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IPPC Secretariat

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1. Opening of the meeting

- [1] The IPPC Secretary, Enrico PEROTTI, welcomed all participants to the meeting, which was being held in hybrid mode (i.e. in-person and online) because of travel restrictions affecting some regions.

2. Meeting arrangements

2.1 Confirmation of the rapporteur

- [2] It was not possible to follow the agreed rapporteur rotation on this occasion.¹ The Bureau of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) (hereafter referred to as “the bureau”) therefore elected Michelle GRAY (North America) to be rapporteur and agreed to adjust the rotation accordingly (Appendix 1).

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

- [3] The bureau adopted the agenda (Appendix 2).

3. Administrative matters

- [4] The list of documents is attached to this report as Appendix 3.
- [5] The list of participants is attached to this report as Appendix 4.

4. Progress report of the IPPC Secretariat for 2025

- [6] The IPPC secretary gave a verbal overview of the report from the IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as “the secretariat”) that would be presented to the Twentieth Session of the CPM (CPM-20).² He confirmed that the secretariat’s staffing was now in a more stable position but highlighted two issues where risks were apparent: the funding of the IPPC ePhyto Solution and the need for robust mechanisms to ensure its continued operation in the event of technical problems.

5. Follow up actions from previous bureau meetings

5.1 Lessons learned from Strategic Planning Group

- [7] Dris BARIK (Morocco), CPM Vice-Chairperson and Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Group (SPG), presented an overview of the lessons learned from the 2025 SPG meeting.³ These included the benefits of allowing participation from all regions, and the barriers to this; the need to focus more on strategic direction and less on operational review; ways of improving stakeholder engagement; and a suggestion to produce concise thematic briefing notes on some of the outcomes to help contracting parties and stakeholders better understand the outcomes and to support informed decision-making at future SPG meetings.
- [8] The secretariat reported that 11 requests for financial assistance had been received and five had been granted. However, having two deadlines – one for financial assistance and another for topics, papers and registration – had given rise to confusion. The secretariat therefore proposed a new timeline for 2026, with a single deadline in May and a bureau review by e-decision in July or August. The secretariat clarified that the provision of funding was at the discretion of the secretariat, but it was the responsibility of the bureau to agree to the agenda, including any presentations by participants.
- [9] The secretariat also summarized the results of the feedback survey of participants. The level of participation had been good, with increased participation from under-represented regions and languages. Participants had most valued strategic discussions, networking and short presentations allowing

¹ CPM Bureau 2025-10, agenda item 4.1 and Appendix 4.

² CPM 2026/40.

³ 11_Bureau_2026_Mar.

discussion. Suggested improvements were to share papers earlier, reduce the amount of time spent on giving updates, have a better room set-up, have clearer mandates, and incorporate the onboarding of new members.

- [10] The bureau discussed the lack of suitable meeting rooms for breakout groups at FAO headquarters but noted the expense of paying to use external meeting rooms in Rome. The secretariat confirmed that they were looking at alternative options, including outside of Rome.
- [11] The bureau noted that it had been agreed that the 2026 SPG meeting would focus on the IPPC strategic framework and recognized that it would be beneficial to inform contracting parties about this.
- [12] The bureau:
- (1) *noted* the lessons learned from SPG and ideas for improvement;
 - (2) *suggested* that invitations for SPG meetings would benefit from explaining the purpose of the meeting; and
 - (3) *agreed* to consider the next steps for the planning of the SPG at their post-CPM session and *requested* that the secretariat suggest potential dates for a short virtual meeting to follow up on this, to be held by the end of April.

5.2 Membership of the CPM Focus Group on Diagnostic Laboratory Networking

- [13] The secretariat presented the results of the bureau's e-decision to select the North American representative to join the CPM Focus Group on Diagnostic Laboratory Networking.⁴ The first meeting of the group will be in person in June 2026.
- [14] The bureau:
- (4) *noted* the selection of Bishwo N. ADHIKARI (United States of America) as the North American representative on the CPM Focus Group on Diagnostic Laboratory Networking.

5.3 Benefits and implications of moving the June bureau and SPG meeting outside of Rome

- [15] The CPM Chairperson, Samuel BISHOP, introduced a proposal to hold the October and June bureau meetings, as well as the SPG meeting, outside of Rome. He explained that the aim was to broaden the geographical representation at the SPG meeting, noting that the October bureau meeting was held in conjunction with the SPG; and the location of the June bureau meeting was more flexible than the other bureau meetings because it was not back-to-back with another meeting.
- [16] The secretariat outlined the minimum requirements that a host country was expected to provide and explained that holding a meeting outside of Rome is usually cost neutral apart from travel costs for secretariat staff. The secretariat also noted that the financial support provided to SPG participants would vary depending on the location of the SPG.
- [17] The CPM chairperson referred to a proposal that would be made during CPM-20 (2026) to hold the SPG outside of Rome in 2026. He suggested that this could be pursued as a trial of the concept, with the bureau meeting in June 2026 still being held in Rome. However, he recognized that the location of the SPG would depend on the response from contracting parties to the proposal at CPM-20 (2026).

5.4 Funding arrangements for IPPC regional workshops

- [18] The secretariat presented an overview of expenditure related to the organization and delivery of the 2025 IPPC regional workshops, together with the proposed budget allocations for the 2026 workshops.⁵

⁴ 2025_eBureau_07_Dec.

