

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018

## Virtual Meeting Report of the IPPC ePhyto project Technical Committee & IPPC ePhyto Steering Group

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### Participants:

Peter Neimanis (AU, Chair)  
Younes Kabbab (MAR)  
Laura Vicaria (IPPC Secretariat)  
Gianluca Nuzzo (UNICC)  
Christian Dellis (US)  
Nico Horn (NL)  
Shane Sela (IPPC Secretariat)  
Josiah Syanda (KE)

### Participants not able to attend:

Walter Alessandrini (AR)  
Heqin Yang (CN)  
Venkat Venkateswaran (UNICC)  
Craig Fedchock (IPPC Secretariat)

## 1. Harmonized schema/validation – Dellis/ /UNICC

### Harmonized schema:

The United Nations International Computer Center (UNICC) reported that there had been significant feedback on the harmonized schema from pilot countries. Between the UNICC and ESG members, significant work has gone into updating it. More specifically, work has been done to minimize validation errors. However, the ESG discussed that the flexibility remains to use items that are not on existing lists. Outlining these gaps will remain, as the flexibility is needed for the inclusion of all country needs. Referring to past discussions, it was highlighted that 100% compliance (against the UNCEFACT schema) is not possible (at this stage) and no country is actually doing this. It is important however to achieve a level that all countries are comfortable with, and this where the validation tool will help. It was further recommended to minimize changing the schema too many times, as countries have already expressed their frustration with this occurrence.

### Validation tool update:

The UNICC announced that the first version of the validation tool is ready. In this version an NPPO can copy the XML and paste it to the hub admin console. It will then return a set of warnings (leveled by severity). Priority is being given to the elements in the document (ePhyto elements) along with some additional warning at the level of the schema. There are two sides to the validation tool, the XML and then



the list of all the harmonized codes. In the future, the ESG will need to take a role in amending the list of products.

The UNICC are interested in carrying out a demo of the tool to get some feedback. It was recommended that meetings be set up during the upcoming week with the hub pilot countries in order to obtain some initial feedback.

The UNICC explained that the timeframe for the validation tool is to be ready by mid-July.

As a separate topic, the ESG discussed the misleading nature of the countries listed on the Hub as sending/receiving. While there are many on there, in reality there are only 2 that are actually doing so. It was suggested to develop a gate way, that once a country has passed the validation they can be moved into production and then as the receiving country you don't have to validate their message every time. Although it was clarified that the validation tool does have this capacity. It was recommended as a way forward to complete the demos and the testing next week, following that further discussion will need to take place in order to document this into a procedure that countries will follow.

## **2. GeNS progress – UNICC**

The UNICC reported that the development of the GeNS is progressing within schedule. The recommendations that were discussed in Dublin during the ESG/PTC meeting have been mostly applied. The functionality of printing out/ template is currently being completed. By the end of July it is expected that the UAT version will be ready. It was recommended for the UNICC to provide a schedule of the iterations, in order to give some guidance to the pilot countries on what they need to prepare for the next few months.

As a separate topic with reference to the Hub Operations, it was discussed for the UNICC and the Secretariat to develop a communications process identifying clearly the different roles ( in particular the IPPCs) in the event that the hub malfunctions. This will be discussed further offline.

## **3. BM Report- agree on a way forward – Shane**

The members discussed potential ways forward and use of the Business Model report. Some suggested that due to (the nature of) the content it should remain internal and not be used for further distributions. Other suggested to distribute the executive summary singly and to use the recommendations in the future development of the 5 Year Strategy. It was recommended to take this offline and reach a final consensus, due to low representation of the ESG at the meeting no final decision was made. .

## **4. Africa/Near East workshop – Kabab/Syanda**

The updated Africa/Near East proposal has been updated and re-distributed to the ESG for review. The ESG is asked to provide feedback by the 9<sup>th</sup> of July. Following a discussion with NEPPO it was agreed for the letter (enquiring the UAE on their availability and interest to host the work shop) to be sent on behalf of the IPPC secretariat and NEPPO (two separate letters). It was highlighted that the IPPC secretariat is currently drafting such a letter. It will be distributed to the ESG for input, before sending it to Xia for



approval. It was suggested that once ready this letter could be send to NEPPO in order for them to draft their own version. With reference to the presentations that are directly focused on the GeNS and hub systems it was recommended to have separate presentations (one in English and one in French) to ensure a good level of understanding.

## 5. Other

The work tracker was discussed, the ESG was asked to please review and provide feedback if anything is unclear. It was agreed for Laura to send out a list of all currently circulating documents.

<i>Please note that the bellow actions have been added to the Work Tracker</i>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Status</b>
UNICC to provide schedule of iterations of the GeNS to provide to pilot countries	UNICC	13.7.2018
For ESG to come to a consensus (offline) on how the BM report should be used and/or distributed	ESG	20.7.2018
Provide feedback to the Africa/NE workshop proposal	ESG	9.7.2018
Set up pilot country meetings to test out the validation tool	ESG	complete
With reference to countries labeling themselves as sending and receiving, a procedure needs to be drafted for countries to follow. Objective to have consistent approach.	ESG	TBD
Hub production – communication process and IPPC role	IPPC/UNICC	TBD
Work Shop UAE letter, to be distributed to ESG	Shane	13.7.2018
ESG to review work tracker	ESG	13.7.2018
List of documents currently distributed to be sent to ESG	Laura	Done