



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

TWENTIETH SESSION

WRITTEN STATEMENTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM ON CPM AGENDA ITEMS 8, 9.2, 10.1, 10.2, 13.6

Agenda 08: Report from the Strategic Planning Group

Refer to paper [CPM 2026/05](#) (report from the Strategic Planning Group)

The importance of the Strategic Planning Group to the work of the IPPC is well recognised, and examples of this include the key role it played in the development of the Strategic Framework 2020-2030 and the concept of Commodity Standards.

However, one criticism of the SPG has always been that it is only held in Europe which unavoidably results in an imbalance in the geographical spread of delegates, which may lead to a regional bias in the discussion which take place and the conclusions that are drawn.

There is no reason for only holding the SPG in Rome, for example it has no interpretation, and the UK would like to propose holding the 2026 SPG in a different location as a trial. One possible location would be the FAO building in Bangkok as we understand that suitable meeting facilities are available there. Using the FAO building would also remove the need for a country to submit an expression of interest to host the meeting and to provide a suitable funding commitment.

Our understanding is that hosting the SPG in the FAO building in Bangkok would be less administratively burdensome for the secretariat than hosting meetings outside of Rome usually is.

Holding the SPG outside of Europe would also require holding the October meeting of the Bureau in the same location as the two meetings are always linked.

The United Kingdom encourages Contracting Parties to consider this proposal and if in favour to support it under this agenda item at CPM 20.

Agenda item 09.2 Report from the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee.

Refer to paper [CPM 2026/36](#) (Report from the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee) prepared by the IPPC Secretariat, with input from the IC chairperson and the IC vice-chairperson.

1. The United Kingdom would like to thank the members of the IC, the experts involved in the development of the IPPC guides and training materials, and the partners and

proofreaders who helped to translate and verify the accuracy of translations of IPPC guides and training materials for all their work.

2. The United Kingdom also notes actions to improve collaboration of the IC with the Standards Committee (SC), including:
 - a. establishing a dedicated repository of implementation issues relating to International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) in the restricted area of the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP);
 - b. inviting the SC to revise its terms of reference to ensure stable IC representation as an observer during SC meetings;
 - c. endorsing the linkage of adopted ISPMs with relevant implementation materials on the IPP to improve accessibility; and
 - d. requesting that the SC recommend options for storing the annexes proposed for removal from ISPM 26 (Establishment of pest free areas for fruit flies (Tephritidae)) as “interim guidance material” and to submit a specification for developing replacement guidance.
3. However, the United Kingdom is concerned that standards and supporting guidance material continue not developed in tandem, with delays in publishing guidance making it more difficult for countries to implement standards.
4. One of the key justification for establishing the Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) and IC was that it would provided the opportunity for ISPMs and accompanying implementation material to be developed in lock-step so that when an ISPM was adopted contracting parties would, in principle, have immediate access to material to support its implementation.
5. Unfortunately, the reliance by the IFU on project funding has meant that to date this lock-step approach has not been feasible. A good example is the delay in developing guidance for the *Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions*.
6. This concern has been raised at previous Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meetings. Eight of the papers submitted on ‘rethinking ISPMs’ at SPG 2025 recommended the concurrent production of ISPMs and guidance materials, for example.
7. One solution is for the IFU to have a predictable and stable core budget taken from the secretariat’s regular programme funding. Providing the IFU with more stable funding would also provide benefits to the delivery of some of its other tasks.
8. The United Kingdom has previously suggested that this could be done through the reallocation of some of the regular programme budget which is allocated to the Standards Setting Unit (SSU). This could be achieved by reducing the size of the Standards Committee and transferring the resulting savings into the budget of the IFU.
9. The United Kingdom welcomes further suggestions to ensure that standards and guidance are developed together.

Agenda item 10.1 IPPC Financial report

Refer to CPM [2026/42](#)

The UK welcomes this paper but believes that the value of the annual report to the CPM would be significantly improved if it provided greater transparency on how money from the regular program budget and Multi Donor Trust Funds are allocated. Suggestions for improvements include:

- The report currently includes data showing available resources against actual expenditure at a high level. Including more detail comparing planned budget expenditure to actual expenditure, with the Secretary providing explanations for major variances, would further improve transparency.
- There could be more detail provided on spending by project against output and delivery by each trust fund and by the regular programme funding. This would help stakeholders and donors understand where money was spent and what was achieved.

