



CONSIDERATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OVERSIGHT BODY

Submitted by Australia

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat Evaluation report suggested that “one advisory body should be created, the nature of which will have to be determined by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), to support implementation and provide capacity development for contracting parties (CPs); this body would replace the current ad-hoc bodies on Capacity Development Committee (CDC), Implementation Review Support System (IRSS), Triannual Review Group (TRG) and National Reporting Obligations Advisory Group (NROAG) and assume their mandates”. The review of the CDC similarly recommended that this become a subsidiary body.

At CPM11 contracting parties supported the creation of the new oversight body on implementation, but agreed it was premature to create the new body based on the proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) and Rules of Procedure (RoP) as prepared by the IPPC Secretariat.

The CPM agreed that a Focus Group discuss, consider and report on the establishment of a new IPPC subsidiary body on implementation, to replace the CDC. In particular the Focus Group is to consider the purpose and scope on this new body, its functions and relationships with the other IPPC bodies such as the CPM, the CPM Bureau, the IPPC Secretariat, the Standards Committee (SC) and the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) and develop the new ToR and RoP for this group to be presented to CPM12 in 2017.

Australia welcomes the opportunity to share its thoughts with the Focus Group. The development of a new implementation oversight body provides for a unique opportunity to consider how this body can provide the greatest benefit to contracting parties regarding implementation of the IPPC and its standards.

Australia proposes that this new implementation oversight body be named the Implementation Committee (IC) (task j.) to highlight that its functions, scope and purpose are of the same importance as those of the Standard Committee and that these bodies should be closely affiliated.

The objective of the IC would be to enhance the implementation of the International Plant Protection Convention and its standards by the IPPC contracting parties by providing technical oversight of CPM agreed priority implementation initiatives (task a.).

To ensure IC can best serve the contracting parties, Australia believes that strong oversight should be provided by the CPM regarding deciding on the implementation initiatives and their priorities and how these impact on resource allocation (task e.). Clear ToR and RoP should developed, similar to those of the other IPPC bodies, i.e. the CPM Bureau and SC (task h and i).

Although Australia appreciates there may be a benefit in the CPM Bureau being involved in the IC membership selection process, it believes that this should be a responsibility of the nominating Regional Plant Protection Organization’s (RPPO). To support the nomination and selection of the most qualified candidates, the IC could develop a list of criteria they would encourage RPPOs use to select their IC nomination. Australia strongly believes that the IC should work by consensus and if consensus is unable to be reached, that this is communicated to the CPM for discussion and appropriate action (task i).

To facilitate prioritization and provide enhanced transparency (task d, g.), the IC should consider presenting the CPM with its proposed work plan, the associated funds available (both FAO and external donor funds) and those required (from potential donors), to coordinate the delivery of the proposed implementation projects, as well as the proposed priority assigned to these. Enhanced clarity on the resources available as well as those required, will assist the CPM in considering its priorities. Australia recommend that the IC utilize the recently CPM adopted Framework for Standards and Implementation to identify and present the current and proposed initiatives.

Australia believes that the focus of the IC should be to provide guidance and encouragement for NPPO's to develop their capacity to implement already adopted ISPMs and should avoid undertaking activities that NPPO can themselves do. Instead the IC could provide the required assistance to empower the NPPOs to take up these tasks.

Specifically, regarding the scope of the IC (task a.), Australia proposes that the IC manages the coordination of the implementation initiatives related to the IPPC and its standards and assists in the development of these initiatives identified by the CPM as a priority. To deliver on this scope, the key functions (task b.) would include that the IC serves as a forum to:

- 1) Identify, promote and/or develop appropriate implementation and capacity development activities, in line with CPM priorities, the IPPC National Phytosanitary Capacity Development strategy and other strategies and frameworks.
 - a) Identify and propose strategies to enhance CPs' implementation of the IPPC and other instruments, including ISPMs.
 - b) Propose priorities to CPM for implementation initiatives, reporting obligations and capacity development activities.
 - c) Identify and communicate to CPM implementation gaps utilising the Framework for Standards and Implementation.
 - d) Review, assess and prioritize for inclusion in the IPP or the phytosanitary resources website, as appropriate, technical resources provided by NPPOs, RPPOs, partners and other organizations that are relevant for the implementation of the IPPC and instruments (including ISPMs), according to criteria agreed on by CPM.
- 2) Review the IPPC National Phytosanitary Capacity Development Strategy and work plan(s) on a regular basis.
- 3) Identify an enhanced role for RPPO to assist in achieving implementation objectives.
- 4) Develop procedures and criteria for the production, oversight and approval of resources for implementation.
 - a) Establish and dissolve ad hoc task forces to address specific issues.
 - b) Monitor and evaluate implementation actions under the IPPC Strategic Framework, other related strategies, frameworks and work plan(s).
 - c) Participate in the development and maintenance of links with donors, partners and other public private organizations concerned with implementation and capacity development in the phytosanitary area.
 - d) Participate in the IPPC communication and advocacy activities.
 - e) Provide guidance on implementation and capacity development activities as required.
 - f) Share information based on the identification of challenges associated with the implementation of the IPPC and its standards with the CPM and other relevant IPPC subsidiary bodies and other organizations.
 - g) Engage with IPPC Subsidiary Bodies regarding areas of mutual interest.
 - h) Review periodically its functions and procedures.
 - i) Undertake other functions as directed by the CPM.
 - j) Report to the CPM on its activities.

The IPPC Secretariat provides the administrative, technical and editorial support as required by the IC, in particular in coordinating the aggregation of global resources related to CPM identified implementation priorities, and for reporting and record keeping regarding IC work program.

Australia recommends a close affiliation with the SC to link the development of ISPM, identified as a priority by CPM, to the aggregation, development and delivery of the associated or required implementation material or initiatives for contracting parties (task e.). This would also ensure that the expertise of each group can be drawn on to identify implementation issues, or opportunities where further harmonisation would be of global benefit.

Where there are particular strategic issues that impact on implementation, these should be communicated to the Strategic Planning Group and the CPM Bureau.