Recommendations on draft Test Guidelines</u>	
10.30		COFFEE		COFFEE			COFFEE	
11.00		<u>Short reports (Continuation)</u> <u>Documents and agenda items other than Test Guidelines</u>		<u>Documents and agenda items other than Test Guidelines</u>			<u>Room 1</u> Test Guidelines subgroup	<u>Room 2</u> Test Guidelines subgroup
12.45		LUNCH		LUNCH			LUNCH	
14.00		<u>Room 1</u> Test Guidelines subgroup	<u>Room 2</u> Test Guidelines subgroup	<u>Room 1</u> Test Guidelines subgroup	<u>Room 2</u> Test Guidelines subgroup		<u>Recommendations on draft Test Guidelines</u> <u>[Date and place of next session]</u>	
15.30		COFFEE		COFFEE			COFFEE	
16.00		<u>Room 1</u> Test Guidelines subgroup	<u>Room 2</u> Test Guidelines subgroup	<u>Room 1</u> Test Guidelines subgroup	<u>Room 2</u> Test Guidelines subgroup		<u>Report on the Conclusions</u> <u>Closing of the session]</u>	
18.00							END OF SESSION	
20.00				RECEPTION				

[Sigue el apéndice IV del anexo IV]

Electronic communication system set up

Zoom / Electronic communications set-up



[Sigue el anexo V]

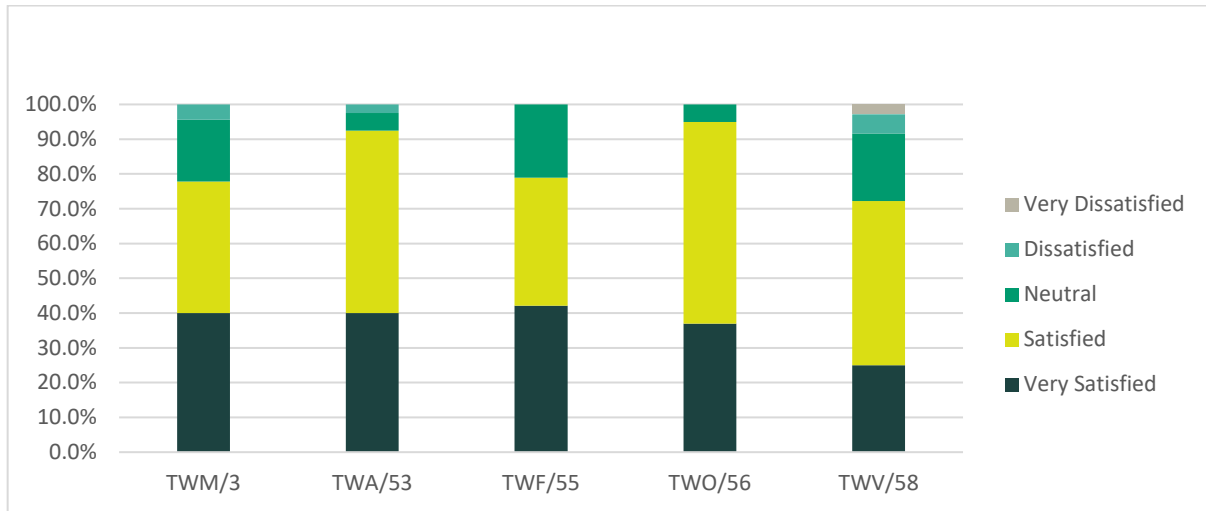
(EN INGLÉS SOLAMENTE)

2024 TWP MEETINGS PARTICIPANT SURVEY

How many persons took the survey?

