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Report from the CPM Chairperson
Agenda item 6
Prepared by the CPM Chairperson

1. This is my final report as Chairperson of the CPM. It has been an honour to serve in this position and to lead the ongoing evolution and growth of the IPPC.
2. I am very grateful and appreciative of my fellow Bureau members for their support and willing commitment of time and effort to progress the CPM agenda. I also acknowledge and sincerely thank Mr Xia and the Secretariat for their focus and action to coordinate and drive the priorities of the Commission. We have seen significant progress on many initiatives over the last two years, which would not have occurred without transparent prioritisation, defined outcomes, robust planning, effective management and access to internal and external resources.
3. The budget and planning processes of the Secretariat are continuing to evolve and will provide the basis for achieving priority actions and outcomes, and soliciting extra-budgetary contributions. I believe that there is still a need to stabilise the core funding and staffing of the Secretariat and to fully implement the agreed outcomes of the Secretariat Enhancement Evaluation. The recent role changes in the Secretariat are sure to bring opportunities for innovation and new perspectives, and I hope the new management team will strive to realise the Evaluation vision. I welcome Avetik Nersisyan to the Secretariat team and wish him every success in his role. I also thank Brent Larson and Orlando Sosa for the massive contributions they have made in standards setting and capacity development/implementation respectively, over so many years.
4. From my perspective, the last few years have seen the IPPC begin a transition from a standards setting organisation towards a future as the world organisation for plant health. The Strategic Framework 2020 – 2030 has begun to capture this ambition through a series of initiatives that will position that IPPC as the global focal point for plant health and the driver of action to reduce the impacts

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of plant pests on food security, trade and the environment. I see the Framework as a target, rather than a road map, and it will need to adapt over time to be responsive to changes in the operating environment we find ourselves in. We should ensure that we periodically lift our eyes to the horizon to review and adjust our direction in line with this future role. There is simply no other global organisation that can effectively lead in the area of plant health and we should use the International Year of Plant Health as our springboard for this vision.

5. The progress on the E-phyto hub, which has successfully transmitted phytosanitary information, is a significant step towards the global harmonisation of electronic certification. A big thank you to the E-phyto Steering Group and all involved in getting us this far. However, we should not lose sight of the fact that this is only the first step and many more are needed to achieve the global adoption of the E-phyto solution. I think it is timely for the CPM to take control of the program of implementation and adoption of a five year action plan. Key elements will include; the hand-over of the electronic tools from the STDF-funded pilot; agreement of the E-phyto business model; support materials to assist contracting parties implement the solution and integrate it into their business operations; and ongoing governance and maintenance of the solution under the authority of the CPM. This will require ongoing funding until such time as the business model is agreed and supports E-phyto operations. Transparency and accountability of actions, budgets and expenditure will be essential to ensure donors continue to invest in E-phyto and these disciplines will need to be integrated into final governance and oversight arrangements.

6. Securing sustainable funding for the IPPC will continue to be a challenge for the Secretariat and Bureau. While efforts have been made to simplify the process for donating funds for project and extra-budgetary activities, I do not see any permanent solutions outside of mandating contributions. An impasse seems to have been reached on defining supplementary contributions for each contracting party so it will remain for each country to contribute what it can to aspects of the work program that are of most interest to them. The project-based funding mechanism has been used successfully to support the Sea Container Task Force through eliciting contributions of cash and in-kind support in the form of an industry-funded coordinator and sponsorship of annual meetings. This mechanism will support projects with a defined time-span and outcomes. It will not fund additional positions in the Secretariat to facilitate activities beyond the core Secretariat functions that are funded from the FAO Regular Program. I encourage ongoing discussion of alternative mechanisms for sustainable funding.

7. I am sure that Mr Xia will outline the successes of 2017 in his report, but I would again like to thank the Government of the Republic of Korea, FAO and the organising committee for ensuring the first CPM outside of Rome was an outstanding success.

8. The first meeting of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) is a significant milestone for the IPPC. I would like to congratulate IC members on their selection and wish them well as they develop their operating procedures and work program. I also look forward to progress to reduced contamination of sea containers through the actions of the Sea Container Task Force.

9. A number of emerging issues will need to be progressed in support of reducing the international movement of plant pests. The movement of goods through ecommerce or internet trade presents significant phytosanitary risks, particularly around their detection and in engaging with on-line trading sites. This requires a global solution because it cannot be addressed by individual countries. The ratification of the Trade Facilitation Agreement and the opportunity to collaborate with other border agencies, which have a similar interest in ecommerce, is timely and we should actively engage on implementation of the TFA as relevant to our objectives. I am keen to progress a project-based action plan, similar to that for sea containers, to direct action on ecommerce. I am sure that there is opportunity to integrate activities that some contracting parties are already progressing into this plan.

10. A proposal for a CPM Recommendation on the use of next generation sequencing as a diagnostic tool alerts contracting parties to this emerging technology. I encourage you to participate in discussions on the benefit and potential risks of this innovation, but also to think about how we should be more actively identifying new tools to help us in our work.

11. Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to a most successful year in 2017. Some old friends have moved on and we welcome new colleagues. As I noted last year, our activities involve many hundreds of people and touch many more. Without this willing commitment and investment we would not achieve as much as we do. I also acknowledge the generosity of donors and contracting parties for contributing funds and other resources to IPPC activities.

12. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *Note* the Report from the CPM Chairperson