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Продовольственная и
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Alimentación y la Agricultura

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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Ninth Session

Rome, 31 March - 4 April 2014

Update on the development of a Framework for standards

Agenda item 9.5

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. One of the decisions of CPM-7 (2012) on improving the standard setting process¹ was that: A task force should be formed to develop a Framework for standards, funded by extra budgetary resources.
2. In early June 2013, extra budgetary resources were found to hold a meeting for this task force.
3. This document is to inform contracting parties of the conclusions reached to date.

II. Outcomes of the Framework for standards task force meeting

4. The Framework for standards task force meeting was convened in Ottawa, Canada, from 18 to 20 September 2013. The meeting was organized by the IPPC Secretariat and hosted by the North American Plant Protection Organization. The report of the meeting can be found on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP)².
5. The premise for the Framework for standards was that it should provide a long-term vision for planning and prioritizing the development of standards (over the next 20 years). It could also be used to present the IPPC long-term plan for standards when seeking resources from donors.

¹ CPM-7 (2012) report, Appendix 4, CPM Decision 15: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/governance/cpm/archive>

² Report of the Framework for Standards task force meeting: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee>

6. The task force considered the discussion documents presented by task force members and discussed different ways of organizing the Framework for standards:

- using a framework developed by Mr HEDLEY (New Zealand)
- organising into “codes” as used by OIE for their standards, as discussed by the SC in 2009
- based on the work functions of national plant protection organizations (NPPO) and the measures applied in a country and for export, import of commodities
- by IPPC Strategic Objectives
- using the Convention.

7. The task force concluded that the most consistent framework would be one aligned with the broad areas of the Convention organized by the obligations, rights and responsibilities of contracting parties.

8. The task force analysed all adopted standards to determine which describe essential concepts that underpin the common interpretation of the Convention (“concept” standards), which describe processes for technical implementation (“implementation” standards) and which cover both. The standards were then aligned with the obligations, rights and responsibilities of contracting parties as specified in the IPPC. Then the task force reviewed other existing relevant documents (including manuals, recommendations, explanatory documents) and documents under development (including topics on the List of topics for IPPC standards and manuals etc.) and aligned them with the Convention. The task force conducted a further review and identified gaps where further guidance is needed and considered how to address the gap through a “concept” document, an “implementation” document, both or supporting material.

9. It should be noted that this Framework for standards might also be relevant for activities under the IPPC other than standard setting, in particular for implementation.

10. The task force agreed on sixteen recommendations which are listed in the meeting report. They recommended the report be presented to the Standards Committee (SC) and then the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) for their consideration. The SPG could provide strategic advice to the SC and consider the report in their deliberations on implementation.

III. Advice provided by the Strategic Planning Group

11. The Framework for standards task force meeting report was presented to the SPG during their 8-11 October 2013 meeting³. The SPG recommended that the SC use the Framework for standards for further gap analysis and to analyse how it should be used in the future. The SPG suggested that the Framework for standards and the gap analysis could be used by the SC and CPM when considering new topics for the List of topics for IPPC standards and when prioritizing topics. In addition, they recommended that the conclusions from the Framework for standards task force meeting be considered by the Capacity Development Committee (CDC).

IV. Analysis undertaken by the Standards Committee

12. At their 18-22 November 2013 meeting⁴, the SC considered the Framework for standards proposed by the task force, ways in which it could be applied and the recommendations from the task force.

13. The SC noted that some recommendations had already been addressed and some would require further analysis. The SC agreed that the IPPC should be used as the foundation for the framework, and that standards should be developed and used by contracting parties as the basis for

³ October 2013 SPG meeting report, section 7.3:

<https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/governance/strategic-planning-group>

⁴ November 2013 SC meeting report, section 4.3: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee>

harmonization, as well as assist contracting parties meet the obligations outlined in the Convention. The SC also agreed that some provisions of the Convention do not need to be harmonized.

14. Based on the recommendations, the SC asked the IPPC Secretariat to request the CPM Bureau to consider facilitating discussions during CPM on the concepts covered in standards.

15. The SC formed a subgroup to review the proposed Framework for standards and consider some of the recommendations from the task force that needed further analysis. In addition, the subgroup was requested to perform a gap analysis, the results of which could be used during the next biennial call for topics (2015), and to consider how the Framework for standards could be applied to the overall prioritization process. The SC subgroup will report back to the SC May 2014 meeting.

16. Regarding the possible uses of the Framework for standards, the SC agreed it could be used as a tool:

- by the contracting parties to help identify gaps and how they could be addressed (e.g. new topics for ISPMs, or supporting documents)
- by the SC, CDC and Implementation Review and Support System to prioritize their work programme
- by the CPM for priority analysis of the whole IPPC Secretariat work programme
- by contracting parties and the IPPC Secretariat in resource mobilization, in order to highlight to potential donors those topics that may need further development
- by contracting parties to identify gaps in their implementation of the IPPC and to identify their needs.

17. Although the SC thought it was premature to present final recommendations to CPM at this stage, they agreed that an update on the analysis undertaken by the task force meeting should be presented to CPM-9 (2014).

V. Recommendations

18. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) note the update on the outcome of the Framework for standards task force meeting and on the analysis undertaken by the SC
- 2) note the possible uses of the Framework for standards