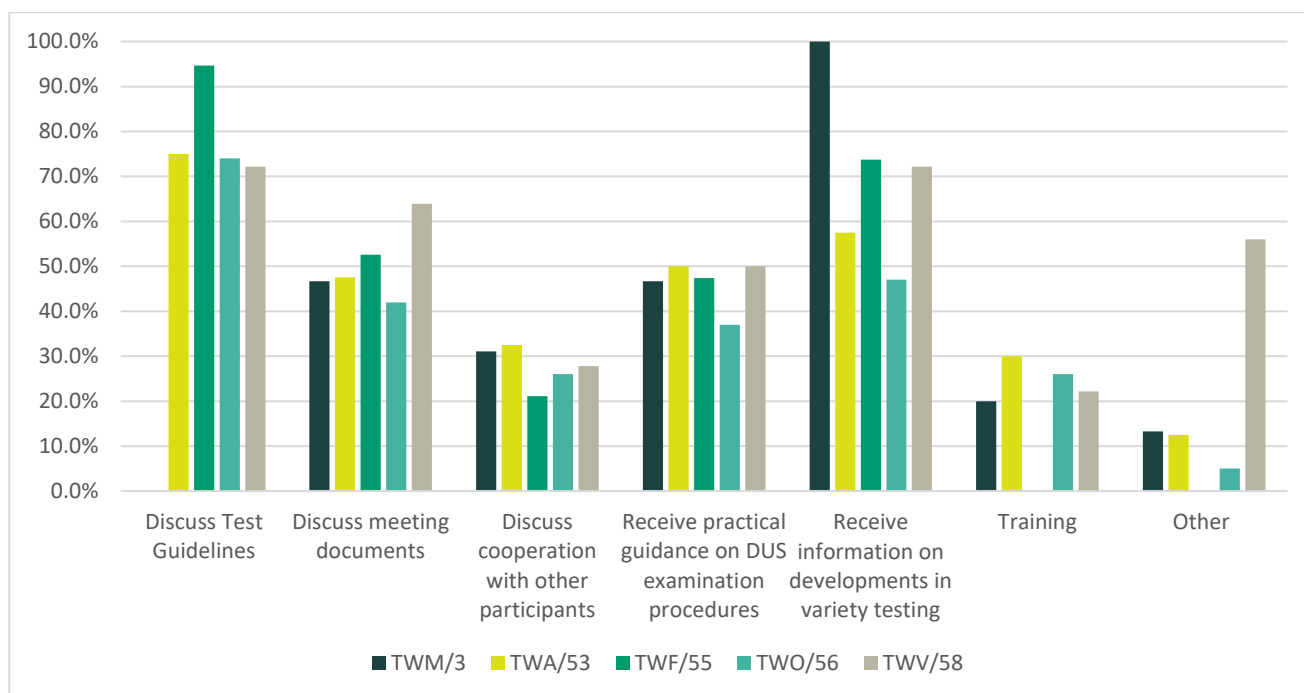
	TWM/2	TWA/53	TWF/55	TWO/56	TWV/58
Complete	41	37	16	17	31
Partial	13	3	4	5	12

(1) Overall, how satisfied were you with the meeting?



	TWM/2	TWA/53	TWF/55	TWO/56	TWV/58
Very Satisfied	40.0%	40.0%	42.1%	37.0%	25.0%
Satisfied	37.8%	52.5%	36.8%	58.0%	47.2%
Neutral	17.8%	5.0%	21.1%	5.0%	19.4%
Dissatisfied	4.4%	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%
Very Dissatisfied	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%

(2) Why did you participate in the meeting?



	TWM/2	TWA/53	TWF/55	TWO/56	TWV/58
Discuss Test Guidelines	0.0%	75.0%	94.7%	74.0%	72.2%
Discuss meeting documents	46.7%	47.5%	52.6%	42.0%	63.9%
Discuss cooperation with other participants	31.1%	32.5%	21.1%	26.0%	27.8%
Receive practical guidance on DUS examination procedures	46.7%	50.0%	47.4%	37.0%	50.0%
Receive information on developments in variety testing	100.0%	57.5%	73.7%	47.0%	72.2%
Training	20.0%	30.0%	0.0%	26.0%	22.2%
Other	13.3%	12.5%	0.0%	5.0%	56.0%

TWM/2

- show our work to colleagues
- learn about new tools that EOs and Stakeholders are investigating
- To share information with other participants and get feedback on new ideas
- to get informed about the COYU-spline-method update progress in DUSTNT software
- observer status
- share perspective

TWV/58

- Observe how leading experts present.

