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y la
Alimentación

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

First Session

Rome, 3 – 7 April 2006

Report of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Agenda Item 10.2 of the Provisional Agenda

1. A report of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to the First Session of the CPM prepared by the CBD Secretariat is provided at Annex 1.

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**Report of the Convention on Biological Diversity
to the First Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures**

Introduction

1. Collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) follows from decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Biosafety Protocol (COP-MOP), and the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM). A memorandum of cooperation formalized this cooperation in February 2004.
2. The COP has acknowledged the role of the IPPC in promoting the objectives of the Convention, in particular on the issue of invasive alien species, and invited the IPPC to consider incorporating biodiversity-related criteria in the revision or elaboration of standards. The ICPM has developed revised International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures that take into account biodiversity and biosafety considerations, which is an important example of collaboration that promotes coherence between the two regimes at international and national levels. In addition, the ICPM, at its seventh meeting, adopted a detailed decision regarding cooperation with the CBD and invasive alien species.
3. At its seventh meeting, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to develop a joint work plan with the secretariat of the IPPC (COP Decision VII/13). Following this request, a joint meeting of the secretariats, including the ICPM Chair, was held in Montreal in May 2004. It was agreed that the action items from that meeting would form the initial basis for a joint work plan. A second meeting was held in October 2005, this time involving representatives of the respective bureaus in order to discuss particular issues related to potential mechanisms for future collaboration. The result of the October 2005 meeting was a revised joint work plan, which is reported on below.
4. The previous reports of the CBD to ICPM-6 in March 2004 and ICPM-7 in April 2005 reported on the relevant decisions¹ of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP-7), held in February 2004, and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP/MOP-1), also held in February 2004, as well as on the implementation of aspects of those decisions.
5. This report provides an update on progress with respect to the various programmes of work under the CBD and its Biosafety Protocol which are relevant to the IPPC.

Joint Work Plan

6. In the initial joint work plan agreed by the two secretariats at the meeting of May 2004, the secretariats agreed to include in their next meeting, representatives of the bureaus of the governing bodies. Consequently, representatives of the bureaus attended the October 2005 meeting at which the joint work plan was reviewed and updated.
7. The joint work plan covers a number of areas where collaboration is envisaged, including:

¹ All decisions can be found at www.biodiv.org

- Promoting collaboration at national levels among NPPOs and agencies responsible for biodiversity-related issues
- Addressing gaps in the international regulatory framework for invasive alien species
- Development of standards of mutual interest under the IPPC (e.g., ISPM#2), and development of guidance/standards under the CBD and the Biosafety Protocol
- Terminology, including implementation of the COP-6 request to the Executive Secretary to compile and prepare anthologies of existing terminology of relevance to invasive alien species
- Capacity-building and technical assistance
- Mechanisms for sharing information through the International Phytosanitary Portal, the clearing house mechanism of the CBD, and the Biosafety Clearing-House
- Other specific matters arising from decisions of the ICPM or COP

8. The secretariats agreed to meet by teleconference in approximately May 2006, following CPM-1, COP-8, and COP/MOP-3.

Invasive Alien Species

9. In Decision VII/13 on invasive alien species, the COP provided for an ad hoc technical expert group to be established to address gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework. This meeting took place in May 2005, in Auckland, New Zealand, and included a representative of the IPPC secretariat and a member of the bureau of the ICPM. The report of the meeting is available at <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-11/information/sbstta-11-inf-04-en.pdf>. The report was used as the basis for discussion at the 11th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-11), which took place from 28 November to 2 December 2005 in Montreal. SBSTTA-11 adopted a recommendation that was forwarded to COP-8 for consideration in March 2006.

10. In decision VI/23 on invasive alien species, the COP requested the Executive Secretary and the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) to develop a joint programme of work through the GISP partnership network among the CBD, the Convention on Wetlands, the International Maritime Organization, the IPPC and other relevant bodies. In response to this decision, the GISP, in collaboration with the CBD secretariat, hosted two workshops during 2005, one on marine invasive alien species (June 2005) and one on terrestrial and freshwater invasive alien species (November 2005). These workshops included representatives of IPPC/FAO, and were the starting point for development of a joint programme of work on invasive alien species among relevant bodies and instruments, which will be further elaborated during 2006 and possibly made available to SBSTTA-12 as an Information document.

11. The CBD secretariat attended the Plant Health Risk Analysis Workshop which was held in October 2005 in Niagara falls, Canada, jointly organized by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the IPPC. The secretariat gave presentations on the work on invasive alien species under the CBD, and on the work on risk assessment and risk management under the Biosafety Protocol.

12. There will be an in-depth review of work under the CBD on invasive alien species at COP-9. It is expected that SBSTTA will make preparations for this review during the inter-sessional period between COP-8 and COP-9.

Biosafety Protocol

13. The second meeting of the COP/MOP took place in Montreal from 30 May to 3 June 2005.

14. In its decision BS-II/9, the COP/MOP established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on risk assessment to discuss risk assessment guidance and capacity-building. The group met in Rome in November 2005, and the IPPC secretariat participated as an observer. The report of the group is available on the CBD website at <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=MOP-03&tab=1>.

15. The third meeting of the COP/MOP will take place in Brazil from 13 to 17 March 2006. At that meeting, the COP/MOP will take a decision on risk assessment based in part on the findings of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group.

16. Other issues that will be considered at COP/MOP-3 and which may be of relevance to the IPPC include information-sharing and the Biosafety Clearing-House; capacity-building; subsidiary bodies; and handling, transport, packaging and identification (Article 18). Regarding the latter, COP/MOP-3 is expected to take a decision on the issue of documentation requirements for the purpose of identification of LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing, that are subject to transboundary movement (Article 18.2(a)). The interim decision taken by COP/MOP-1 requested Parties to the Protocol and urged other governments to take measures to ensure the use of a commercial invoice “or other documents required or utilized by existing documentation systems” for the purpose of fulfilling documentation requirements. This may be of interest to the ICPM given that the Phytosanitary Certificate is a document required by existing documentation systems.