⁵ 07_Bureau_2026_Mar.

- [19] The bureau recalled the historical sensitivities about the IPPC regional workshops and the delicate balance between global cohesion under the IPPC framework and encouraging regions to “own” them. The IPPC secretary highlighted the relevance of retaining “IPPC” in the title of the workshops, as it referred to the convention and all contracting parties are signatories to the convention.
- [20] The bureau recognized that each regional workshop is different, as the regions are different and that the agenda can be tailored for each region. The IPPC secretary emphasized the importance of focusing on the intention of the workshops, which is to make a difference. The bureau agreed that it would be helpful to know the needs and expectations of the regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) in relation to the workshops. They also expressed an interest in seeing the detailed results from the secretariat’s surveys of workshop participants to determine whether the concerns perceived by the bureau were borne out by the responses of participants.
- [21] The bureau noted that the cost estimates for the workshops were likely to be an underestimate, given the rising fuel costs.
- [22] The bureau:
- (5) *noted* the tentative budget allocation for the 2026 IPPC regional workshops;
 - (6) *encouraged* contracting parties and RPPOs to secure additional financial contributions for the organization of the IPPC regional workshops;
 - (7) *requested* that the secretariat provide the detailed survey results from the 2025 IPPC regional workshops; and
 - (8) *suggested* that the Technical Consultation among RPPOs (TC-RPPO) include in the agenda for their meeting in 2026 a discussion on the purpose and organization of the IPPC regional workshops.

5.5 ISPM 15 trademark

- [23] Representatives from the FAO Legal Office joined the meeting for this agenda item.
- [24] The secretariat provided an update on the registration status of the ISPM 15 (*Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*) trademark, following the bureau’s discussions in October 2025.⁶ The secretariat confirmed that the secretariat had asked two intellectual-property companies, who manage the ISPM 15 trademark portfolio, to initiate the renewal process for those countries whose registrations expire in 2026. The secretariat had also established the next steps for registering those countries whose registrations had lapsed in 2023 and in 2024.
- [25] The bureau recognized the importance of countries maintaining their registration of the ISPM 15 trademark and the need to communicate this better to contracting parties.
- [26] The secretariat commented on the difficulties of managing the current arrangement, as countries could be registered in one of three ways: via the World Intellectual Property Organization’s Madrid System, the European Union’s system, or through direct national registration. The secretariat suggested, therefore, that it would be preferable to find a more sustainable solution going forward. However, the bureau noted that multiple routes may be needed because the legislative framework in some countries did not allow registration of trademarks through FAO.
- [27] The bureau:
- (9) *agreed* that the secretariat would liaise with the FAO Legal Office to ensure that all registrations of the ISPM 15 trademark were up-to-date, *noting* that the budgetary implications would need to be considered by the Financial Committee (or the bureau, if CPM-20 (2026) dissolved the Financial Committee)); and

⁶ CPM Bureau 2025-10, agenda item 4.2.

- (10) *agreed* to consider, at their June 2026 meeting, options for a more sustainable approach of managing registrations of the ISPM 15 trademark.

5.6 POARS Steering Group membership selection

[28] The secretariat presented the outcome of a call for experts to form the Steering Group of the Global Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System (POARS).⁷

[29] The bureau:

- (11) *requested* that the secretariat open an e-decision for three weeks to select up to seven national plant protection organization (NPPO) representatives to be members of the POARS Steering Group;
- (12) *invited* the TC-RPPO, at their meeting during the week of CPM-20 (2026), to select an RPPO representative to be a member of the POARS Steering Group; and
- (13) *noted* that the representatives from the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) and the Standards Committee (SC) would be confirmed following the designation process in each committee.

5.7 Plant Health in One Health and the way forward

[30] The secretariat reported that, while significant progress had been made by the CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health, a one year extension was now being requested.⁸ This was because there had been no funding for this activity and the start of the focus group had been delayed until sufficient regional representation was secured. It had therefore not proved possible to complete the study on plant health in the context of One Health, which would require more in-depth analysis and usable recommendations, and to develop a communication strategy based on the findings from the study.

[31] The bureau noted the importance of clearly presenting to CPM-20 (2026) what is left to do, the funding required to finish the remaining tasks, and a clear action plan for completing the tasks. The bureau also recognized the need to clearly communicate the benefits of the plant-health community being involved in One Health approaches.

[32] Regarding the question of whether the CPM should develop a CPM recommendation on antimicrobial resistance, the secretariat confirmed that there was only limited evidence of antimicrobial resistance to products used in plant protection, so this may not be enough to warrant a CPM recommendation, but there could potentially be one on antimicrobial use. The bureau recognized that it could be useful to review the impact of CPM recommendations more generally before developing a new one.

[33] The bureau:

- (14) *noted* progress of the study on plant health and One Health and the preliminary insights presented in this paper;
- (15) *noted* the launch of a targeted mini-survey to IPPC contracting parties and RPPOs, designed to support the study on plant health and One Health with country-level perspectives and strengthen the evidence base of the study's analysis and recommendations;
- (16) *noted* that the development of a communication strategy to strengthen visibility of plant health within One Health would be based on the final analysis and recommendations from the study on plant health and One Health;
- (17) *recommended* to CPM-20 (2026) that the mandate of the CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health be extended until CPM-21 (2027) to allow completion of activities currently in progress, while ensuring the required quality of outputs;
- (18) *agreed* that a CPM conference room paper (CRP) regarding the CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health would be prepared by the secretariat, based on the bureau

⁷ 06_Bureau_2026_Mar.