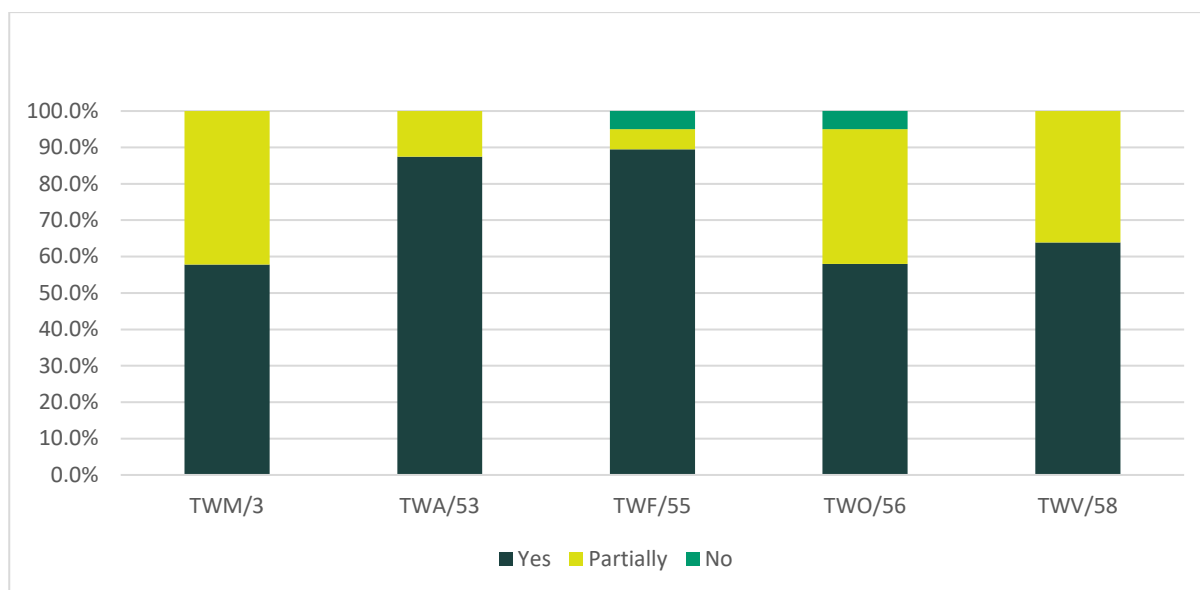
TWO/56

- Participation as an observer

TWA/53

- Learn about TG to support botanical data as a taxonomist for PVP works in my country.
- to provide information on developments in variety testing

(3) Were you able to acquire information on specific subjects of your interest?

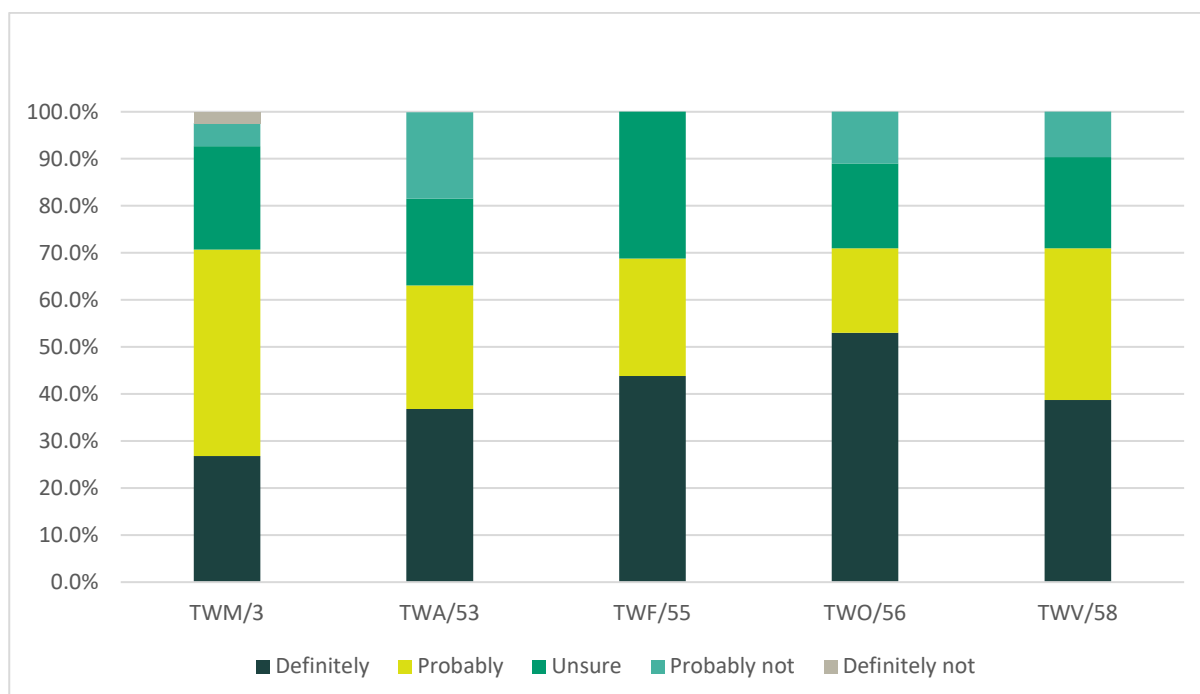


	TWM/2	TWA/53	TWF/55	TWO/56	TWV/58
Yes	57.8%	87.5%	89.5%	58.0%	63.9%
Partially	42.2%	12.5%	5.5%	37.0%	36.1%
No	0.0%	0.0%	5.3%	5.0%	0.0%

TWO/56

- : option "not applicable" missing

(4) Will you be able to attend the Technical Working Party meetings in person in the future?



