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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION (IPPC)

The following communication, received on 8 July 2019, is being circulated at the request of the International Plant Protection Convention secretariat (IPPC).

This report provides an overview of the main activities of the International Plant Protection Organization (IPPC) Secretariat since the last SPS Committee meeting in March 2019.

1 GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGIES

Highlights from the 14th Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-14, 2019)

1.1. The content of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 was endorsed in advance of the formal adoption during CPM-15 (2020).

1.2. The following two International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) were adopted: ISPM 43 (*Requirements for the use of fumigation as a phytosanitary measure*) and the 2017 amendments to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*).

1.3. The CPM-14 (2019) noted the adoption of six diagnostic protocols by the Standards Committee (SC) on behalf of the CPM.

1.4. The CPM-14 also adopted the CPM recommendation R-8: *Preparing to use high-throughput sequencing (HTS) technologies as a diagnostic tool for phytosanitary purposes*.

1.5. Some of the issues discussed at CPM-14 were: commodity and pathway standards, how to move forward on surveillance and the concept of pest outbreak alert and response systems.

2 STANDARD SETTING

2.1. The Standards Committee (SC) and the SC working group met in May 2019.

2.2. Work is continuing on the development of the draft ISPM on *Pest risk management for quarantine pests*.

2.3. A second meeting of the Focus Group on Commodity and Pathway Standards took place in June to draft an over-arching concept standard for commodity and pathway standards.

2.4. An Expert Working Group (EWG) for *Audit in the phytosanitary context* met in June, in Toronto, Canada.

2.5. A call for experts for an EWG focused on the revision of ISPM 12 (*Phytosanitary certificates*) in relation to re-export was made, with plans to hold this EWG in the fourth quarter of 2019.

2.6. The consultation period began on 1 July 2019 for 13 draft ISPMs, including phytosanitary treatments and diagnostic protocols, and one CPM recommendation on "Safe provision of food and

other aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation". The consultation period will remain open until 30 September 2019 (first and second consultation).

2.7. The annual meeting of the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments took place in early July 2019, at International Atomic Energy Agency headquarters in Vienna.

3 IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

3.1. The Implementation and Development Committee (IC) met in May 2019.

3.2. The IPPC Guide on Pest Risk Communication has been completed and the IPPC Guide on Pest Free Areas will be finalized shortly, both will be published on the IPPC's website.

3.3. A workshop for training facilitators on the Beyond Compliance Tools has been completed in June 2019 as part of the Standard Trade and Development Facility funded project "Rolling out Systems Approach Globally".

3.4. A High-Level Symposium for One Belt Countries was held in May 2019 as part of the China IPPC South-South Cooperation project.

3.5. The IPPC secretariat supported a Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation in Nicaragua.

3.6. Seven IPPC Regional Workshops are being coordinated and will take place of the next two months.

3.7. Calls were made for experts for: an IC Sub-group on Dispute Avoidance and Settlement, the development of an IPPC Guide on Pest Status and ISPM 15 (Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade). Calls were also made for: resources for the development of ISPM 15 implementation material and for participation in a NRO survey and a Sea Container questionnaire.

3.8. A Steering Committee and a Technical Committee have been formed to organize and coordinate a global symposium on *Pest Free Areas and Surveillance*, which is planned to be held in October 2019 in Japan.

4 TRADE FACILITATION

4.1. e-Phyto: The implementation plan of the five year strategic plan for ePhyto to transition from a project to "business-as-usual" operations was agreed by CPM-14 (2019).

4.2. e-Commerce: CPM-14 (2019) endorsed the draft project work plan and budget that were presented to the CPM in a discussion paper on e-Commerce; it was noted that the IPPC Secretariat will not implement the e-Commerce action plan, with the exception of liaison with international organizations, until it is fully resourced; and one Contracting Party (CP) committed to support to the Secretariat in the form of an in-kind contribution of a staff member to support e-Commerce activities and called on other CPs to make additional resource contributions.

4.3. The Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF) developed a questionnaire on sea containers, addressed to IPPC contracting parties. Data collected will be aggregated to assist the SCTF in monitoring the uptake and help assess the efficiency of the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code). The questionnaire is available in all FAO languages and the deadline for completion is 16 August 2019.

5 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH

5.1. The IYPH partners met on 6 April 2019 and the IYPH International Steering Committee (ISC) met on 14 June 2019.

5.2. The IYPH visual identity was launched.

5.3. The Universal Postal Union was requested to create a commemorative postage stamp.

5.4. The concept for the development of an IYPH two-euro coin was approved by Belgium.

6 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

6.1. A delegation was formed by representatives of the IPPC secretariat, contracting parties and the SC and IC to participate in the Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-Related Conventions held in June 2019 in Bern, Switzerland to help develop a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

6.2. The IPPC secretariat participated in the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, which met in June 2019.

6.3. The IPPC secretariat signed joint work plans with both the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat (2019-2020) and with the World Customs Organization (2019-2021).