⁸ 04_Bureau_2026_Mar.

discussions and decisions from this meeting, and presented to CPM-20 (2026) under agenda item 14.3 to inform the commission's consideration of the focus group's progress and future mandate; and

- (19) *noted* that adequate budget provisions are an important enabler for the timely and effective delivery of planned outputs under CPM-mandated activities, including focus groups.

5.8 Update on the IPPC ePhyto Solution and the recent incident

- [34] The secretariat referred the bureau to a CPM paper about an IT incident that had occurred in January 2026, which had been linked to a technical update implemented by the service provider and had resulted in reduced service availability.⁹ The secretariat explained that they aimed to be transparent about what had happened and that, since the incident, they had agreed on stronger planning and communication measures with the service provider to improve change-management activities going forward. The secretariat confirmed that they would collaborate with the provider to increase their awareness of the context in terms of the trade implications of service interruptions and the technological differences between countries.
- [35] The bureau noted that this was the first occurrence of such an incident. Furthermore, the CPM paper should give contracting parties confidence in the secretariat's ability to manage such situations, while also highlighting the importance of continuous platform improvements and the need to fully secure the resources required under the funding model.

6. Arrangements for CPM-20 (2026)

6.1 CPM-20 logistics

- [36] The secretariat presented a revised schedule for CPM-20 (2026),¹⁰ which took account of a late change to hybrid modality because of the recent global developments and disruption of services at international airports. The revised schedule allowed for the consequent reduction in interpretation time and duration of CPM sessions and the different time zones of participants.
- [37] The bureau considered the practical arrangements for hybrid modality, including the mechanism for counting whether the meeting was quorate. They considered other logistical arrangements, including the podium seating arrangements, the likely nominations for rapporteurs, the CPM mobile app and announcements, and the arrangements for printed copies of the draft CPM report.
- [38] **Observers.** The secretariat confirmed the outcome of requests by three organizations to attend as an observer for the first time:
- Of the two organizations discussed by the bureau in December 2025,¹¹ only one – the Arab Organization for Agriculture Development – had responded with further information about their reasons for wishing to attend and they had been granted observer status.
 - The Fondation pour l'Agriculture et la Ruralité dans le Monde (FARM Foundation) had asked to attend only the science session (Thursday 12 March afternoon) and the innovation fair (Friday 13 March morning). They been granted observer status, following the results of an email poll of bureau members in February 2026.
- [39] The bureau:
- (20) *approved* the revised schedule for CPM-20 (2026); and

⁹ CPM 2026/41.

¹⁰ CPM 2026/INF/02.

¹¹ CPM Bureau 2025-12, agenda item 6.4.

- (21) *agreed* that, given the shorter sessions at CPM-20 (2026), only contracting parties would be given the opportunity to make verbal interventions in-session, and then RPPOs if there was sufficient time, in accordance with the CPM rules of procedure.¹²

6.2 Review of the CPM-20 agenda items

[40] The bureau reviewed key issues on the agenda for CPM-20 (2026) that needed prior consideration by the bureau.¹³ They also discussed which issues may potentially require a Friends of the Chair meeting, and the various exhibitions scheduled for the CPM week. The bureau commended the secretariat on their plans for the atrium exhibitions and commented on the possibilities of doing it again at future CPM sessions if it proved to be successful at CPM-20 (2026).

[41] **Process for objections to adoption of ISPMs.** A representative from the FAO Legal Office joined the meeting to provide advice on the procedures to follow for objections to the adoption of standards. She referred the bureau to the CPM rules of procedure, particularly Rule X.2 on the procedure to follow when a consensus is not reached and Rule VI.2 on voting procedures.¹⁴

6.3 Establishment of the Credentials Committee

[42] A representative from the FAO Legal Office attended the meeting for this agenda item.

[43] The bureau considered whether they should serve as the Credentials Committee for CPM-20 (2026), continuing the practice adopted at the last two CPM sessions. The legal representative explained how the process would work with those bureau members participating online and confirmed that the hybrid modality would not prevent the bureau serving as the Credentials Committee.

[44] The bureau:

- (22) *agreed* to take on the role, function and authority of the Credentials Committee for CPM-20 (2026).

6.4 Advice on political interventions during the CPM session

[45] A representative from the FAO Legal Office provided advice to the bureau on how to address any political interventions made during the CPM (2026) session, noting that the CPM session is a technical forum and comments and interventions should remain within the CPM agenda.

[46] The legal representative also advised on the quorum requirements for CPM sessions and confirmed that a quorum is required throughout the CPM session. The secretariat noted that the quorum is 50 percent plus one or rounded up to the next whole number (i.e. 93 of the 185 contracting parties as of March 2026).¹⁵

6.5 CPM bureau, Standards Committee and Implementation and Capacity Development Committee members and potential replacement members

[47] The secretariat provided a draft CPM CRP listing the nominations received to date for the election of members and potential replacement members for the bureau, the SC and the IC.¹⁶

[48] The bureau confirmed that no changes were needed to the draft paper.

[49] The bureau noted that the term of new bureau members starts after a CPM session and that the custom-and-practice has been that a replacement member finishes the term of the member they are replacing

¹² CPM rules of procedures: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/cpm/cpm-rules-of-procedure/>

¹³ CPM 2026/03_Rev1.

