



International Seed Testing Association

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Document OGM19-02

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting 2018

This document contains the draft Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting 2018, published on the ISTA web site within two months following the Ordinary General Meeting as defined in the ISTA Articles.

If there are no comments requiring amendment to the minutes within the subsequent two month period, the minutes will be considered approved. If there are comments and the comments are accepted by the Executive Committee, then the minutes including the comments will be considered approved and published on the ISTA web site.

Any comments about these minutes will be considered at the Ordinary General Meeting 2019, to be held in Hyderabad, India.

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The Ordinary General Meeting of the Association

1. Call to Order

The President of ISTA, called the Meeting to order.

2. President's Address

To the invited organisations OECD represented by Mr Csaba Gaspar, Mr John Mukua, representative of the Alliance for Commodity Trade in East and Southern Africa and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, representatives of the ISTA Designated Authorities, ISTA members I extend a warm welcome to the 2018 Ordinary General Meeting of the International Seed Testing Association.

Today is the last day of the official programme of the 2018 ISTA Annual Meeting. Before beginning my opening address I would firstly like to extend a very special welcome to the ISTA Honorary Life President Professor Atilio Lovatto. This is the first Annual Meeting that Professor Lovatto has been able to attend since 2010; welcome Atilio.

The 2018 Annual Meeting is the first in South or East Asia since the 2005 Annual Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. ISTA is very pleased to be once again holding its Annual Meeting in South East Asia and in particular in Sapporo Japan. This has been a very successful meeting attended by 177 participants from 39 countries and distinct economies, including 74 participants from the South East Asia region. The active participation by all those at the meeting demonstrates the strong interest in the work of ISTA.

The order of business will appear on the screen as it appears in OGM18-01 "Agenda for the Ordinary Meeting 2018.

Under Agenda point 8. Consideration and adoption of the proposed changes to the ISTA Articles an Article Change proposal to change the in ISTA basis on which the OGM needs to be quorate form the number of Designated Authorities within the Association to the total number of Designated Members voting members nominated to vote by the ISTA Designated Authorities. The relevant document for this vote is Document OGM18-05 Article Change Proposal 2019.

Under Agenda point 12. Any other business raised by a Member, of which notice in writing has been received by the Secretary General three months prior to the date of the meeting there is a motion for accepting the TOP "ISTAs position on integrating advanced technologies in classical seed testing methods". Two presentations will be made for this motion. One to from the proposers of the motion and one from the Executive Committee before discussion of and vote on the motion by the membership. The relevant document for this vote is Document OGM18-08 Motion for accepting TOP "ISTAs position on integrating advanced technologies in classical seed testing methods".

Under Agenda Item 13. Any other business raised by consent of the Executive Committee the membership will be asked to vote on the exemption of Annual Meeting and Congress registration fees by Executive Committee members. The relevant document for this discussion and vote is OGM 18Exemption of Payment of Annual and Congress Meetings Registration Fees by ISTA Executive Committee Members.

As required under the Articles of the Association, the relevant documents were posted in April 2018, two months prior to the ISTA Ordinary General Meeting, to the ISTA Designated Authorities, ISTA Members and other stakeholders.

As in previous years text being voted on will appear on the screen. Voting will be by the Power Vote keypads. I would like to remind you that the meeting today will be recorded. This is to give a record for the minutes.

I now ask The Secretary General to call the roll of designated members entitled to vote.

3. Roll Call of Designated Members entitled to vote

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Argentina | Ignacio Aranciaga |
| Australia | Lindsay Cook |
| Brazil | Jose Mauricio Pereira |
| Canada | Steve Jones |
| Estonia | Mari Jürman |
| Finland | Leena Pietilä |
| France | Joël Léchappé |
| Germany | Berta Killerman |
| Hungary | Zita Ripka |
| Iran | Aidin Hamidi |
| Italy | Rita Zecchinelli |
| Japan | Masatoshi Sato |
| Netherlands | Erik van Egmond |
| New Zealand | Craig R. McGill |
| Norway | Eivin Meen |
| Philippines | Ruel C. Gesmundo |
| Poland | Irena Gera |
| Russian Federation | Alexander M. Malko |
| S.C.T. of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu | Wen-Chuan Chung |
| South Africa | Joan Sadie |
| Sweden | Pernilla Andersson |
| United Kingdom | Valerie Cockerell |
| United States of America | Ernest Allen |
| Zambia | Mable M. Simwanza |
| Zimbabwe | Claid Mujaju |

4. Comments received on the Minutes of the previous Ordinary Meeting

No comments were received on the minutes of the 2017 Ordinary General Meeting. As defined in the ISTA Articles the minutes of the 2017 Ordinary General Meeting are approved.

