

**Technical Committee**

**TC/56/9**

**Fifty-Sixth Session  
Geneva, October 26 and 27, 2020**

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**PREPARATORY WORKSHOPS**

*Document prepared by the Office of the Union*

*Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. The purpose of this document is to provide a report on the preparatory workshops held in 2020 and to present proposals for 2021.
2. The TC is invited to consider whether to organize preparatory workshops as a series of webinars, to be organized at suitable dates according to the schedule of TWP sessions, in conjunction with workshops with physical participation, where requested, as set out in paragraphs 14 to 21 of this document.
3. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

TC: Technical Committee  
TWA: Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops  
TWC: Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs  
TWF: Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops  
TWO: Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees  
TWV: Technical Working Party for Vegetables  
BMT: Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, and DNA-Profiling in Particular  
TWPs: Technical Working Parties

4. The structure of this document is as follows:

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**BACKGROUND**

5. The TC, at its thirty-eighth session<sup>1</sup>, agreed, on the basis of document TC/38/12, to the holding of a preparatory workshop before each Technical Working Party (TWP) meeting, with the aim of helping some of the delegates to participate more actively at the meeting (see document TC/38/16 "Report", paragraphs 215 to 218).
6. The TC, at its fifty-fourth session<sup>2</sup>, agreed the program for preparatory workshops for 2019. The TC agreed that the following contents should be added to the preparatory workshops (see document TC/54/31 "Report", paragraphs 323 to 327):
  - Procedure for the adoption of Test Guidelines by correspondence;
  - Role of the leading expert drafting Test Guidelines and how to participate as an interested expert
  - Possibilities for international cooperation in DUS examination

<sup>1</sup> held in Geneva from April 15 to 17, 2002

<sup>2</sup> held in Geneva on October 29 and 30, 2018

7. The TC, at its fifty-fourth session, agreed that the Chairpersons of the TWPs should discuss in conjunction with the organizers, the Chairperson of the TC and the UPOV Office on the procedure for individual cases.

8. The TC, at its fifty-fifth session<sup>3</sup>, recalled that preparatory workshops were an opportunity for training local participants and agreed that TWP hosts should have the possibility to decide whether or not to organize a preparatory workshop prior to the TWP session (see document TC/55/25 "Report", paragraphs 226 and 227).

9. The TC, at its fifty-fifth session, agreed that TWPs should be invited to discuss the possible organization of preparatory workshops when considering date and place of their future sessions.

#### REPORT ON PREPARATORY WORKSHOPS HELD IN 2020

10. No preparatory workshops were held in 2020 due to the measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The TWPs and BMT sessions in 2020 were held via electronic means with preparatory meetings organized to enable participants using the meeting platform. Written guidance for different types of participants at online meetings was developed (delegates, leading experts, chairpersons).

#### PROGRAM AND FORMAT FOR PREPARATORY WORK IN 2021

11. The TC, at its fifty-fourth session, agreed that the elements to be discussed during the preparatory workshop could be presented as an introduction to the respective agenda items during the normal program for the TWPs and BMT sessions. The TC agreed that the group exercises should continue to take place and that a national workshop could take place on the day before the TWP sessions for local experts. (see document TC/54/31 "Report", paragraph 325).

12. The elements to be discussed during the preparatory workshop were presented as an introduction to the respective agenda items during the normal program of the TWA, TWC, TWF and BMT, at their sessions in 2019. Feedback from participants was not satisfactory, with mentions to insufficient time to address the topics presented and lack of interaction between new and experienced participants.

13. The TC, at its fifty-fifth session, agreed that the UPOV Office should explore the possibility of recording a "webinar" to make part of the content of the preparatory workshop available online for distance learning (see document TC/55/25 "Report", paragraph 228).

#### Proposal:

14. It is proposed that the preparatory workshops in 2021 are organized in the form of a series of webinars at suitable dates according to the schedule of TWP sessions. The webinar presentations would be recorded and made available online, but not the discussions.

15. Experts from members would be invited to make presentations on selected contents and act as panelists for discussions.

16. Practical exercises would be organized in accordance with the agreement of the TC at its fifty-fourth session.

17. A proposal to organize the preparatory workshops as online webinars is also considered in document TC/56/12 "Increasing participation of new members of the Union in the work of the TC and the TWPs."

18. Detailed arrangements concerning the webinars would be finalized by the Office of the Union in coordination with the chairpersons of the TWPs and BMT.

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<sup>3</sup> held in Geneva on October 28 and 29, 2019

19. The following content is proposed for the webinars in 2021:

Webinar 1:

- (a) Introduction to UPOV and the role of UPOV Technical Working Parties (TWPs)
- (b) Overview of the General Introduction (document TG/1/3 and TGP documents)
  - Characteristics as the Basis for DUS Examination and Selection of Characteristics.

Webinar 2:

Guidance on drafting Test Guidelines – part I (document TGP/7)

- (a) Method of Observation (MS, MG, VS, VG);
- (b) Types of Expression (QL, PQ, QN), notes and distinctness;

Webinar 3:

Guidance on drafting Test Guidelines – part II (document TGP/7)

- (a) Subject of the Test Guidelines, Material Required and Method of Examination;
- (b) Shape and Color Characteristics;
- (c) Example Varieties;

Webinar 4:

The process for developing UPOV Test Guidelines:

- (a) Web-based TG Template; Additional Standard Wording; and Guidance Notes;
- (b) Role of the leading expert drafting Test Guidelines and how to participate as an interested expert

Webinar 5:

UPOV online resources

- (a) UPOV member laws: UPOV Lex
- (b) PBR Applications: UPOV PRISMA PBR Application Tool
- (c) DUS Examination: GENIE database, UPOV Code
- (d) Variety denomination/novelty: PLUTO database

Webinar 6:

- (a) Situation in UPOV Concerning the Possible Use of Molecular Techniques in DUS Examination
- (b) The Concept of Essentially Derived Varieties
- (c) The Role of UPOV in Variety Identification

20. The webinar presentations would be recorded and made available online, but not the discussions.

21. In addition, subject to a request by the hosts of the TWP, including the BMT, workshops with physical participation could be organized in conjunction with the TWP sessions. The content would then be adapted according to the particular context.

*22. The TC is invited to consider whether to organize preparatory workshops as a series of webinars, to be organized at suitable dates according to the schedule of TWP sessions, in conjunction with workshops with physical participation, where requested, as set out in paragraphs 14 to 21 of this document.*

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