	TWM/2	TWA/53	TWF/55	TWO/56	TWV/58
Definitely	26.8%	36.8%	43.8%	53.0%	38.7%
Probably	43.9%	26.3%	25.0%	18.0%	32.3%
Unsure	22.0%	18.4%	31.3%	18.0%	19.4%
Probably not	4.9%	18.4%	0.0%	12.0%	9.7%
Definitely not	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

- (5) Do you have suggestions to improve the work of the Technical Working Parties to support DUS examination?

TWM/2

- Not any so far. Everything runs perfectly well. Congratulations.
- I suggest that meetings be held in a hybrid format (in-person + virtual)
- Have a proper policy on the use of molecular markers and sharing of these data to maximize on the advantages of such technology in DUS
- I think the future DUS test model may be a combination of morphology and molecules, and the proportion of molecules will increase year by year. Therefore, more molecular biology experts are invited to attend the conference to promote the rapid development of DUS testing
- more detailed presentations with more background and better description of methods used
- maybe go on to encourage and produce more and more work/presentations, to share and to exchange with our community
- In-person meetings! If they must be online have a session to encourage conversation between participants. Over 200 people registered but only around 10% of them contributed. To help find hosts: Guidance for hosting meetings could be available online without the need to request it. Or the UPOV Office could inform the members and attach the info pack. Very few members will be able to extend an invitation at short notice, so a prompt from the office, well in advance of the meeting, would be helpful.
- We need greater discussion to enable interaction between experts in methods and DUS experts. This should be two way, covering how new ideas could be used in practice, gaining better understanding of the new ideas, etc. Time, structure and facilitation is required to encourage such discussions. They were largely lacking in this online meeting. It is a difficult objective but worthwhile.
- The online presentations are somehow missing the discussion & idea debate of the in-person meetings (a lot of which happened outside the formal meeting). As on-line and/or hybrid meetings continue maybe the format could change so member presentations have not only a summary of work but questions to ask. As the TWM covers a wide area of specialism, it would be good to have time to think about the presentations before needing to make comments.
- Make all meetings in hybrid fashion, or face to face only. Virtual meetings do not lead to the required interactions between the UPOV members.

TWV/58

- focus on harmonization among members
- I have noticed that the last 2 years (especially in 2023) agreed during the TWP documents are stuck in TC and TC-EDC. In some cases, it is not clear what happened to these documents (revisions of guidelines) and what their status is. It is also difficult for the LE to follow and understand the changes made by the TC/TC-EDC, especially if LE was not present during TC/TC-EDC meetings. How can we improve it?
- In person meeting will facilitate better discussions and flexibility in discussion of Technical Guidelines as well as some key topics like disease resistance
- Meetings on-line are less interactive than meetings live, therefore a suggestion to keep it a bit interactive: would it be an option to ask each year 1 or 2 countries/ participants, to prepare a short film, showing a chosen trial, from a chosen crop, just to illustrate how we are working and maybe explain a little about the climate, growing facilities, the collection in this country... we could learn more about different crops in different countries, just 5 min film, something like this? on voluntary basis
- Have "in person" Technical Working Parties. That is the best way to promote this type of exchanges.
- Maintain virtual meeting or both online and offline formats to allow more members to participate in the Technical Working Parties.
- We need hybrid meetings for all TWPs. This will allow for more exposure to DUS examination. The less experienced countries need to be enabled to learn from the more experienced countries. There should be a lot of time dedicated to sharing experiences on DUS examination. And trying to find out where are the bottle necks in less experienced countries.
- I think is better the online meeting than in person because in that way is more probably that expert, examiners and other people can attend the meeting.
- It is the first time Mauritius participating as an observer in the process and it was a very good experience as many experts provide different views. Certainly, it will be great if countries which went thru registration of new varieties to share their findings specially with respect to issues they got compared to existing varieties as it will be like an on-hand experience for new members.
- Information should be distributed on time to be reviewed. Clear drawing/illustrations should also be indicated and marked correctly.

TWO/56

- greater opportunities for face-to-face discussion and technical visits
- Offline meetings would better facilitate communication but would reduce the number of participants and the number of countries involved.
- having a specific trial to illustrate a crop and the characteristics proposed or under revision could be useful. (I remembered a lettuce trial, and turnip trial at TWV...).