5. Report of the Executive Committee

ISTA President, Craig Mc Gill (New Zealand):

“It is my pleasure to present on behalf of the Executive Committee the Activity Report of the Executive Committee for 2017. I will take this opportunity to also cover the work that has occurred in 2018 up to nearly this Annual Meeting. I would like to acknowledge the work, therefore the contribution of all members of ISTA Executive Committee; the content of the report will cover 4-5 broad areas.

The Executive Committee elected for the 2016-2019 Triennium has members from Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America and Oceania and thus represents a wide geographic distribution, reflecting the ISTA membership.

The ISTA Strategy 2016-2019 is available on the ISTA Website. A number of projects are carried since 2016; one was the Seed Sampling template, which was finalized in 2017; there is one project still going on from the 2013-2016 Triennium –

EU Recognition of the use of the word “Accreditation”; we are currently waiting for a response from the EU.

In Denver, the ECOM agreed an Action Plan for the implementation of Accreditation for the use of DNA based Methods; the first step in this Action Plan is a Workshop for Auditors.

The ECOM decided to establish a Seed Science and Technology Working Group, within the Executive Committee.

Every 3 years, the President, Vice-President and Executive Committee of ISTA change. According to the Swiss law, there is a lot of documentation required, therefore the Executive Committee decided to register ISTA as an Association in the Swiss Commercial Register, which will make the hand-over process much easier every 3 years.

The Accreditation Working Group

- ❖ Chair: Rita Zecchinelli
- ❖ has a range of activities, including supporting and assisting the ISTA Accreditation and Technical Department
- ❖ Is revising the Quality Document for Secretariat certification based on ISO9001/2015
- ❖ an important task in terms of promoting the Accreditation throughout the world has been the translation of the ISTA Accreditation Standard into French, Spanish and German
- ❖ contributions have been also to revise the Protocol of Automatic Samplers, review of protocols and auditors needs
- ❖ Policy for Remote Audits, which will be for exceptionally circumstances such as the safety of the Auditors

I want to thank Branka Opra and Florina Palada for their contributions at this Working Group.

The Articles Working Group

- ❖ Chair: Steve Jones
- ❖ is responsible for the Article Change Proposals
- ❖ an important role of the group is also to keep an eye on any changes in ISTA and determinate if it will impact the Article

The Designated Authorities Working Group

- ❖ Chair: Joël Léchappé
- ❖ the broad aim of this group is to strengthen the relationships between the Association, the Designated Authorities and of course the Executive Committee, recognizing the importance of the DA within the Association in term of the voting rights

The Events Working Group

- ❖ Chair: Berta Killerman
- ❖ this WG is working with the Secretary General

The International Relations Working Group

- ❖ Chair: Joël Léchappé

- ❖ key-areas of activities have been collaboration and exchange of information with OECD, UPOV, and others; ISTA is having a meeting with OECD once a year
- ❖ collaboration with ISF

The International Relations Working Group

- ❖ Chair: Berta Killerman
- ❖ defines marketing policy for the Association
- ❖ marketing, communication and publications are becoming very important in today's world

The Technical Committee Working Group

- ❖ Chair: Valerie Cockerell
- ❖ ISTA Technical Committees are the heart of the organization
- ❖ the broad aim of this group is to define Technical Committees policies, and to identify ways in which the Technical Committees can operate more effectively
- ❖ this Working Group could not function without the support of ISTA Secretariat; we appreciate the work of Nadine Ettl and Andreea Militaru

The Science & Technology Working Group

- ❖ Chair: Leena Pietilä
- ❖ the aim is to strengthen science & technology within ISTA and to facilitate the implementation of new technologies for new tests

Thank you for your attention.”

Report of the Technical Committee Working Group

Technical Committee Working Group Chair, Valerie Cockerell (United Kingdom):

“Good morning everyone, I am pleased to give you the Report of the Technical Committee Working Group; this WG was introduced to support TCOM developments. ISTA Technical Committees are the heart of the Association; they are providing the majority of rules developments, training and knowledge through seminars and workshops, and are also producing Handbooks.

There can be many challenges in this work, and each TCOM can have its own issues; TCOMs in general can have common issues. Some examples of those are resources, including funding, the fact that sometimes we are too reliant on too few people, some of the TCOM members have a very high workload, or the communication within the TCOM can be difficult.