¹⁴ CPM rules of procedure: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/cpm/cpm-rules-of-procedure/>

¹⁵ CPM quorum: a majority of the members of the commission (Rule IV.6 of the CPM rules of procedure).

¹⁶ 10_Bureau_2026_Mar; CPM 2026/26, CPM 2026/27, CPM 2026/33.

before being selected as a member in their own right. However, the bureau agreed that it would be helpful to review this.

[50] One bureau member sought confirmation as to whether the financial support to attend bureau meetings would stop if the member's country no longer met the criteria for eligibility for funding.

[51] The bureau:

- (23) *agreed* to review, at their June 2026 meeting, whether replacement members that replace full members should continue as a replacement only until the next CPM session before being considered for selection as a full member; and
- (24) *agreed* to confirm, at their June 2026 meeting, the arrangements for financial support for bureau members attending bureau meetings.

7. Emerging topics

7.1 Commodity standards

Emerging issues on commodity standards

[52] The bureau considered a paper outlining the concerns that had been expressed about annexes to ISPM 46 (*Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures*) (hereafter referred to as “commodity standards”).¹⁷

[53] The CPM chairperson commented that it is very clear in ISPM 46 that inclusion of a pest in an annex to ISPM 46 does not constitute technical justification for its regulation. However, this is not always understood by contracting parties and there are concerns that commodity standards will therefore become a barrier to trade rather than a benefit. He added that, on the other hand, it was not the role of the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards to conduct pest risk analyses.

[54] The secretariat reported that, in response to these concerns, the SC had confirmed that the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards had the authority to exclude pests when evidence to support the commodity as a pathway for the pest was lacking. However, some concerns remained.

New Zealand proposal for a global workshop on commodity standards

[55] The bureau discussed a proposal from New Zealand for the IPPC Secretariat and the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) to jointly hold a global workshop on commodity standards in 2027.¹⁸ The bureau noted that New Zealand's intention was to schedule the workshop to coincide with the period around the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) if possible. However, they recognized that the timing would also need to take account of the timing of other IPPC meetings. The costs of interpretation, if provided, would also need to be considered.

[56] The bureau:

- (25) *noted* the update on emerging issues associated with commodity standards;
- (26) *recommended* to CPM-20 (2026) that it support the proposal from New Zealand to organize an IPPC Global Workshop on Commodity Standards in 2027; and
- (27) *noted* that the lessons learned from the IPPC global workshop on systems approaches would be taken on board in planning the global workshop on commodity standards.

¹⁷ 08_Bureau_2026_Mar.

¹⁸ 09_Bureau_2026_Mar; CPM 2026/14; CPM 2026/CRP/02.

8. Other key issues to be considered by the bureau

8.1 International Day of Plant Health

- [57] The secretariat gave an update on the preparations for observing the IDPH in 2026, the theme for which would be “Plant Biosecurity for Food Security”. The secretariat reported that five contracting parties had responded to the call for proposals to host the high-level event and a complementary activity, but because of the short timescales it had been decided to hold the 2026 high-level event at FAO headquarters in Rome. However, the submitters had been encouraged to consider submitting again for the 2027 event. The possibility of hosting the high-level event at the International Horticultural Expo 2027 (GREEN×EXPO 2027) in Japan was also being explored.
- [58] Looking ahead, the secretariat also explained that they were aiming to be more intentional and have a more detailed, three-year plan for IDPH observance. They noted that, although it had not yet been agreed how the themes would be decided, the understanding was that the themes would be rotated among the core objectives of the IPPC strategic framework (with the exception of 2025, for which CPM-19 (2025) had agreed the theme would be “Plant Health in One Health”). Furthermore, the secretariat commented that the location also depended on whether the FAO director-general wished to host the event at FAO headquarters.
- [59] One bureau member suggested that the hosting of the high-level event could rotate among regions.

8.2 General funding criteria for IPPC meeting participants

- [60] The secretariat explained that the funding framework for supporting participation at IPPC meetings was based on World Bank criteria but also depended on the secretariat’s budget. However, the secretariat had been receiving an increasing number of requests for exemptions, including requests for changes to tickets that had cost implications. The secretariat sought advice from the bureau on the policy to follow with regard to these requests. The secretariat also confirmed that they do not provide financial assistance to contracting parties that are not FAO members.
- [61] The bureau recognized that the secretariat “own” the funding criteria (*Criteria used for prioritizing participants to receive travel assistance to attend meetings organized by the IPPC Secretariat*) and decide who to fund, but the bureau can advise on the criteria. Suggestions from the bureau for tightening up the criteria included: not accepting changes to tickets; not providing financial assistance to people who do not take their flight, do not attend all the sessions of the event, or repeatedly request changes to tickets; and providing financial assistance only to people who are nominated by their region and eligible under the World Bank criteria. The secretariat noted that the funding criteria specified that other sources of funding should have been tried first, but the bureau recognized that providing evidence of this may not be straightforward.
- [62] The bureau also noted the need to ensure that the number of secretariat personnel attending events did not exceed the number required for the event, and the secretariat confirmed that they had already agreed to a policy to ensure this.
- [63] The bureau:
- (28) *noted* that the secretariat would review and update the *Criteria used for prioritizing participants to receive travel assistance to attend meetings organized by the IPPC Secretariat*, for consideration by the bureau at their June 2026 meeting; and
 - (29) *agreed* to include an item on lessons learned in the agenda of each bureau meeting.

