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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Fifteenth Session
Rome, 30 March - 3 April 2020
Ministerial segment of the Fifteenth session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-15)
Agenda item 17
Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

Schedule: Thursday 2 April 2020

Plenary Hall, FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy

1. **The Ministerial segment of CPM-15** is intended to celebrate the importance of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and its implementation in the context of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020. The expected outcomes of the segment are the adoption of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 and the endorsement of a Ministerial declaration on plant health, as well as a reflection by Ministers and IPPC contracting parties on historical accomplishments and future outlook of the IPPC for 2020-2030.

2. The segment will be chaired by Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, CPM Chairperson with the following schedule:

Time	Item	Presenter
10:00 - 10:10	Opening by FAO	DDG-N / ADG-AG
10:10 - 10:30	Keynote address on global importance of plant health	Mr Jari LEPPA, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland
10:30 - 11:00	Adoption of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030	Mr Ralf LOPIAN (Finland) and Mr Peter THOMPSON (New Zealand)

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11:00 - 12:00	Interventions by Ministers	Ministers in attendance
12:15 - 13:30	Ministerial luncheon hosted by the IPPC Secretariat	Ministers in attendance
15:00 - 17:00	Interventions by Ministers	Ministers in attendance
17:00 - 17:30	Endorsement of the Ministerial Declaration on plant health	Ministers in attendance
17:30 - 19:00	Side session: “IPPC Historical Achievements and Outlook for 2020-2030”	Chaired by CPM chairperson, with former (I)CPM chairpersons and IPPC Secretaries
19:00 - 21:00	Reception hosted by the IPPC Secretariat at the FAO terrace (eight floor).	Jingyuan XIA (IPPC Secretary)

3. **The IPPC strategic framework 2020–2030¹** has been developed to support NPPOs and the Commission in their work to overcome the emerging challenges linked to the growth and increasing diversity of global trade in food, agricultural and forestry products, and the increasing volume and speed of passenger and freight movements. This document communicates the work of the CPM and its priorities for the coming ten years. It provides a new operating environment to address the expected structural and operational changes that NPPOs will encounter during 2020–2030. Such changes include developments in data processing and transmission as well as considerations of how far, for example, border clearance processes can be simplified to facilitate fast trade of perishable products. Advances in science and capacity developments, such as remote sensing, will significantly affect plant health activities as will the mitigation of climate-change related impacts on agriculture and plant health. All these and other changes and their impacts on the operating environment of NPPOs and the Commission have been considered in the development of this strategic framework.

4. **The Ministerial Declaration on Plant Health²** is a high-level document developed at the occasion of the IYPH 2020, and largely based on the IPPC strategic framework 2020-2030. This document drafted by the IPPC contracting parties, and circulated for comments in July 2019. After the first round of consultations, the Declaration was reviewed and presented to the IPPC Strategic Planning Group and CPM Bureau at their meetings in October 2019. The two bodies requested FAO country/regional representatives in the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) International Steering Committee (ISC) to further consult with capitals in view of an approval of the Declaration at the CPM-15 Ministerial segment. Thus, IYPH ISC country/regional representatives undertook consultations within their regional groups to ensure the approval of the Declaration at CPM-15. The declaration includes notice of the crucial importance of plant health, its significant impacts on food security, the environment and rural economies; it highlights the role of the IPPC recalling the common vision for global action to protect plants resources and facilitate trade, and commits Ministers to undertake five specific actions.

Interventions by Ministers

5. Ministers in attendance of CPM-15 are invited to speak on behalf of their countries and endorse the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 and Ministerial Declaration on plant health.

6. Below are some key messages to be considered in view of the interventions.

- **The introduction and spread or outbreak of plant pests** significantly affects food security, biodiversity and economic prosperity. A vast range of pests threaten global food production, the productivity and biodiversity of forests and the wild flora of the natural environment.
- **Preventing** those pests spreading and establishing in new countries and regions is the aim of national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) and the International Plant Protection

¹ Ref. CPM 2020/08: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/88125/>

² Ref. CPM 2020/13: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/88136/>

Convention (IPPC). Prevention is invariably more cost effective than the alternatives of maintaining long-term control, containment, eradication or, in the worst case, the consequences of unchecked impact.