The purpose and aim of the TCOM Working Group, as Craig already said, is to define the TCOM Policy and try to identify ways in which the Technical Committees can operate more effectively and identify the means needed to enable this.

We had a Workshop in Zurich in February 2017 and a questionnaire was sent to the TCOMs; the focus was on the question “What could we do differently?” It was important to show that ECOM wants to help the TCOM progress.

The next topic is the TCOM Special Project Fund; in February 2018 we had an ECOM decision that 100 000 CHF will be made available from the reserves. This will allow TCOM to access additional funds, to take forward projects that add value for ISTA and their stakeholders. There will be an open call for project proposals, and the expectation is that this money will be spread on more than one project. The project proposals must align with the ISTA Strategy, and the project length is expected to be of 1 year up to maximum 2 years. It is intended to encourage collaborations across multiple TCOMs and co-founding with external organizations.

We intend to start this Special Project Fund from 2019; applications will be requested by the 15th January 2019. The idea will be to discuss the proposals in the ECOM February Meeting, and the decision to be expected by the end of February.

Thank you for your attention.”

Report of the Vegetable Seed Working Group

Rita Zecchinelli (Italy):

“Good morning everyone. This Working Group is chaired by Berta Killerman, and as she couldn’t attend this meeting, I present the Report on her behalf.

The objective of this Working Group is to identify existing challenges, opportunities and alternatives to current vegetable seed sampling and testing methodologies.

The ISTA Secretary General and ISTA Head of Accreditation and Technical Department will support this Working Group and attend all the meetings; the first meeting of this Working Group took place in February 2017, at the ISTA Secretariat.

We have planned to have meetings in the future, the next one will be in October at the Secretariat, and then in February 2019, in Germany.

I want to thank on behalf of Berta to everyone involved in the work of this group.”

ISTA Secretary General, Dr. Andreas Wais invited the designated members to vote on the Report of the Executive Committees.

Voting Result: 28 YES Votes

6. Report of the Secretary General

ISTA Secretary General, Andreas Wais (Switzerland):

“We have 2 new members at the ISTA Secretariat: Fabiola for Publication, Marketing and Communication and Neelam Lagah, as Audit & PT Administrator.

The development of the Membership is very continuous over the last years, and at the end of 2017 we had 225 Member Laboratories; we are growing in a good and healthy way. We have as well growth in the Personal Members and Associate Members.

We have two new member-countries inside the Association: Senegal and Afghanistan.

I would like to invite Florina to present the statistics on laboratories and on Accreditation.”

ISTA Head of Accreditation & Technical Department, Florina Palada (Switzerland):

“Good morning. I will continue the Report related to the activity of the Accreditation Department; there were aspects already highlighted in the presentation of ISTA President, but I will go into details regarding some aspects and studies.

Today we will have an overview of 2017, and also our plan for 2018. As you already have seen, the Accreditation Department in 2017 was composed of me, my colleague Branka and the new part-time System Auditor – Christine Herzog, who joined ISTA Secretariat in beginning of 2017. For the administration of the Accreditation Department we had 3 colleagues: Sejal, Andreea, and in autumn we started working with Neelam.

An overview of 2017:

- ❖ **137 Accredited Laboratories**
- ❖ **46 Audits**
- ❖ **3 Contracted System Auditors**
- ❖ **15 Contracted Technical Auditors**

ISTA Secretary General, Dr. Andreas Wais suggest BDO as financial auditors for 2019 again.

The motion was accepted.

ISTA Secretary General, Dr. Andreas Wais invited the designated members to vote on the Report of the Secretary General.

Voting Result: 28 YES Votes

7. Fixation of Annual Subscription Fees

ISTA Vice-President, Steve Jones (Canada):

Current situation

ISTA membership fees are due before the 1st January each year and this fee pays for the next 12 months of membership to ISTA.

Any membership fee increases must be voted on at the annual voting meeting of the Association which is usually held every June. Any changes become effective the following January.

Proposal by the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of ISTA is proposing that:

- the membership fees remain unchanged; no increase is proposed
- if the membership fees are paid on or before 31 December 2018 a discount of 10%, rounded up to the nearest whole Swiss Franc amount, will be applied to the fees listed in the table below.

ISTA Vice-President, Steve Jones invited the designated members to vote on the Fixation of Annual Subscription Fees.

