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Food and Agriculture
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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

Fifteenth Session
Rome, 30 March - 3 April 2020
Endorsement of the Ministerial declaration on plant health
Agenda item 17.2
Prepared by the IPPC Contracting Parties

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL PLANT HEALTH

We, Ministers of the Contracting Parties to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), assembled at the 15th Session of the Commission for Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-15) of IPPC in Rome, Italy, on 2 April 2020, to address the global challenges of plant pests, and identify opportunities for international plant health in the next decade,

Noting that CPM-15 takes place during the International Year of Plant Health 2020, which was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2018,

Reaffirming the purpose of the International Year of Plant Health to raise global awareness and to promote and facilitate actions towards the management of plant health, which can support food security, help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment, and boost economic development,

Crucial importance of plant health

1. *Emphasize* the crucial importance of healthy plants for the enhancement of global food security, the protection of forests and biodiversity through the prevention of the introduction and spread of plant pests;

2. *Underline* the relevance of plant health in facilitating economic and trade development through the promotion of harmonized scientifically based phytosanitary measures, taking note of the global efforts and cooperation in developing phytosanitary capacity at the national and regional level;

Significant impacts of plant pests on food security, the environment and rural economies

Recognising that according to FAO, plant pests account for up to 40% of loss in global food production, and incursions of new plant pests may have significant negative impacts on food security and nutrition, particularly for developing countries.

Recognising that plant pests introduced to new areas and their spread can have major negative implications for agricultural producers;

We, Ministers,

3. *Express* our concerns on the serious matters of destruction of native flora, reduction in biodiversity, and the threats to the environment arising from plant pests or the control measures that are often ineffective to manage them;

Plant health and the pre-eminence of the IPPC

Recognising further that in addressing these concerns, the IPPC's strategic focus contributes directly to the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of ending poverty and hunger, achieving food security, facilitating economic growth, combating climate change, strengthening global partnership for sustainable development and more as stated in the UN SDGs number 1, 2, 8, 12, 13, 15, and 17,

We, Ministers,

4. *Reaffirm* the Strategic Objectives of the International Plant Protection Convention to:

- (a) Enhance global food security and increase sustainable agricultural productivity
- (b) Protect the environment from the impacts of plant pests; and
- (c) Facilitate safe trade, development and economic growth;

by developing, promoting and implementing harmonized scientifically based phytosanitary measures; and by developing phytosanitary capacity for members to accomplish the objectives.

A common vision for global action to protect plant resources and facilitate safe trade

Acknowledging that the 2019 CPM has endorsed the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 that has been satisfactorily reviewed by our IPPC contact points and which we will now adopt at the 2020 CPM session.

We, the Ministers,

5. *Reaffirm* the IPPC vision that the spread of plant pests is minimised and their impacts within countries are effectively managed.

Commitment to action

Recognising the vital role the IPPC plays in developing the global framework for safe science based trade, and the importance of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030.

We, Ministers,

6. *Commit* to:

- (a) Support the systematic implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030.
- (b) Strengthen efforts to minimise the risk of pest spread as a result of trade and travel, while avoiding unjustifiable barriers to trade, and to ensure our exports are free of regulated pests to the fullest extent possible.
- (c) Call on governments around the world to provide the necessary resources to protect plant health by ensuring our National Plant Protection Organizations have:
 - (i) sufficient capacity and resources to conduct plant pest surveillance and response activities within our borders to effectively manage plants pests, in particular outbreaks of new plant pests;
 - (ii) sufficient capacity and competence to conduct risk based import and export inspections, and apply phytosanitary measures to ensure trade in plants and plant products is safe for all countries;
 - (iii) the authority to take necessary action mandated through appropriate legislation; and
 - (iv) the commitment and necessary support to harmonise their plant health requirements on the basis of IPPC standards and principles, and thereby contribute to healthy plants and safe science based trade.
- (d) *Work* with industry to ensure trade in plants and plant products is conducted safely and does not result in the avoidable movement of plant pests to new countries especially between countries, and to raise public awareness to that effect;
- (e) *Call* for donor agencies to provide sustained material support for the work of the IPPC, and to invest to build capacity and capability in developing countries. IPPC is a key player at global level, with its approved phytosanitary diagnostic standards and protocols, which offer tools to contracting parties to exercise a regulatory framework in accordance with what is established in international regulations.