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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION
CONVENTION SECRETARIAT (IPPC)**

COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES – 21-22 MARCH 2013

Agenda Item 2(b) – Information from Relevant SPS Standard-Setting Bodies

The following communication, received on 11 March 2013, is being circulated at the request of the International Plant Protection Convention secretariat (IPPC).

1 INTRODUCTION

1. This report covers the period October 2012 - March 2013.
2. The activities of Capacity Development and the Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) are presented in separate documents.
3. The Committee is invited to note that as of March 2013, there are 178 contracting parties to the IPPC, with the most recent addition of Zimbabwe.

2 STANDARD SETTING

4. The IPPC Secretariat continues to phase in the new Standard Setting Process adopted by CPM-7 (2012) with some minor adjustments. A full report on the impacts of this new process will be reported to CPM-9 (2014).

2.1 Member consultation on draft ISPMs

5. The commenting period on draft ISPMs closed on 20 October 2012 and member comments were posted on the IPP (<https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=207803>). These comments will be considered by stewards and a revised version of the draft ISPMs will be presented to the Standards Committee Working Group (SC-7) meeting in May 2013.

2.2 Other meetings since the last SPS Committee meeting

6. In November 2012, the Standards Committee (SC) met and the report of this meeting is available on the IPP (<https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=13355>).
7. Ongoing work for the development of phytosanitary terms, diagnostic protocols and phytosanitary treatments progresses:
 - the Technical Panel for the Glossary met in late October 2012 (see report: <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110712>)
 - the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols met in November 2012 (see report: <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110710>); and

- the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments met in December 2012 (see report: <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110739>).

8. In addition, the IPPC Secretariat continues to use web based technology to hold virtual meetings.

2.3 Standard Setting documents going to CPM- 8 (2013)

9. The following two draft ISPMs will be presented:

- Draft revision of Annex 1 (*Approved treatments associated with wood packaging material*) to ISPM 15:2009 *Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade* (2006-011), Priority 1;
- Draft Annex 4 (*Pest risk analysis for plants as quarantine pests*) to ISPM 11:2004 *Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests including analysis of environmental risks and living modified organisms*, and core text consequential changes to ISPM 11:2004 (2005-001), Priority 2.

10. In line with the revised standard setting process adopted in 2012, this will be the first time that draft ISPMs will not be revised during the CPM.

11. In addition to these two ISPMs presented for adoption, a review of ISPMs with minor modifications resulting from the "consistency review" (2006-12) will also be presented. Detailed discussions will also take place on the following two topics: *International movement of grain* (2008-007) and *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* (2008-001), including an evening session on the topic of sea containers.

12. Proposed changes for the rules of procedure for the Standards Committee (regarding observers) and possible criteria to help determine whether a formal objection is technically justified will also be presented. Several issues relating to the standard setting procedure including an update on the implementation of the new standard setting process, a discussion on the relationship between ISPMs and standards created by other organizations, and a request by the Standards Committee for a CPM decision on implementation issues will be put forward.

2.4 Procedure manual for standard setting

13. The Secretariat updated the *Standard Setting* part of the IPPC Procedure Manual, taking into account the new IPPC standard setting procedure adopted by the CPM-7 (2012). The IPPC Procedure Manual for Standard Setting is now published independently from the rest of the IPPC Procedure Manual and is posted on the IPP (<https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=159891>).

2.5 Upcoming Standard Setting activities

14. Several meetings will be taking place over the next few months. The SC, followed by the SC-7, will meet in May 2013. Two expert working groups will be held in 2013 to develop draft ISPMs on *International movement of seed* (2009-003) and *International movement of used vehicles, machinery and equipment* (2006-004). The Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols and the Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine will meet in June 2013 and the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments will meet in July 2013.

15. The biennial call for topics for standards will commence on 15 May 2013 and close on 31 July 2013. The biennial call was cancelled in 2011 so it will have been four years since the IPPC last called for topics. All contracting parties, regional plant protection organizations and relevant international organizations are encouraged to submit topics for consideration.

16. The IPPC will again use the Online Comment System (OCS) to gather comments on draft ISPMs and specifications. The Codex Alimentarius has entered into an agreement for the further development and maintenance of the OCS and it is hoped that Codex will commence using the OCS this year.

17. The new substantial concerns commenting period, which allows contracting parties to comment on draft standards revised by the SC-7 and presented to the SC November 2013 meeting, will begin on 1 June 2013 (closing on 30 September 2013).