Voting Result: 28 YES Votes

8. Consideration and adoption of the proposed changes to the ISTA Articles

As described above the voting system in ISTA requires the OGM to be quorate based on a percentage of the Designated Authorities. It is the opinion of the Executive Committee that the basis for the quorum calculation should only be based on the total number of nominated Designated Members (DMs).

The logic behind this suggestion is, if a DM has not been nominated by their DA they cannot vote at the OGM. The reason this is important is it affects the calculation to determine the number needed to be quorate at the OGM. For example, there are currently 65 Designated Authorities (DAs) in ISTA therefore a quorum is 26 DAs. However, there are currently 4 DAs, which regularly do not nominate a DM. If we only count those DAs who nominated a DM, the number of DAs would drop to 61 and the quorum to 24 (i.e. 40% of 61 = 24.4 = 24).

Proposed change is as following:

(d) Designated Members designated by forty percent of the Designated Authorities who have nominated a Designated Member shall constitute a quorum at General Meetings of the Association. In determining the percentage, fractions less than 0.50 shall be dropped and those 0.50 or greater shall be regarded as a whole number. If the Ordinary General Meeting is not quorate a 'by correspondence' vote will be held to allow the adoption of Ordinary General Meeting agenda items.

Voting Result: 28 YES Votes

9. Consideration and adoption of the proposed Rules Changes 2018

Ernest Allen (USA) invited the designated members to vote on the proposed Rules Changes 2018.

PART A. INTRODUCTION OF EDITORIAL CHANGES

A.1. Editorial corrections

Voting Result: 26 YES votes

PART B. NEW SPECIES AND CHANGES TO SPECIES NAMES

B.1.1 Addition of *Eustoma exaltatum*

Voting Result: 28 YES Votes

B.1.2 Addition of *Felicia heterophylla*

Voting Result: 28 YES Votes

PART C. RULES CHANGES AND NEW METHODS REQUIRING A VOTE

Chapter 1: Certificates

C.1.1. Reporting germination results in Chapter 1: removing the reference to 'N'

Voting Result: 28 YES Votes

C.1.2. Clarification of reporting on ISTA Certificates

Voting Result: 27 YES Votes

Chapter 2: Sampling

C.2.1. Revision of 2.2.12 Treated seed

Voting Result: 28 YES Votes

C.2.2. Revision of 2.2.13 Coated seed

Voting Result: 28 YES Votes

Chapter 4: Determination of other seeds by number

C.4.1 To add procedures to detect the seeds of dust-like parasitic weeds in other genera

Voting Result: 27 YES Votes

Chapter 5: The Germination Test

C.5.1. Adding recommendation for the germination method for *Raphanus sativus*

Voting Result: 26 YES Votes

C.5.2. Changes in abnormal seedling evaluation

Voting Result: 28 YES Votes

C.5.3. Evaluation of the root system of *Spinacia oleracea* seedlings

Voting Result: 21 YES Votes and 6 NO Votes

C.5.4. Including that Crepe Cellulose Paper could be used for TP method

Voting Result: 26 YES Votes

C.5.5. Precision about TP or PP method

Voting Result: 28 YES Votes

Chapter 7: Seed Health Testing Methods

C.7.1. Modified 7-019a: Detection of *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *campestris* in *Brassica* spp. seed. Addition of pre-screening methods and use of TaqMan assay as a third option for suspect screening

Voting Result: 24 YES Votes

Chapter 8: Species and variety testing

C.8.1. Additional text for 8.9: Protein-based methods.

Voting Result: 25 YES Votes

Chapter 10: Weight Determination

C.10.1. Revision to whole of Chapter 10

Voting Result: 28 YES Votes

Chapter 11: Testing coated seeds

C.11.1. Revision of 11.2.5.4.1 Seed lot size – encrusted seed

Voting Result: 28 YES Votes

Chapter 15: Seed vigour testing

C.15.1. Addition of a species to the conductivity test

Voting Result: 28 YES Votes

Chapter 19: Testing for seeds of genetically modified organisms

C.19.1. Review and updates throughout whole chapter

Voting Result: 26 YES Votes

Ernest Allen (USA)

This ends the Rules Proposals discussion for 2018. Thank you very much everyone!

10. Consideration and adoption of the Reports of the Technical Committees

ISTA Secretary General, Dr. Andreas Wais invited the designated members to vote on the Reports of the Technical Committees.

