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Organización  
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para la  
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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

<b>Eighth Session</b>
<b>Rome, 8 - 12 April</b>
<b>National reporting obligations: Secretariat update</b>
<b>Agenda item 11.3</b>
<b>Prepared by IPPC Secretariat (English only)</b>

1. The International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP: [www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int)) is the main tool established to facilitate the exchange of official phytosanitary information, including both national information and information provided by the IPPC Secretariat. The IPP helps IPPC national contact points to communicate with each other as well as providing a site for the IPPC Secretariat to post meeting documents, distribute publications and phytosanitary information, and for helping the Secretariat meet many of its reporting obligations under the IPPC.

2. Over 15 regional workshops (only North America has not had a workshop) and 50 national workshops (mostly related to a specific project in Africa) have been held to create awareness of reporting obligations and processes available to meet these obligations. In addition, contracting parties have provided a substantial amount of information through the IPP since the inception of the information exchange programme. Summaries of this information can be found at: <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110726&L=0>.

3. Over the past few years in particular, the exchange of information between contracting parties (CPs) has slowed significantly. Among the contributing factors have been limited resources in the Secretariat to support this programme adequately, as well as countries becoming complacent in meeting reporting obligations.

4. This issue was discussed extensively in 2012 by the Bureau, the Technical Consultation among regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), and the informal group on strategic planning (SPG), as well as within the Secretariat. The Secretariat has concluded that the national reporting obligations (formerly information exchange) programme is in need of revitalization and would like to provide more focus to the programme by establishing a step-by-step approach to facilitate CPs to meet their national reporting obligations.

5. It is hoped that this will help to:
  - a) encourage CPs to continue to exchange information under the IPPC by utilizing the IPP (as agreed in ICPM-5 (2003) to facilitate and expedite the IPPC national reporting obligations process)
  - b) improve the consistency, continuous entering and updating of the provision of national phytosanitary information through the IPP in a timely manner
  - c) set up succession planning within CPs to help ensure continuity of the national reporting obligation programmes
  - d) establish functional IPPC national reporting obligations systems in CPs to collect and verify the required information for publication on the IPP
  - e) encourage developed countries to demonstrate leadership in the entry of information
  - f) dispell the myth that entering the data takes too long as this has been disproved by a number of developing countries during workshops
  - g) remove management and political limitations
  - h) encourage CPs to also provide the same or similar information to the IPPC that they are providing to other international organizations, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and RPPOs
  - i) create incentives or added value to encourage CPs to meet their reporting obligations through the IPP, such as highlighting those countries that are doing well or need to increase participation.
6. Refocusing the IPPC national reporting obligations programme to help CPs meet their national reporting obligations may require a review of:
  - a) the legal basis for the mechanisms of reporting, including through Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs), and possible role of the IPPC Secretariat in ensuring the accuracy of data on the IPP – location, format and quality of data
  - b) whether it is appropriate to prioritize the provision of reporting data as determined by the IPPC
  - c) exactly how data is provided and relevant timeframes
  - d) which value added services the IPPC Secretariat could provide in addition to those already being developed
  - e) how to work with other organizations to ensure consistency of reporting, reducing duplication and supporting each other's work programmes e.g. WTO
  - f) the most appropriate way for CPs to consistently meet their national reporting obligations;
  - g) the most appropriate way of strengthening the role of RPPOs in ensuring contracting parties meet their national reporting obligations
  - h) the most appropriate way of communicating this reporting to stakeholders, other than NPPOs and RPPOs.
  - i) developing a step wise approach with achievable objectives being set and met each year.
7. In addition, an IPPC national reporting obligations advisory group would be established to develop a plan to assist CPs in meeting their national reporting obligations. This advisory group would consist of a single nominated phytosanitary representative from each region who is knowledgeable about the reporting obligations laid out in the IPPC. This advisory group would work virtually. Only if essential (and if resources are available), would a face to face meeting be arranged.
8. NPPO and RPPO user expectations would be obtained that would complement the feedback already received through the numerous workshops.
9. The expected timeframe would be for the plan to be completed by October 2014 for CPM Strategic Planning Group (SPG) consideration and possible submission of the national reporting obligations plan to CPM-10 in 2015.
10. The CPM is invited to:
  - 1) *provide* guidance as necessary,
  - 2) *agree* to establish an IPPC national reporting obligations advisory group, and

- 3) *agree* to the development of a national reporting obligations work programme to be presented to CPM-10 (2015).