TWA/53

- maybe more presentations to share about our facilities, our assessment techniques, our distinctness problems and improvement approaches...
- Visit the field trials
- In person meeting would be better and happy that UPOV TWA 2025 will be in person. This will further promote engagement
- Encourage the participation of new members. Perhaps, presenting a Test guideline with an expert from a more trained country or a presentation on their way of performing the DUS.
- How to harmonize the variation of QN, PQ is very important. Example variety is not right answer. UPOV have to find how to decide minimum difference of distinctness in measured data that has similar result with notes method. PQ has to be separated to several QN for accurate evaluation.
- According to the TWA/53 meeting, I found that this meeting gave room for everyone to share their knowledge, learning and receiving all information from the meeting. The meeting will produce valuable procedures including experts. So my suggestion is to keep doing this.
- On-site meetings allow for more human interaction. At such meetings, perhaps hands-on workshops on DUS practices could be organized, rather than just field excursions.
- For sub-groups, it would be useful to have the names of interested experts. Currently there is a footnote to direct to the list of participants. Members, observers and organizations often have more than one participant registered for a given TWP, which makes it difficult to contact the actual interested expert.
- I support TWAs in person, especially field trial visits would be very interesting. But also the online meetings are very fruitful, because it is very easy and cheap to take part in.
- At the end of the session, there was a discussion on how a Lead Expert or the UPOV Office would identify and contact interested experts from a particular country to participate in a subgroup discussion of a TG as the list of participants includes many more individuals from member countries. Maybe an easy way to do this would be to identify one expert per country for each TWP (this would typically be the main contact as the expert responsible for the DUS testing or examination in a member country).
- No, the discussions were clear and precise

TWF/55

- DUS practical guidance in the field for specific genus
- To try and carry out TWP meetings physically, exclusively, in order to improve discussions, and mutual understanding.
- Continue to have the technical webinar way to sharing the experiences of DUS examination of different species from UPOV members
- Continue to strive for harmonization & collaboration.
- as far as technically feasible plants (or parts) thereof could be brought to the meeting to discuss certain characteristics (e.g. for the discussion of guava TG: input was given from participants who know guava (almost) exclusively as a processed product and it was difficult for the leading expert to explain issues confronted with)
- I would very much appreciate a tool that allows for a comparison of TG versions (track changes). For instance, if a Lead Examiner decides to delete a characteristic from the list, then you are not aware of it until you put the new version together with the previous version, which is very labor some. (In theory this is possible by doing a comparison in word, but this often does not work due to the complex layout of the document.)

(6) Would you like to propose topics for future Trainings (Technical Webinars, Distance Learning or other)?

TWM/2

- I will discuss with ISTA the possibility of a joint workshop with UPOV and OECD in regards of method validation, evaluation of laboratory performance and accreditation.
- A webinar on Artificial intelligence technical aspects and the relationship with UPOV convention
- I consider it important to continue sharing members' experiences about the use of different software in image analysis. Also share if any member has experience in the use of artificial intelligence in DUS examination.

- Use and challenges of AI in DUS related examinations
- Elements from the TGP documents. Each of the subjects in them could become a training topic, focusing on basic DUS guidance.
- Technical Webinars have been good. More informal workshops on specific topics would also be good.
- I would like to receive trainings on the use of molecular markers for DUS assessment in grass and forage crops or in any other open-pollinated species that are more difficult to be evaluated than self-pollinated and hybrid varieties.
- Always good to include practical examination methods so we know how other members assess crops.
- I think AI-based talks were really good on the first day. More discussions on how AI, genomic information together with morphological characteristics will be great.
- Technical webinars - Image analysis in DUS testing Technical webinars - Uniformity and Distinctness assessment in the special cases, when COYU and COYD cannot be used (e.g. if DF is small). Further guidance for using Relative Variance Method, or ANOVA, or other statistical approaches for crops with small reference variety collection.
- Possible training or courses on how to make use of new technology Data collection methods during DUS examination by Member countries. This would be a great opportunity of sharing new technology not only by presentation but going through the new technology step by step. This could only be achieved if there is enough interest shown by member countries.

TWV/58

- learning with hypothetical cases, how markers can be used for the different aspects: 1) deciding on distinctness 2) deciding on uniformity 3) selecting trial varieties for the DUS trial
- VCU in vegetable crops DUS test in Asia/Africa/South America - just to share with us what are the problems/challenges etc. in DUS test in their countries.
- Increasing importance of disease resistance in Breeding and request for vegetable species
- Yes, on species that I have experience with.
- Perhaps helping countries to implement PRISMA and the e-PVP modules (DUS report exchange and so on)
- I would like to see more illustrated technical protocols for each character, like last year's pepper in Turkey.
- I think it would be a good idea to organize a distance learning with real examples about the entire process in order to register a variety from the point of view DUS test and it is very important to go deeper into the reference collection and the example varieties.