Voting Result: 27 YES Votes

11. Announcement of the place and date for the next Ordinary General Meetings

❖ 32nd ISTA Congress 2019

Keshavulu Kunusoth (India):

“Good afternoon, everyone. On behalf of the Government of India – we would like to thank ISTA for choosing to hold ISTA Congress 2019 in Hyderabad. ISTA Congress will be organized in collaboration with the Government of India and Government of Telangana State.

Thank you very much and I would like to invite you all at the ISTA Congress 2019 to be held from 26 June to 3rd July 2019.”

❖ ISTA Annual Meeting 2020

Rita Zecchinelli (Italy):

“Dear colleagues, it is an honour and pleasure for me to announce that ISTA Annual Meeting 2020 will be organized in Verona, Italy. This will not be the first occasion for ISTA to visit our country; one of the first ISTA Meetings took place in Rome, in 1928 and in Bologna, in 2008. In Italy we have 7 laboratories participating in ISTA, and 5 of them are ISTA Accredited. This is because the seed sector is very important in our country and contributes to the agri-business with positive trends.

Italy is a seed-producing country, and an important country for seed import and export.

The invitation comes from my institute – CREA, and I hope to meet all of you there. More information regarding location and program of the Annual Meeting 2020 will be provided during ISTA Congress 2019.

Thank you.”

12. Any other Business raised by a Member, of which notice in writing has been received by the Secretary General two months prior to the date of the Meeting

Motion for accepting the TOP “ISTA position on integrating advanced technologies in classical seed testing methods”

ISTA Secretary General, Dr. Andreas Wais invited Mr. Michael Kruse to present the motion.

Michael Kruse:

“Ladies and gentlemen’s, dear colleagues, with this motion we would like to bring back to your attention a point that we discussed two years ago, in Tallinn.

The motion was initiated by me, Andrea Jonitz, Axel Goeritz and Norbert Leist. In this short motion that you have read in the document OGM 18-08, we highlighted first what is ISTA’s role, what is ISTA about, what have we defined in the strategy document two years ago.

ISTA is driving for Uniformity in Seed Testing - this is mentioned in our logo and ISTA Rules are standard in Seed Testing. Regarding Advanced Technologies, the question is if also here ISTA wants to have the role as standard setting body? This is our main question and the topic for this motion.

I would highlight a few goals, actions that we discussed:

- ❖ To develop scientifically sound rules and methods for sampling and testing that meet the needs of the seed sector”
- ❖ To develop and implement new test based on new technologies
- ❖ Encourage the application of new technologies, where appropriate, in seed sampling and testing, to increase efficiency and meet the needs of stakeholders

The members at the OGM 2018 ask the ECOM together with the relevant TCOMs to:

- (1) present a Rules Change Proposal for the inclusion of image analysis systems in Other Seed Determination at the OGM 2019 for voting,
- (2) develop an action plan for the inclusion of new technologies in other classical seed testing methods and to present this action plan at the OGM 2019,
- (3) include the Advanced Technology Committee (ATC) in this process and to adapt its objectives accordingly.

If the motion is accepted, we propose to establish at the soonest an ECOM/TCOM working group to draft the mentioned documents. We are prepared to contribute to this work actively and would be pleased to host a workshop in September/October 2018 in Hohenheim or Karlsruhe to further work on the action plan and to finalise the Rules Change Proposal for 2019.

Thank you very much for your attention.”

13. Any other Business raised by consent of the Executive Committee

Leena Pietilä (Finland):

“Good afternoon. ECOM established a Working Group on Science & Technology, in February 2018. The members are: Craig Mc Gill, Joël Léchappé, Valerie Cockerell, Keshavulu Kunusoth, Andreas Wais and me as a Chair. The background for this Working Group is the same as for the motion which was presented earlier. The aim is to strengthen science & technology within ISTA and to facilitate the development and implementation of new tests based on new technologies.

As a conclusion, Mrs. Leena Pietilä informed the participants that ECOM is not in favour of the motion earlier presented.”

14. President’s closing address

ISTA President, Craig Mc Gill (New Zealand):

“We are now coming to the end of the 2018 Annual Meeting in Sapporo, Japan.

The Annual Meeting began with a seminar on “Validated Vigour Tests and the scientific basis of their development”. Our thanks go to Alison Powell, Chair of the Vigour Committee and all those involved for organising the seminar for us. This seminar gave a brief history of the vigour testing, reasons why the vigour test is important for field and green house sowing of seed and the science behind and methods for assessing seed vigour. There was information in the seminar for those relatively new to vigour testing through to those with more experience. We also learnt some of the challenges, including technical, of bringing tests into the Rules, for example the cold test. The seminar also gave insight into why some of the vigour tests developed, for example, the development of the conductivity and controlled deterioration tests was in response to industry needs, and how the tests continue to evolve to meet industry needs. This reminds us that as an Association we must always be response to the needs of our stakeholders.