8.3 Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations

- [64] The secretariat explained that RPPO representatives would be meeting in the margins of the CPM-20 (2026) session to plan the TC-RPPO to be held in October 2026. At this planning meeting, the secretariat was intending to explore an alternative format for the TC-RPPO, in which time that was usually spent on updates and presentations would instead be spent on focused discussions on topics on which the TC-

RPPO could provide strategic feedback. The secretariat also sought the bureau's views on their expectations of the TC-RPPO.

[65] The bureau noted the need for closer coordination between the heads of NPPOs within regions, and between NPPO heads and bureau members, as well as between regions.

[66] The bureau recognized that the TC-RPPO needed to have a clear purpose. They noted that this would need to encompass the purposes defined in Article IX.4 of the convention, which was to “promote the development and use of relevant international standards for phytosanitary measures; and encourage inter-regional cooperation in promoting harmonized phytosanitary measures for controlling pests and in preventing their spread and/or introduction”. Additional suggestions from bureau members and the secretariat included the following:

- The TC-RPPO could collect information from their members to feed into a review of the state of plant protection in the world (as such a review was one of the functions of the CPM listed in Article XI.2(a) but had never been done).
- A representative from the TC-RPPO could be invited to attend SC meetings as an observer.
- The TC-RPPO could promote the Plant Health Campus, the IPPC ePhyto Solution and the phytosanitary capacity evaluation tool.

[67] The secretariat also recalled the paper presented to CPM-18 (2024) on the roles and basic responsibilities of RPPOs.¹⁹

[68] The bureau:

- (30) *noted* that the secretariat would engage with the TC-RPPO to discuss their needs and expectations;
- (31) *agreed* to explore the role of the TC-RPPO further at the June 2026 bureau meeting, in the IPPC regional workshops and at the SPG meeting; and
- (32) *agreed* to include an update from the TC-RPPO as a regular bureau agenda item.

9. Any other business (pre-CPM)

[69] **Dispute avoidance and settlements.** The CPM chairperson presented a paper he had prepared, proposing a simplification of the landing page for the IPPC Dispute Settlement Procedures on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) and its relocation on the IPP to align with the transfer of oversight from the IC to the bureau.²⁰

[70] The secretariat informed the bureau that they were working on an AI tool that would enable users to search the IPP more easily, together with an AI assistant to answer plant-health queries.

[71] **ePhyto webinar.** The bureau expressed concern about a recent webinar organized by the FAO and the World Bank. The IPPC secretariat is following up accordingly.

[72] **FAO Investment Centre.** The secretariat informed the bureau that the FAO Investment Centre wished to develop a functionality for forwarding copies of ePhytos to third parties to facilitate the granting of bank loans. The project would be funded by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

[73] **ePhyto funding model.** The bureau discussed the low proportion of countries that had paid their contributions for 2025 and possible ways of improving this, including the use of service level agreements. The CPM chairperson suggested that the secretariat and bureau look back at the options considered by the CPM Focus Group on the Sustainable Funding for the IPPC ePhyto Solution. In the interim, the bureau acknowledged that the only option was to continue the existing funding model for at least another year.

¹⁹ CPM 2024/42_01.

²⁰ 05_Bureau_2026_Mar.

- [74] **ePhyto governance.** The bureau noted the diverging views being expressed in written interventions to the CPM paper on ePhyto governance.²¹ Given that it was very unlikely that consensus would be reached, the bureau agreed to propose to CPM-20 (2026) that the current governance structure be replaced with a new, small body that had responsibility for governance (including the funding model), liaised with industry, and reported to the bureau. The new group would not include any technical experts, other than the secretariat technical lead, and would not include industry representatives. It would replace the ePhyto Steering Group. The bureau clarified that having one governance body did not preclude that body forming subgroups within it to focus on particular aspects. They also noted that the Industry Advisory Group was set up for the ePhyto development project, but as the IPPC ePhyto Solution was now in operational mode, the project had ended and the group was no longer considered an IPPC body.
- [75] The bureau agreed to propose this approach to CPM-20 (2026) and invite the CPM to mandate the bureau to determine the terms of reference for the new governance body. They agreed that the new governance body should be viewed as a transitional solution to a longer-term governance model.
- [76] **Third IPPC General Survey.** The secretariat informed the bureau that, as a result of staff turnover, preparations for the Third IPPC General Survey had been delayed but the aim was to launch the survey by the end of the year.
- [77] **Financial report.** For the discussion of this issue, the bureau meeting was not quorate, so no decisions were taken. One bureau member advised the secretariat of some amendments to the secretariat's financial report for 2025. Bureau members and the secretariat also discussed some possible improvements to how the information is presented in future reports and mid-year, so that contracting parties can track how the money they have contributed has been spent.
- [78] The bureau:
- (33) *expressed* concern about the secretariat being neither informed nor invited to participate in the recent webinar on the IPPC ePhyto Solution held by the FAO Investment Centre and the World Bank, and the resulting inaccuracies in the webinar, *encouraged* bureau members to raise this directly with the webinar organizers, and *noted* that the secretariat would also follow this up within FAO;
 - (34) *requested* that the secretariat clarify with the FAO Investment Centre and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development that the option of third-party forwarding of ePhytos had already been ruled out by contracting parties at CPM-19 (2025) and that a phytosanitary certificate is solely a communication between NPPOs;
 - (35) *approved* a CRP to CPM-20 (2026), proposing the new governance body for the IPPC ePhyto Solution as discussed at this meeting;
 - (36) *agreed* that, if CPM-20 (2026) agreed to the bureau's proposal for the new governance body for the IPPC ePhyto Solution, the bureau would aim to convene virtually by the end of April 2026 to agree the terms of reference so that the new group could be formed by June; and
 - (37) *supported* the proposed changes to the landing page for the IPPC Dispute Settlement Procedures on the IPP and *requested* that the secretariat update the page accordingly and relocate it from its current location to the bureau page.