TWO/56

- Technical webinars
- It would be good to have training to develop testing guidelines.
- Process for developing TGs, and the role of the lead expert and the subgroup
- Data analysis in DUS testing 2. How to determine uniformity standards when using off-type method in guideline development.
- Due to the influence of objectivity and self-perception, the tester's decision criteria may be inconsistent, so how to harmonize the decision criteria and make the correct decision among UPOV member countries.

TWA/53

- use of molecular techniques in DUS; use of drone to assess some characteristics (es. green color of leaves).
- How to examine sensory characteristics.
- New techniques in DUS, including Artificial intelligence.
- Distance learning courses should continue, should be upgraded concerning to improve knowledge and practises of DUS experts.
- Technical webinar use of technology in DUS in the World
- It is a pity that I do not work on DUS examination, my task is just to support botanical data for researchers who work for the DUS examination.
- Use of molecular markers PBR and EDVs - a focus on genome editing How UPOV interacts with the WSP Training/guidance for lead experts - what is expected from them.
- I would like to congratulate on the new UPOV-Certificate program! The Webinars and Distance Learning courses are highly appreciated, especially for training of new colleagues on DUS-items. Every topic is welcome.
- As a new UPOV member and without much experience in the international area, are very important and necessary to have technical methodologies - standard procedures that will be needed to actually perform DUS examination in variety testing facilities. Taking into account that in the Republic of Armenia, the VCU (Value for Cultivation and Use) test are mainly carried out jointly with the DUS tests,

also if possible, to provide technical methodologies/guidelines on the VCU tests as well or as an offer to conduct Technical Webinars, Distance Learning etc.

- Technical Webinars and Distance Learning courses are very welcome from our side, our topics of interest are agricultural crops

TWF/55

- Technical webinars and also in field support
 - Distance learning courses like DL-205 or 305 on subjects specific for DUS testing activities.
 - Show the process how to set the scales (3, 5, or 9 or more than 9) for one QN Characteristics in order to make it meaningful for distinctness, especially based on the investigated values by statistics or other way, during developing Test guidelines?
- (7) Please add any further comments regarding the meeting, e.g: What did you like the most? What could be improved?

TWM/2

- Molecular marker for genotyping plant varieties. This topic needs to be developed
- Presentations were distributed well in advance and we're all very informative even so, I found not many questions from the participants, but the topics were very important.
- I consider that the format of the meeting should be hybrid (in-person + virtual)
- Participation was great showing the interest from UPOV members and I would propose to invite more speakers including researchers working on molecular markers and potential application to variety registration to broaden our scope. This year was good and can be better.
- I suggest that both online and offline meetings be held, and face-to-face communication can give us a deeper understanding of each other's research content.
- Providing a 1-2 page summary of the presented material with goals (e.g. practical relevance) and a list of the acronyms would be helpful for those, who are not experts on certain fields and may need some time to think about the topic to formulate questions and create a discussion at the time of the meeting. The online format has advantages and disadvantages. Some of them could be improved by e.g. requiring the speakers/presenters to have a headset to increase sound quality, or putting more emphasis on discussion, as the format is knowingly reducing it. Additionally, some documents were very late, e.g. the 2nd revision of the agenda to my knowledge was not shared on the UPOV website BEFORE it had to be accepted. The comments focus on possibilities for improvement, but this does not mean that the meeting did not have any positive aspects. I have learned a lot about ongoing projects and possibly future tools of DUS testing. Thank you very much, everyone, who has contributed to the TWM/2.
- the presentations were generally too superficial,
- interaction between participants was not satisfying - Documents provided by UK experts were very much appreciated. It is useful to have the PowerPoint presentation as an annex (possibly later) but the slides alone should not replace a document. The UK format should be requested as the standard. A clear document with a summary of the presentation allows better preparation of participants for the meeting in order to stimulate more discussion and exchange between participants. - audio and video quality of the chairperson and the office needs to be improved
- I think a hybrid solution between in person and distancial meeting should be envisaged to facilitate exchanges between participants
- like the most: quality et diversity of the presentations be improved: really it works of good means but it's always more constructive and friendly in person ;-)
- I liked the content of the presentations. The interaction with online participants could be improved. Breakout sessions or smaller "getting to know you" type events. I hate to say it (because I am one of the offenders), but stricter deadlines for papers and their publication, particularly where a change is being proposed or an opinion is sought.
- It was great to see a wide range of topics discussed, especially new methods, which may be of benefit for DUS examination, either soon or a little later. It is really important that the TWM does continue to act as a forum for discussion of research level ideas, even if the ideas may take some time to come to fruition. The TWM is a great place to get feedback on such ideas. There needs to be ,ore time for open discussion around topics, particularly around prospects for new methods in DUS examination. I note the time pressure due to the compacted schedule of the online meeting (due to time zones), perhaps coupled with late arrival of some papers. This did not encourage discussion around papers given. And perhaps this discussion needs to be facilitated. Rather than just questions about the content, there could be discussion about how the method might be used.
- Maybe to have an on-line coffee? Or a time for discussion of topics covered.
- The effectiveness of presentations in terms of content and duration, punctuality and adherence to the schedule.