- **The NPPO** is the competent authority for a country: it is responsible for providing and receiving government to government phytosanitary assurances and should be resourced to fulfil its functions competently.
- **The IPPC** is the global international treaty for protecting plant resources (including forests, aquatic plants, non-cultivated plants and biodiversity) from both direct and indirect damage by plant pests, for facilitating safe trade through common and effective action to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests, and to promote appropriate measures for their control.
- **International standards** developed within the framework of the IPPC, under the auspices of the IPPC Secretariat, are the only international standards for phytosanitary measures recognized by the World Trade Organization's (WTO's) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement).
- The IPPC has **184 contracting parties** and its implementation is governed by the **Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)**, which mainly identifies actions to control the spread of pests into new areas, develops and adopts international plant health standards and recommendations to harmonize international trade, and assists countries in the implementation of those actions and standards.
- To raise the awareness of the public and political decision makers at the global, regional and national levels about plant health's contribution to achieving the UN sustainable development goals, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 2020 the **International Year of Plant Health (IYPH)**. The initiative was first proposed by Finland at CPM-10 in 2015. FAO governing bodies, including the FAO Conference, endorsed the proposal in 2016-17. UN Member States asked FAO, in collaboration with the IPPC, to facilitate the implementation of the Year. The IYPH was successfully launched at FAO headquarters on 2 December 2019.

7. IYPH 2020 key messages may also be referred to as follows:

1. Keep plants healthy to achieve Zero Hunger and the Sustainable Development Goals.

8. Plants make up 80 percent of the food we eat. Yet they are under constant attack from pests and diseases, which destroy from 20 to 40 percent of food crops every year. This leaves millions of people without enough food to eat, has a negative impact on rural poor communities' main source of income, and results in both yield and trade losses. Policies and actions to promote plant health are fundamental for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular those aimed at eliminating hunger and malnutrition and reducing poverty and threats to the environment.

2. Be careful when bringing plants and plant products across borders.

9. Be cautious when bringing plants or plant products when travelling and always ensure these products meet phytosanitary requirements. This helps reduce the spread of plant pests and diseases, which can seriously damage national food security, the environment and economies. Be careful when ordering plants and plant products online, or through postal services, since packages can easily bypass regular phytosanitary controls.

3. Make trading in plants and plant products safe by complying with the international plant health standards

10. Many countries depend on trading plants and plant products to sustain their economies. Yet trade can increase the risk of plant pests and diseases spreading, and seriously damage plants and biodiversity. To make trade safe, it is important to implement international plant health standards and norms, such as those developed by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and FAO. This reduces the negative impact of pests and pesticides on human health, economies and the environment.

It also makes it easier to prevent and control the spread of pests and diseases without setting up unnecessary barriers to trade.

4. Keep plants healthy while protecting the environment.

11. Climate change and human actions have altered ecosystems and created new niches where plant pests and diseases can thrive. This poses a threat to the environment and, indeed, pests and diseases are one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss. When combatting pests and diseases, farmers should adopt, and policymakers should encourage the use of, environmentally friendly methods such as integrated pest management.

5. Invest in plant health capacity development, research and outreach.

12. Governments, legislators and policymakers should empower plant protection organizations and other relevant institutions, and provide them with adequate human and financial resources. They should also invest more in plant health related research and outreach, as well as innovative practices and technologies.

6. Strengthen monitoring and early warning systems to protect plants and plant health.

13. Policymakers and governments should ensure their decisions are based on sound preparation and data. Regularly monitoring plants, and receiving early warning information about emerging threats, helps governments, agricultural officers and farmers take preventive and adaptive measures to keep plants healthy.