



## **THE IPPC IN 20 YEARS**

*PAPER SUBMITTED BY SWAZILAND*

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**by**

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### **Background**

The IPPC is one of the international treaties that have influenced both international trade and biological diversity in recent years. The provisions of the convention seek to ensure safe trade and to a great extent this has been achieved. This has also minimized the movement of pests from infected territories to non-infected thus minimizing yield losses. The influence of the IPPC on trade has a direct impact on the economic growth and political stability of member states. Both these areas are critical in ensuring a nation's peace and development.

### **Current Status**

The IPPC is a convention whose application is mainly based on science, however its actual implementation at national level depends on a number of factors including national policy environment. The PCE tool evaluates a number of areas that should be in place for the implementation of the convention. However, the level to which each country implements the recommendations of the PCE depend on the willingness of the country. Currently the IPPC observes the sovereignty of member states. As result contracting parties only trust that all members implement the results of the PCE. They do not monitor the actual implementation of the recommendations. This may be the reason why the IPPC secretariat is struggling to get member states to fulfil their obligations such as basic reporting.

### **In 20 years**

The CPM through the IPPC Secretariat should develop a strategy that will ensure compliance with the minimum provisions of the convention among member states. This strategy much as observing national sovereignty should ensure that countries fulfil their obligations. As a body with the UN, FAO and recognised by WTO the IPPC/CPM has a number of potential members that can benefit from adhering to the convention. However increase in membership will have no significant effect on global plant protection if the member states do not comply.

**New members:** In 20 years the CPM would have established guidelines for potential members on the basic requirement for being a contracting party. Joining the IPPC would be in phases, an applicant would be afforded provisional member status while putting in place the basic requirements for the implementation of the IPPC. At most a period of 5 years should be allowed for this process. Upon achieving the basic requirements the country would then attain full membership.

**Existing members:** In 20 years CPM should have developed a system to facilitate peer review among member states. Member states should allow their trading partners and or neighbouring member states to review their implementation status with the aim to identify areas that need improvement. Such reviews should involve RPPOs and where possible the secretariat.

The CPM should encourage collaboration among countries. Developed countries should be encouraged to mentor developing countries particularly those that are trading with them.

In 20 years the CPM should have devised a method of ensuring compliance among member states. RPPOs should present reports to the CPM on the status of compliance in their regions every two years.

**Finances:** In 20 years the CPM should established a method through which all member states contribute to the running of the secretariat and IPPC programmes. This should be in the form of nominal subscription fees calculated based on the country's development stage.

Movement of plants and plant products in the global markets generates a lot of money; however there is no guarantee that the money benefits both the national and global system that supports such trade. CPM should also encourage member states to allocate at least 10% of funds generated from exports to their NPPOs.