Post-CPM session

10. Issues arising from CPM-20 (2026) for action

- [79] The bureau reviewed the CPM-20 (2026) proceedings, with bureau members reporting on feedback received from participants.

²¹ CPM 2026/11.

Feedback. The bureau noted the following comments from CPM participants or bureau members:

- Consider potential ways to save time during the CPM session, including:
 - shortening the length of the science session (noting that this is the time that has traditionally been allocated to CPM science sessions);
 - starting the CPM session on a Monday morning, although other feedback appreciated starting in the afternoon to allow time for delegates to meet and to have the NPPO orientation session;
 - making tracked changes to documents on-screen, rather than producing a CRP (or if producing CRPs in-session, post them in tracked changes); and
 - the CPM chairperson not reading out in full those decisions that are merely to note something, although it was pointed out that these decisions are part of the official proceedings of an FAO statutory body.
- Consider projecting tracked changes on-screen in Friends of the Chair meetings while developing new CRPs. Also, consider the provision of note taking by the secretariat.
- Contracting parties and RPPOs should not allow their microphone to be used by observers to speak in-session.

[80] The secretariat encouraged everyone to provide feedback on CPM-20 (2026). They explained that they would open a feedback survey to secretariat staff and asked whether a survey should also be sent out to contracting parties. The CPM chairperson considered, however, that the response rate to the latter survey may be low because of “survey fatigue”.

[81] The secretariat confirmed that they would evaluate the feedback received and the lessons learned, and would present the outcome to the bureau at a future meeting.

[82] **CPM report.** The secretariat explained that the adopted CPM report would be posted on the IPP, in English only and without appendices, mid-week in the week following the CPM session.

11. Arrangements for bureau activities in 2026 (overall)

[83] The bureau confirmed the dates of their meetings in 2026:

- 28 or 29 April 2026, two-hour virtual meeting (to agree the terms of reference for the new ePhyto governing body and consider the venue for the 2026 SPG meeting; date and times to be confirmed);
- 16–19 June 2026, Rome (four days, with shorter lunch breaks); and
- 21–23 and 29 October 2026 (tentative), with the SPG 26–28 October 2026 (tentative), venue to be determined.

12. Planning for the bureau meeting in June 2026

[84] The bureau identified the following items for discussion at their meeting in June 2026 (in no particular order):

- draft agenda for the 2026 SPG meeting;
- venue for the 2026 SPG meeting and possible rotation to other locations after 2026;
- communications plan for the 2026 IDPH;
- new finance function of the bureau;
- role of the TC-RPPO (from agenda item 8.3 of this meeting);
- IPPC ePhyto Solution;
- Africa Phytosanitary Programme (new governance structure, including which working groups will be included and the nomination process);
- lessons learned from CPM-20 (2026);

- review of actions from CPM-20 (2026);
- ISPM 15 trademark registration – options for a more sustainable approach (from agenda item 5.5 of this meeting);
- terms of replacement members (from agenda item 6.5 of this meeting);
- financial support for bureau members attending bureau meetings (from agenda item 6.5 of this meeting);
- criteria for travel assistance to attend IPPC meetings (from agenda item 8.2 of this meeting); and
- lessons learned (standing agenda item: from agenda item 8.2 of this meeting).

13. Any other business (post-CPM)

[85] There was no other business.

14. Adoption of decisions

[86] The bureau adopted the decisions reached.

15. Next meeting

[87] The next meeting of the bureau is scheduled for 16–19 June 2026 in Rome, Italy.

16. Close of the meeting

[88] The CPM chairperson thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

[89] For ease of reference, a list of action points arising from the meeting is provided as Appendix 5.

Appendix 1: Adjustments to the CPM bureau meeting rapporteur rotation

Meeting	Bureau member (per region)
June 2025	Southwest Pacific
September 2025 (virtual)	North America
October 2025	Asia
December 2025 (virtual)	Latin America and Caribbean
March 2026	North America
April 2026 (virtual)	Near East
June 2026	Africa
September 2026 (virtual)	Southwest Pacific
October 2026	Asia
December 2026 (virtual)	Latin America and Caribbean
March 2027	North America