- Compliments to the UPOV team for the preparation of this meeting and also to madam chair during the meeting, very efficient and pleasant to follow
- I missed background information about the presented talks. Perhaps a small intro on the purpose of the presentations in the program could help to guide the audience through.
- The meeting was well organized and very informative.

TWV/58

- open discussion less formal language
- I like that documents with proposed changes for discussion are presented on the screen and that all new changes are directly visible on the screen (Romy, thank you). Leontino's support is also greatly appreciated. 2) A point of improvement might be to try to limit the length of some participants' speeches. Maybe it's worth making some people realize that they talk too much, too long and tend to repeat topics.
- Discussions on Revisions of Test Guidelines, very useful. Promoting in person meetings to help discussions of some key topics like disease resistance. Breakout sessions are ok but they leave no room for breaks if one is to follow consistently.
- Guidelines in one language at UPOV level (ENG) will be for the future easier and I think no problem, at national level people may use their own translated guidelines.
- UPOV should actively seek the participation of members to organize Technical Working Parties and should take care to foster the interaction among all participants (members, observers and organizations) In person interaction has proven time and again that great solutions can be achieved to everybody's satisfaction. I'm also positive in thinking that this would be in benefit of PVP as applying companies might consider starting protecting their material in regions where they are directly acquainted with the registration panel. This is the reason why I scored a "Dissatisfied" rating for this TWV. It is quite disappointing to hear (again) "there were no offers"...
- Online session is comfortable and flexible, so it is OK to have.
- At present, the overall process is very good in the process of technical documents and TGs. It is hoped that more national testing techniques and experience would be gained through the Technical Working Parties, and the Technical Working Parties need to increase the motivation of members to participate in the report in some way.
- I feel that with the online version of the TWPs, there is a huge decrease of interaction. There were several topics (e.g. disease resistance) that required a face-to-face meeting, and a lot of time dedicated to it. We see that with online meetings, there are still only the same few (EU) countries interacting. And the large majority is silent. The benefit of face-to-face meetings is that the less experienced countries can be reached during the coffee breaks and so on. But with the virtual meetings, the less experienced countries are just silent, and do not learn much. It may seem flattering to see the higher numbers of participation, but the interaction between is less and impact on awareness raising is decreased. Also there is no possibility to improve the technical aspect through a technical visit. Last year in Turkey there were good interactions in the greenhouse, and less experienced countries could learn from those discussions. But online this is not possible.
- Everything was OK, thanks!
- the meeting was transcribed into English and it was easy to understand if you are Spanish speaking. I think is everything ok.
- I am not aware whether there is an online platform where you can comment on the TQs and propose changes throughout the year, thus when the time come for the TWP, it will be easier to gather all comments and few days before the TWP, ask the participants to provide additional details if required
- Discussion of Test Guidelines for different crops.
- I liked the robust discussions from different leading experts from different countries and how participants were given time to explain themselves, relating to any topic that was discussed.
- In many cases there was a good discussion on topics. But I was quite disappointed that in several cases UPOV seemed to discourage addition of disease resistance characteristics and other documents just because of cost considerations (manual translation necessary) . It seems very important that we add characteristics and documents to the UPOV system for harmonisation and clarification. But the considerations of UPOV seem to discourage this.
- In some topics, especially in disease resistance, it would be good to discuss thoroughly (not only technically). Such as harmonization.

TWO/56

- I really like the format of virtual meetings. It would be more kind if the guidelines draft could reflect the traces of each modification.
- In the workshop session for testing guidelines, the meeting can be shortened for guidelines that have been discussed multiple times or have fewer traits; the discussion time should be increased for

guidelines that are discussed for the first time, have a lot of feedback, or have a lot of traits. In this way, it is ensured that each guideline has sufficient time for in-depth discussion.