We also recommend that the Secretary explores how the other article XIV and similar bodies within FAO report on their finances to see if there are any best practices which could be adopted by the IPPC secretariat.

Agenda item 10.2 2026 IPPC Secretariat workplan and budget

Refer to paper [CPM 2026/39](#)

1. The United Kingdom expresses its appreciation to the IPPC Secretariat for the preparation of the 2026 Work Plan and Budget, and for the clarity and ambition demonstrated throughout the document. The structure of the workplan clearly highlights the Secretariat's commitment to partnerships, cooperation, and coordination as core pillars of delivery across governance, standard setting, and implementation activities.
2. These themes are evident throughout the activities of the Integration and Support Team, the Standard Setting Unit and the Implementation Facilitation Unit, each of which plays a central role in supporting contracting parties and strengthening global plant health systems.
3. The UK considers that even greater benefits could be realized from the excellent foundation presented in the work plan if future work programmes of the SC and IC were more closely aligned.
4. At present the activities of SC and IC operate independently, despite significant functional interdependence, particularly when the implementation of a newly developed or revised ISPM requires capacity development or guidance.
5. Enhanced alignment would help ensure that implementation needs are identified at the same time as standard-setting work is planned, enabling coherent prioritization, coordinated resourcing, and predictable delivery timelines.
6. The Secretariat's work plan already demonstrates the heavy workloads and wide-ranging activities of both the SC and IC, covering expert groups, technical panels, diagnostic protocols, capacity development initiatives, e-learning, and observatory

studies, guides and training material. A more structured linkage between SC and IC work programmes would enable:

- Earlier identification of implementation needs arising from new or revised standards.
- More coherent planning of Secretariat activities across SSU, IFU and IST units.
- Grouping SC and IC tasks for each topic into a single, well-defined programme package, enabling clearer budgeting through core funds.
- More efficient use of Regular Programme resources by reducing duplication and ensuring that implementation activities do not rely disproportionately on extra-budgetary support.

7. The United Kingdom suggests that CPM consider recommending that:

- All SC topics entering the work programme automatically generate corresponding IC work-programme items, where implementation support is expected and identified by contracting parties.
- Integrated SC–IC activity packages be presented in future work plans and budgets, to be funded through core resources wherever possible.
- The SC and IC Chairs and one or two Secretariat staff from each unit hold joint annual planning sessions to ensure synchronisation of timelines and resource needs.
- The Secretariat reports annually to the CPM Bureau on progress in strengthening coordination between the two committees.
- The Secretariat, SC and IC explore mechanisms for establishing automatic linkages between SC topics and corresponding IC implementation activities.
- That future work plans and budgets present SC–IC topic clusters as integrated, jointly planned and jointly funded packages.

Agenda item 13.6 Update from the CPM focus group on phytosanitary issues and climate change

Refer to [CPM 2026/18](#)

The United Kingdom welcomes this update and the progress that the focus group has made since CPM-19. We note the high number of attendees at the webinars that the group planned and hosted in September 2025. This interest in the topic underlines that experts from around the world have recognised the importance of this topic. The United Kingdom gratefully acknowledges the current and former members of the focus group for their efforts to raise awareness and provide guidance on this issue.

Technical factsheets

1. The United Kingdom encourages the secretariat to format the technical factsheets that the group has developed for publication on [the impacts of climate change webpage](#) so that they are available for all.

2025 webinars

2. The United Kingdom requests that links to the October 2025 webinars are included on the [the impacts of climate change webpage](#).

Future incorporation of climate change into IPPC activities

3. The United Kingdom recommends that the IPPC continues to raise awareness of the relevance to climate change to plant health and helps contracting parties adapt, by
- Ongoing awareness raising events such as at regional workshops and global webinar
 - Including reference to climate change in the new ISPM for PRA and developing associated guidance
 - Where relevant, considering the incorporation of climate change adaptation into all new and revised ISPMs and guidance
 - Collaborate with the wider FAO and other institutions such as the IPCC and CABI on climate change adaptation
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