Appendix 2: Agenda

AGENDA ITEM		DOCUMENT NO.	PRESENTER
1.	Opening of the meeting		IPPC Secretary, PEROTTI
2.	Meeting arrangements		
2.1	Confirmation of the rapporteur (US)		CHAIR, BISHOP
2.2	Adoption of the agenda	01_Bureau_2026_Mar	CHAIR
3.	Administrative matters		
3.1	Document list	02_Bureau_2026_Mar	CASSIN
3.2	Participants list	03_Bureau_2026_Mar	CASSIN
4.	Progress Report of the IPPC Secretariat for 2025	Link to IPPC Secretariat paper CPM 2026/40	PEROTTI
5.	Follow up actions from previous Bureau meetings	Link to October 2025 meeting Link to December 2025 meeting	PEROTTI / MOREIRA/CASSIN
5.1	Lessons learned from SPG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hosting - Funding support - Participant feedback - Ideas on how to improve the SPG 	11_Bureau_2026_Mar (presentation by IPPC Secretariat)	BARIK / PEROTTI MOREIRA/CASSIN
5.2	Membership of the CPM Focus Group on Lab diagnostic networking (from the eDecision)	Link to summary	MOREIRA
5.3	Benefits / implications of moving the June Bureau and October Bureau and SPG meeting outside of Rome	Link to Bureau June Work area (paper 26)	MOREIRA
5.4	Funding arrangements for IPPC Regional Workshops	07_Bureau_2026_Mar	NERSISYAN
5.5	ISPM 15 trademark	(presentation)	SEIGNEURIN
5.6	POARS SG membership selection	06_Bureau_2026_Mar	BELTRAN
5.7	Plant Health in One Health and the way forward	04_Bureau_2026_Mar	BRUNEL/MADAMINOVA
5.8	Update on ePhyto and the recent incident	CPM 2026/41	PEROTTI/BRUNEL/NUZZO
6.	Arrangements for CPM-20		
6.1	CPM-20 logistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Podium seating arrangements - Selection of rapporteurs - App and announcements 	Link to CPM-20 schedule	CASSIN/ MOREIRA/
6.2	Review of the CPM-20 agenda items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key Issues for consideration - Potential Friends of Chair meetings - Exhibitions: 1) Successes and challenges 2) International Cooperation 3) Innovation Fair - Objections to adoption of ISPMs (advice from FAO legal on the process) 	Link to CPM-20 agenda CPM 2026/INF/11.	CHAIR / ALL

6.3	Establishment of the credentials committee - Review of credentials for CPM-20 meeting participants	--	ALL / FAO Legal
6.4	Advice on political interventions during the CPM	--	FAO legal
6.5	CPM Bureau, SC and IC members and potential replacement members	CPM 2026/26 CPM 2026/27 CPM 2026/33 10_Bureau_2026_Mar	MOREIRA / NERSYSIAN / BRUNEL
7.	Emerging topics		
7.1	Commodity standards - Emerging Issues on Commodity Standards - New Zealand Proposal for a Commodity Standard Global Workshop	08_Bureau_2026_Mar 09_Bureau_2026_Mar	NERSYSIAN / CHAIR
8.	Other Key Issues to be considered by Bureau		
8.1	International Day of Plant Health - Update on the 2026 preparations	PPT	FRIO / MOREIRA / PEROTTI
8.2	General funding criteria for IPPC meeting participants	--	PEROTTI
8.3	TC-RPPOs	TC-RPPO Terms of Reference PPT	CAPLEN / PEROTTI
9.	Any other business - Dispute avoidance and settlements – IPP page -	05_Bureau_2026_Mar	
10.	Next meeting - 13 March 2026		
11.	Closing of the meeting		

POST CPM-20 (2026) SESSION (13 March 2026) Canada Room (A356/7)			
1.	Issues arising from CPM-20 for action		CHAIRPERSON
2.	Arrangements for bureau activities in 2026 (overall)		CHAIRPERSON
3.	Planning for bureau meeting in June 2026		CHAIRPERSON
4.	Any Other Business		ALL
5.	Next Meeting - 28 / 29 April 2026		SECRETARIAT
6.	Closing of the Meeting		CHAIRPERSON

Appendix 3: List of documents

DOCUMENT NO.	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT TITLE	DATE POSTED / DISTRIBUTED
01_Bureau_2026_Mar	2.2	Agenda	2026-02-19 2026-02-25 2026-03-02
02_Bureau_2026_Mar	3.1	Documents List	2026-02-25 2026-03-03
03_Bureau_2026_Mar	3.2	Participants List	
04_Bureau_2026_Mar	5.7	Plant Health in One Health and the way forward	2026-02-24
05_Bureau_2026_Mar	9	Dispute avoidance and settlements – IPP page	2026-02-24
06_Bureau_2026_Mar	5.6	POARS SG membership selection	2026-02-25
07_Bureau_2026_Mar	5.4	Funding arrangements for IPPC Regional Workshops	2026-02-25
08_Bureau_2026_Mar	7.1	Emerging Issues on Commodity Standards	2026-02-25
09_Bureau_2026_Mar	7.1	New Zealand Proposal for a Commodity Standard Global Workshop	2026-02-25
10_Bureau_2026_Mar	6.5	Bureau and SC Membership	2026-02-25
11_Bureau_2026_Mar	5.1	SPG Lessons learned	2026-03-03

