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Page: 1/2

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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

The following communication, received on 2 July 2017, is being circulated at the request of the International Plant Protection Convention secretariat (IPPC).

1. The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an international plant health agreement, originally established in 1952 and revised in 1997, that aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests. The strategic objective of the IPPC is to protect food security and the environment while facilitating trade through strengthening capacity and capability of its contracting parties (CPs). The IPPC is recognized as the only international standard setting body for plant health by the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS Agreement).

2. The IPPC is governed by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM). The IPPC secretariat, hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations as an Article XIV body under FAO Chapter, works together with 183 national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) and nine regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) to: a) make strategic and action plan on world's phytosanitary issues; b) set up international standards and facilitate standard implementation; c) conduct phytosanitary dispute avoidance and settlement; d) share phytosanitary information; and e) cooperate with other international and regional organizations on relevant phytosanitary-related matters.

3. The year 2017 is the 65th anniversary of the IPPC, and the IPPC annual theme for 2017 is "Plant Health and Trade Facilitation". Ten major achievements of the IPPC secretariat for the 2017 first semester are highlighted in this report:

- the IPPC 2017 annual theme;
- IPPC governance and strategic activities;
- coordination of standards;
- implementation of standards;
- the IPPC ePhyto;
- communications and advocacy;
- the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH);
- international cooperation;
- resource mobilization; and
- internal management.

4. *Disseminated the IPPC 2017 annual theme.* The IPPC secretariat organized a keynote address at CPM 12 on the IPPC annual theme, which was delivered by Mr Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General of the World Customs Organization (WCO). We also organized a series of activities to showcase this IPPC annual theme during the CPM 12, including one special session on eCommerce, and one side event on IPPC ePhyto.

5. *Organized IPPC governance and strategic activities.* The IPPC secretariat provided a strong support in organizing all IPPC governing bodies meetings, such as CPM 12, Finance and Bureau in April and June, as well as Standards Committee (SC) and Capacity Development Committee (CDC) in May. We also made a close follow-up with implementation of important CPM decisions, mainly

on setting up an oversight body for implementation, establishing a sustainable funding mechanism for IPPC Work Programmes, and promoting IPPC strategic planning for 2020-2030.

6. *Coordinated standards setting.* In CPM 12, fifteen International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) were adopted, and ten Phytosanitary Diagnostic Protocols approved by the SC were noted. This represents a record number of adopted standards for a single year in IPPC history. Three draft standards were approved for the first consultation by SC in May 2017; and four draft standards were approved for the second consultation by SC-7.

7. *Promoted standards implementation.* The second cycle of the project on Implementation and Review Support Systems (IRSS) was completed. Seven IPPC Regional Workshops were prepared with all agendas finalized. The IPPC-China project on capacity development of developing CPs was initialized for implantation.

8. *Implemented SDDF pilot project on ePhyto.* The development of IPPC hub and Generic National Systems (GeNS) was promoted in cooperation with UNICC, and 15 pilot CPs. The demonstration of the hub and GeNS was carried out in some pilot CPs, such as Sri-Lanka and Samoa.

9. *Enhanced communication and advocacy.* One IPPC Seminar on Prevention and Management of Red Palm Weevil was organized in FAO-HQ. Over 80 items of IPPC headline news were issued. The factsheet on the IPPC was released, and the 2016 IPPC Annual Report was published.

10. *Promoted development of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020.* The 2nd Steering Committee for IYPH was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, with commutation and advocacy plan on IYPH approved. The resolution for IYPH 2020 is going to be endorsed at the 40th FAO Conference in upcoming July.

11. *Promoted international cooperation.* The cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Administration (IAEA) was deepened in the area of phytosanitary standard setting. The IPPC-WCO cooperation agreement was developed and discussed. The joint work programme between the IPPC and the CBD was finalized for signature.

12. *Strengthened resource mobilization.* The IPPC multi-donor trust fund was gained from Australia, Canada, the Republic of Korea, and New Zealand. The third cycle of the IPPC-EU project on IRSS was initialized for bilateral discussion. The IPPC-Japan project on support to implantation of the IPPC and its ISPMs was initialled for project formulation.

13. *International management of the IPPC secretariat.* The action plan for the Enhancement Evaluation of the IPPC secretariat was implemented, mainly for regrouping the staff and their responsibilities. The operational mechanism was optimized by setting up over ten items of standardized communication and advocacy issues.

14. The IPPC secretariat would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to WTO-SPS Secretariat for the strong support and close cooperation.