18. The traditional member consultation period, which allows CPM members to provide comments on draft standards approved by the SC, will begin on 1 July 2013 and be open for 150 days until 1 December 2013. It is hoped that this new extended period will allow CPM members more time to formulate their comments.

19. It is also anticipated that some draft specifications will be approved by the SC in May 2013 for member consultation, which will begin on 1 June 2013 and close after 60 days on 30 July 2013.

3 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

3.1 Contact points

20. IPPC contact points continue to update their information on the IPP, and the Secretariat encourages all contracting parties to ensure their information is up to date, and that they are fulfilling their national reporting obligations under the Convention.

3.2 International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP), <https://www.ippc.int> and phytosanitary resources page, <http://www.phytosanitary.info>

21. The IPP is currently being moved to a new software platform which is intended to provide a better interface for those visiting the IPP. This move will have just been finished at the time of this report

22. There continues to be a lot of information being made available by countries through the IPP and the IPPC Secretariat. As noted above, the Secretariat encourages all contracting parties to ensure that their information is up to date and they are fulfilling their national reporting obligations. Countries are encouraged to periodically visit the IPP for updates.

23. The information available through the Phytosanitary Resources Page continues to provide support to capacity development and the Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS). This information is being increased continually. Key links for these resources are:

- i. Phytosanitary Resource Page in support of IPPC Capacity Development and Implementation: <http://www.phytosanitary.info>
- ii. Projects Database: <http://projects.phytosanitary.info>
- iii. Roster of Consultants: <http://consultants.phytosanitary.info/>
- iv. PRA eLearning: <http://elearning.phytosanitary.info>

3.3 Pest reporting

24. National pest reporting continues to improve but there is still potential for further improvement. The 2011 reporting year saw a substantial increase in the number of pest reports and 2012 has started with a significant number of reports. The Secretariat is working to allow users to access this information in a more constructive and analytical manner.

25. The IPPC Secretariat is working with the European Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) to finalize the system that will allow national reporting through EPPO (as an Regional Plant Protection Organization) to meet IPPC reporting obligations. There are certain legal procedures that need to be met before this system can be activated. It is hoped that this will be piloted within the foreseeable future and then expanded to other RPPOs and their members.

4 DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

26. As noted previously, the phytosanitary trade dispute between South Africa and the European Union is continuing and further announcements will be made as information becomes available and when appropriate. Despite previous resource challenges within the IPPC Secretariat that previously

impacted this process, the process has been renewed, consultations have taken place, and while not resolved, progress has been made with regard to this issue.

27. The IPPC is in the process of reviewing the IPPC Dispute Settlement system and the outcome should be available in 2013 for the eighth session of the CPM.

5 COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

28. The eighth meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-8) will take place 8-12 April 2013. Most of the meeting documents have been posted on the IPP and can be downloaded (<https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=13330>). Highlights of this meeting are expected to be the possible adoption of two standards, the adoption of rules of procedure for the CPM Bureau, a report on the establishment of a Capacity Development Committee, the adoption of a communication strategy and work plan and an update on the progress towards setting up a system to deal with ePhytos.

6 COMMUNICATIONS

29. An IPPC Communication Strategy and work plan will be submitted for possible adoption to CPM-8 (2013).

30. The following social media pages for the IPPC are available:

- i. Facebook: "http://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Plant-Protection-Convention-IPPC/113230338690380?ref=tn_tnmn"
- ii. Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/ippcnews>
- iii. LinkedIn: http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3175642&trk=hb_side_g
- iv. Flickr: http://www.flickr.com/groups/international_plant_protection_convention/
- v. YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/IPPCnews>

7 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

31. The Secretariat would like to thank all those contracting parties and other donors who contributed to the budget and activities of the IPPC. The IPPC encourages them to consider sustainable contributions for the future. It will be greatly appreciated if donors are able to express their intention for further contributions in order to facilitate planning for the coming years. These donations will help to ensure the core work programme will be delivered. A full list of financial and in-kind support is made available to CPM each year

8 IMPORTANT MILESTONE FOR ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATION IN THE IPPC (EPHYTO)

32. The IPPC Secretariat created an ePhyto web page (<http://ephyto.ippc.int/>) on the IPP. Updates on the continued development of ePhytos can be found on the IPPC Website at: <http://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1111140>.

33. An ePhyto workshop was held 20-22 November 2012 in Victoria City, Brazil. Additional information and a report of this meeting may be found on the IPP (https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1111139&no_cache=1&L=0).