Appendix 4: List of participants

Attended	Region / role	Name, address, number	e-mail
✓	Africa	Mr Mamba Mamba DAMAS Head of Plant Protection Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Intersection of Boulevard du 30 juin and Avenue Batetela, Commune of Gombe, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo Ph. (+243) 81 29 59 330	damasmamba@yahoo.fr ; damasmmb5@gmail.com ;
✓	Asia	Mr Glenn F. PANGANIBAN Director of the Bureau, Bureau of Plant Industry 692 San Andres St., Malate, Manila, 1004 Philippines Ph. (+63) 915 3141 568	glenn.panganiban@da.gov.ph ; gfpanganiban@gmail.com ;
✓	Europe (Chairperson)	Mr Sam BISHOP Head of International Plant Health Policy Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs UK Ph. (+44) 2080262506	sam.bishop@defra.gsi.gov.uk ;
	Latin America and Caribbean	Mr Larry Mauricio RIVERA General Coordinator of Plant Health Agency for Plant and Animal Health Regulation and Control, Eloy Alfaro and Federico Gonzalez Suarez, Av. Interoceanico Km 1/2, La Granja Sector, Ecuador Ph. (+593) 02-382-8860	larry.rivera@agrocalidad.gob.ec ;
✓	Near East (Vice-Chairperson)	Mr Barik Dris Chef de la Division de la Protection des Végétaux Office National de Sécurité Sanitaire des Produits Alimentaires (ONSSA) Morocco Phone: +212 5 37 67 65 00 / +212 5 37 68 13 51	dris.barik@onssa.gov.ma ; barikdris@gmail.com ;
✓	North America	Ms Michelle GRAY International Phytosanitary Standards Coordinator, USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine,	michelle.l.gray@usda.gov ;

		920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27606 United States of America Ph. (+1) 919-937-8528	
✓	Southwest Pacific	Ms Temarama ANGUNA-KAMANA Head of the Ministry of Agriculture PO Box 302, Victoria Park, Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands Ph. (+682) 00682 55871	temarama.anguna@cookislands.gov.ck ;

Observers

Role	Name,	Email address
CPM Bureau replacement member for LAC region	Mr Francisco GUTIERREZ	Francisco.Gutierrez@baha.org.bz

IPPC Secretariat

Role	Name,	Email address
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Enrico PEROTTI	Enrico.Perotti@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Avetik NERSISYAN	Avetik.Nersisyan@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Sarah BRUNEL	Sarah.Brunel@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Camilo BELTRAN	Camilo.Beltran@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Gianluca NUZZO	Gianluca.Nuzzo@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Adriana MOREIRA	Adriana.Moreira@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Paola SENTINELLI	Paola.Sentinelli@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Aoife CASSIN	Aoife.Cassin@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Russell CAPLEN	Russell.Caplen@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Karen ROUEN	Karen.Rouen@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Rebecca LEE	Rebecca.Lee@fao.org

Appendix 5: List of action points arising from the meeting

Meeting	Agenda item (decision)	Task	Person or persons responsible	Deadline
2026-03	5.1 (2, 3)	Suggested to add an explanation on the purpose of the SPG meeting into the invitation letter and agreed to consider the next steps for the planning of the SPG at their post-CPM session and requested that the secretariat suggest potential dates for a short virtual meeting to follow up on this, to be held by the end of April.	IPPC Secretariat	2026-04
2026-03	5.4 (7)	The secretariat to provide the detailed survey results from the 2025 IPPC regional workshops;	IPPC Secretariat	2026-03
2026-03	5.4 (8)	The Technical Consultation among RPPOs (TC-RPPO) include in the agenda for their meeting in 2026 a discussion on the purpose and organization of the IPPC regional workshops.	IPPC Secretariat / TC-RPPOs	2026-09
2026-03	5.5 (9)	The secretariat to liaise with the FAO Legal Office to ensure that all registrations of the ISPM 15 trademark were up-to-date, noting that the budgetary implications would need to be considered by the bureau	IPPC Secretariat	2026-06
2026-03	5.5 (10)	Add an agenda item to the CPM Bureau June meeting to consider options for a more sustainable approach of managing registrations of the ISPM 15 trademark.	IPPC Secretariat	2026-06
2026-03	5.6 (11)	The secretariat to open an e-decision for three weeks to select up to seven national plant protection	IPPC Secretariat	2026-04
2026-03	6.5 (23)	Review, at their June 2026 meeting, whether replacement members that replace full members should continue as a replacement only until the next CPM session before being considered for selection as a full member; and	CPM Bureau	2026-06
2026-03	6.5 (24)	Confirm, at their June 2026 meeting, the arrangements for financial support for bureau members attending bureau meetings.	CPM Bureau	2026-06
2026-03	8.2 (28)	The secretariat would review and update the <i>Criteria used for prioritizing participants to receive travel assistance to attend meetings organized by the IPPC Secretariat</i> , for consideration by the bureau at their June 2026 meeting.	IPPC Secretariat	2026-06
2026-03	8.2 (29)	include an item on lessons learned in the agenda of each bureau meeting	IPPC Secretariat	ongoing
2026-03	8.3 (31)	Explore the role of the TC-RPPO further at the June 2026 bureau meeting, in the IPPC regional workshops and at the SPG meeting	CPM Bureau	2026-06
2026-03	8.3 (32)	Include an update from the TC-RPPO as a regular bureau agenda item.	IPPC Secretariat	ongoing
2026-03	9 (33)	Bureau members are encouraged to raise this directly with the webinar organizers, and <i>noted</i> that the secretariat would also follow this up within FAO;	CPM Bureau / IPPC Secretariat	2026-04

2026-03	9 (34)	The secretariat to clarify with the FAO Investment Centre and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development that the option of third-party forwarding of ePhytos had already been ruled out by contracting parties at CPM-19 (2025) and that a phytosanitary certificate is solely a communication between NPPOs;	IPPC Secretariat	2026-06
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