



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Eleventh Session
Rome, 4-8 April 2016
Sea Containers: An Alternative Approach for Addressing this Pathway
Agenda item 14
Prepared by the United States of America
English only

1. It has been increasingly evident to many that sea containers are indeed an important pathway for the spread of invasive plant pests and that the CPM cannot and should not ignore this pathway. Papers prepared for the special topics session at CPM-11 help confirm our understanding of the phytosanitary threat presented by shipping containers that traverse the globe.

2. However, our efforts to address this threat through the development of a standard, has also revealed, at the present time, concerns about the operational complexities, challenges and limitations of implementing an ISPM. It is apparent to us that many NPPOs feel they are not in a position--in terms of organizational, technical or institutional capacity--to implement procedures or requirements which are normally associated with an ISPM.

3. These concerns should not be interpreted as a criticism of the work and efforts that have been made thus far to prepare a standard. Rather, these views simply reflect the significant complexities of the issue.

4. Therefore, the United States proposes that work on an ISPM on sea containers be put on hold and that CPM consider an alternative strategy for addressing this phytosanitary threat. We propose that the Bureau hold a half day session at its June meeting to consider an alternative way forward on the sea container issue including and the following potential elements:

This document is printed in limited numbers to minimize the environmental impact of FAO's processes and contribute to climate neutrality. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and to avoid asking for additional copies. Most FAO meeting documents are available on the Internet at www.fao.org

- actions to improve implementation of the recently adopted CPM recommendation on sea containers.
- actions to strengthen contracting parties national collaborations and Secretariat international collaborations with the sea containers associations, IMO, ILO, UNECE and relevant shipping entities to encourage active implementation of the CTU code.
- consider the development of guidance or "code of good practices" for NPPOs and stakeholders involved in international shipping.
- consider other existing container hygiene schemes and approaches used.
- clarify NPPOs' role and authority under the Convention to address the risks related to sea containers.
- Secretariat collaboration with the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the sea container industry to develop a system to track containers to provide data for NPPOs to conduct pathway risk analysis as well as for NPPOs to conduct inspections and oversee audits.
- and, any other practical advice to NPPOs regarding actions for tracking and responding to sea container Phytosanitary risk issues.

5. In short, there is no sufficient consensus at this time to develop an ISPM but nearly most if not all members agree there is a phytosanitary threat that we simply cannot ignore. We look to the Bureau to examine an alternative path for addressing this issue until a time comes when NPPOs feel more ready to develop an implementable standard.