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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

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Report on the activities relating to the International Year of Plant Health in 2020 (IYPH 2020) - Terms of Reference for the International Year of Plant Health Steering Committee
Agenda item 11.1.3
Prepared by the CPM Bureau
English only

I. Background

1. The Tenth Session of the Commission of Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-10) strongly supported a proposal by Finland for an International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) in 2020. The 39th FAO Conference in 2015 was informed of the proposal and the support it had received at CPM-10. This gave rise to further positive responses from many Conference delegations and an official request to the Director-General of the FAO has been made for the subject of declaring an IYPH in 2020 to be included on agendas of relevant FAO meetings with a view to receiving a supportive FAO resolution at the 40th FAO Conference in 2017. This would allow the proposal to progress to the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2018 for decision.

II. IYPH objective

2. The main objective of the IYPH is to raise awareness of the importance and impacts of plant health in addressing issues of global importance, including hunger, poverty, threats to the environment and economic development.

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3. Plant health in this context refers to the discipline that uses official or legislative approaches to prevent the spread of pests and diseases to new areas, especially through activities such as international trade. However, while this is largely the domain of the IPPC and national governments, the scope of the IYPH can not be limited to these activities.

III. The IYPH Steering Committee

A. Purpose

4. To achieve the main objective of the IYPH, a Steering Committee is required to plan and oversee the implementation of IYPH activities over the next six years. This Committee will undertake a number of tasks to mid-2022 that will span actions to secure agreement by the United Nations General Assembly to the IYPH, the development of materials in support of this, as well as planning and oversight of the 2020 agenda, monitoring its impact and evaluating its success.

B. Role and Responsibility

5. The Committee will ensure that contracting parties, representatives of other FAO departments and other international organisations and major donors actively contribute to the planning and implementation of the IYPH. It will do this through the development of a detailed work plan that identifies actions, communication and engagement, responsibilities, resources, costs and funding for planning and implementing the IYPH. It will identify, solicit and secure revenue sources to fund both the planning and implementation of the IYPH that are separate from funds that support the core business of the IPPC, as outlined in the IPPC strategic objectives and annual work plan and approved by the CPM.

6. The Steering Committee will focus on the specific work related to the planning and implementation of the IYPH to ensure that IPPC objectives are achieved. It will do this in collaboration with any official FAO systems and structures that are responsible for achieving FAO outcomes for the IYPH, and will assist the IPPC Secretariat to develop any resource materials, as may be required, to assist the successful progress of the proposal for the IYPH through FAO decision processes.

7. A number of specific outcomes will contribute to achieving the main objective and lead to stronger public and political support to plant health, and better coordination within the plant health community. The key areas of focus for the Steering Committee include:

- Raising the awareness of the public and political decision makers at the global, regional and national levels about plant health
- Promoting and strengthening of national, regional and global plant health efforts and their resources in light of increasing trade and new pest risks caused by climate change
- Educating the public and increasing its knowledge about plant health
- Enhancing dialogue and stakeholder involvement in plant health
- Increasing information about the state of plant protection in the world
- Facilitating the establishment of plant health partnerships on national, regional and global levels.

8. The Committee will use Strategic Planning Group (SPG) analysis of IPPC annual themes and the advocacy resources developed for each theme to assist its planning for the IYPH.

C. Tasks

9. The key tasks of the Steering Committee from 2016 to 2022 are:
- 1) Securing the proclamation of 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health.
 - 2) Developing advocacy materials in support of the IYPH and a tool kit for contracting parties and RPPOs.
 - 3) Visualising the 2020 agenda and translating this into a program of varied activities.
 - 4) Define and allocate roles and responsibilities in the IYPH.
 - 5) Monitor implementation of the IYPH agenda and evaluate outcomes against objectives and outcomes.

D. Governance

10. The Steering Committee is convened under the authority of the CPM and guidance of the Bureau to plan and implement activities in the IYPH 2020 that successfully achieve the main objective of the IYPH.

E. IPPC Secretariat function

11. The IPPC Secretariat will facilitate meetings of the Steering Committee.
12. In case of the practical implementation of the IYPH, the IPPC Secretariat will provide facilitation and/or coordination assistance to the Steering Committee depending on the availability of extra-budgetary resources. Funds from extra-budgetary resources must be allocated by the Bureau on behalf of the CPM.

F. Funding

13. The Steering Committee must be self-funded through donations of cash through the IPPC trust fund mechanism, or in-kind contributions of members and their organisation.

G. Reporting

14. The Steering Committee will provide written progress reports on its activities to each meeting of the CPM and SPG. Reports will address planning, stakeholder engagement, performance against indicators and IYPH outcomes/objectives, risks and their mitigation, resources and budget.

H. Chair

15. The Chair of the Steering Committee will be elected annually by the members from amongst its membership. An independent Chair may be appointed with unanimous agreement of the members, and subject to available funds that may be required to support their participation. Should the Steering Committee members consider it necessary, a Vice Chair may be elected from the membership in the same manner. There is no provision for an independent Vice Chair.

I. Membership

16. The Steering Committee should have sufficient members to tackle all subjects related to the IYPH 2020 through the four years of planning in the lead up to the IYPH in 2020; oversight of implementation in 2020; and post IYPH reviews through 2022.

17. It should ideally be composed of:

- 1 member and 1 alternate member from contracting parties in each of the seven FAO regions (7 members and 7 alternates)
- 5 - 7 members from collaborating International Organisations and Regional Plant Protection Organisations. These may include CBD, WCO and WTO/SPS Committee as relevant partners with a strong interest in the main objective of the IYPH
- 1 member from the IPPC Secretariat, who will also represent wider FAO interests
- 3 representatives from major donors and contributors to the IYPH 2020

18. For continuity, members or alternates may be drawn from Rome-based permanent representatives to the FAO. Three RPPO representatives from different regions, which may rotate across all regions over the planning and implementation cycle, will coordinate RPPO input into planning and implementation through the annual and intercessional actions of the RPPO technical consultation forum, in which IYPH will be a standing item.

J. Expectation of Steering Committee members

19. Members of the Steering Committee are expected to allocate sufficient time and the resources to fully participate in the Committee's activities. These commitments are expected to increase significantly in the lead up to critical delivery points including FAO and UN decisions and throughout 2020. The Chair and Vice Chair are expected to provide strong leadership and actively champion the IYPH throughout its planning and implementation. RPPOs are expected to act as a focal point for planning and coordinating IYPH activities within their region.

K. Meetings

20. The Steering Committee will meet as often as required per year. At least two meetings per year should be held in Rome, with one of these face to face meetings adjacent to the annual CPM meeting. All efforts should be undertaken to convene meetings by tele or video-conferencing, with intercessional activities enabled by electronic tools such as email or community sites eg. Sharepoint.

L. Review

21. The Steering Committee will be dissolved on 30 June 2022. Any residual actions will be assessed by the Bureau, which will allocate them to a relevant body(s) to finalise.

22. The ToRs of the IYPH Steering Committee will be regularly reviewed by the CPM Bureau and updated as necessary.