- I wonder how to increase the active participation of delegations. Not their presence, but the fact that they express themselves or ask questions. This year, although there were more than thirty delegations (members, observers, organizations), i.e. around 90 people registered, it was still the same 7-8 people who expressed their views. Mostly Europeans, with the risk of a predominantly European-centric approach.
- It was very nice to receive all documents. This kept me updated, also if it was not discussed to save time, or if I was not able to follow that part of the meeting.

TWA/53

- Barley
- Every participant is to attend the TWA meeting. UPOV office should give a certificate of attendance at the meeting.
- I think, everybody could have better understanding on new characteristics or improvement characteristics with more explanations by shred presentations. But maybe it would be better in person
- Some audios of participants were no good.
- No much to improve since the Secretary has made a very efficient work. Test guidelines has the most interesting moments.
- keep online meetings
- Whether it is virtual or gathering meeting, there is limited person who speaks in the meeting. But virtual meeting lacks field experience. TWA needs to do in gathering meeting.
- Everything was okay.
- I learned in each discussion
- The presentations of new techniques used for DUS examination as well as part of the discussion on TG are perfectly useful.
- None.
- TG revisions part was very interesting
- Clarification on attending future meetings: The reason I probably will not attend future TWA meetings is that I moved to another position within my organization. Someone else will take over my TWA responsibilities.
- There was not enough time given to some discussions, which perhaps resulted in confusion over the outcomes when it came to finalizing the reports. Perhaps the in-person element will help with this next year. This session there was some engagement from some new faces, which was good. I think better use of the breakout rooms would be helpful. I only managed to join one over the week as the sessions overran and I prioritized a comfort break! But I did notice that people joined then left, so maybe more organized fun is required... or maybe I should have been more pro-active in announcing that I will be in the breakout room in a moment (opportunity for me to improve!) I really like the information for first time participants and new members... this was not my first meeting but I certainly learned a few bits and refreshed some things I had long forgotten. Perhaps an addition to that section would be the process for documents and TGs (unless it was already there and I have missed it). Overall I thought the meeting was good. The Chair did an excellent job (as expected) and was clearly well supported by the UPOV Office. Congratulations all round. Hope to see you next year!
- I found it great, how work was progressed, especially the direct work in the documents on the screen during the discussions (congratulations to that). It is also very appreciated, that the work followed the work plan, so it was possible to follow interesting guidelines and to skip others.
- Since all documents are discussed the 1st day, would it be useful to dedicate a RESERVE TIME (the next morning to recap and to discuss anything that we did not have enough time to discuss the 1st day). For example, Margaret summarized her work and progress on the TC subgroups on TGs; but, the group did not have time to comment or discuss this thoroughly. Although there will be an opportunity to discuss this further, a RESERVE TIME can also assist the Chair.
- To stimulate discussion about draft test guidelines before the meeting, it will be good to know why countries or experts have indicated that they are interested. Some experts/countries are mentioned as interested expert/country, but are not contributing to the discussion at all (not online during the preparation of draft test guideline and not during the discussion at the meeting). It is difficult to know which countries are actively testing the species mentioned in the test guideline. Some countries have experience, but are not actively testing the species. It will be an improvement when these countries are separated.
- Many valuable presentations were presented, which please also share with us electronically and the most interesting was the fact that DUS tests can be carried out one site in two years versus two sites in one year, about which it is requesting to have additional information.
- Native English speakers might proactively support the wording of new documents
- no any significant comments, the agenda was good, the timeline was good, discussions were good,

TWF/55

- Audio and microphone Guidelines to have a well standard listening
- I enjoyed interacting with top experts in pomological description, which helps me to improve my editing of the Register. There are very few Americans and Mexicans in these meetings; it would be great to have more. I prefer meeting in person!
- A real discussion with direct reply, or spontaneous reaction, to particular comments, was impossible; no non-verbal reaction (nodding, emotional support) possible. Providing virtual meeting rooms during the breaks are appreciated.
- I am interested in the Test guidelines discussion and also interested in technical field visit.
- Carole did a great job as Chair. She spoke clearly/concisely, was kind/polite and kept everyone on track. Also, Leontino and Romy did a fabulous job as always. Great & "fruitful" meeting!
- The virtual meetings are not easy but the TWF 2024 was very well done
- Allow for more time to submit comments to TG's, 1 month is not sufficient. Providing the agenda and the schedule much sooner, would allow experts on specific crops to only participate those sessions, without them having to block an entire week.

[Fin del anexo V y del documento]