The seminar provided a good entry into the reports of the ISTA Technical Committees. The presentations on Tuesday provided an overview of the range and depth of work being undertaken by the Technical Committees, with further discussion

and questions from the membership during the poster session. The presentation of the Rules Committee is an important part of the ensuring that the Rules process is robust. It enables the membership as a group to raise concerns around the Rules proposals before they are voted on. At this meeting the discussion occurred two days before the voting on the Rules, rather than the afternoon before as in previous years. This has given more time for questions from the membership on Rules proposals to be discussed within the Technical Committees if needed. As a result of these discussions some Rules proposals have been amended or withdrawn. I am sure the new Chair of the Rules Committee, Ernest Allen, and new vice Chair, Sue Alvarez, have also appreciated the additional time.

As has been said many times the Technical Committees and their work remain at the heart of ISTA. The Executive Committee Events Working Group would appreciate your feedback on the Technical Committee format used for this meeting and other aspects of the meeting to help with planning future meetings.

The time given by the Technical Committee members is given freely to the Association. This CHF 100,000 special project funding instigated by the Executive Committee recognises this and that for large projects to be achieved additional financial support is needed. The time that the Technical Committees spend on the Rules development, development and production of handbooks, workshops and symposia / seminars, as well as advice to members and non-members would not be possible without the support of the home organisations of the Technical Committee Members. On behalf of the Association I thank the Technical Committee members and their respective organisations for all the time and support given.

The governance of the Association is through the ISTA Executive Committee who also give many hours free time to the Association with the support of their home organisations. As President I am very much appreciate the recognition of this made by the membership this afternoon in exempting Executive Committee members registration fees for Annual Meetings and Congresses.

Today the membership discussed a motion on ISTA's position on integrating advanced technologies in classical seed testing methods. This discussion has emphasised that technologies and how ISTA deals with them in the context of seed quality assessment is and will remain an important topic for the association. The discussion has also demonstrated that one of the strengths of the Association is our ability to debate important issues and find solutions that enable us to move forward as one ISTA.

The work of the Association in the areas of Rules development, accreditation, publication, marketing, organisation of workshops and events such as the Annual meeting we are now concluding as well as the daily management of the Association would also not occur without the ISTA Secretariat. On behalf of the membership and the Executive Committee I thank Andreas and his team within the Secretariat for all the work they do on behalf of the Association. That the association is running so seamlessly and is achieving what it is due to have an effective and efficient Secretariat.

At the end of the 2018 Annual Meeting the Association is in a sound position, it is in an excellent financial situation, an effective Secretariat, strong working relationships with international and national organisations in the seed sector and most importantly its Designated Authorities. This combined with the initiatives undertaken over the preceding 12 months, such as the Technical Committee Special funding, change to open access for Seed Science and Technology and the newly established working group on Science and Technology, gives the Association a strong platform on which to achieve its objectives of developing, adopting and publishing standard procedures for sampling and testing seeds and promoting uniform application of these procedures, for evaluation of seeds moving in international trade; and promoting research in all areas of seed science and technology.

Before closing I would like to thank all those involved in the organisation of the meeting. The Japanese Government through the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for their invitation for ISTA to hold its 2018 Annual Meeting in Japan and for their support, including financial, for the meeting. Masatoshi Sato from the

ISTA Executive Committee and the National Organising Committee, and the ISTA Secretariat, the staff, who have travelled to Japan to help with the meeting during this week and those who have remained behind to keep the Secretariat functioning. Thanks also to the staff at the Hotel who have worked quietly behind the scenes to ensure that the presentations, meeting and breaks all run smoothly. Their work on the venue, the Hotel Emisia have contributed greatly to the smooth running of the meeting. We are seven years late but I am sure you will all agree with me, we are very pleased to have made it at last.

Finally, I thank you the meeting participants, and in particular the ISTA Designated Voting Members, for your attendance and contribution. Without that contribution, the Association would not be able to make progress.”

15. Adjournment

ISTA President, Craig Mc Gill (New Zealand):

I wish you all a safe journey home and look forward to seeing you in Hyderabad in 2019.

The 2018 ISTA Annual Meeting is adjourned.