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INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Seventh Session

Rome, 4 – 8 April 2005

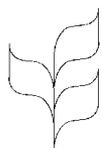
Report on the Activities of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Agenda Item 6.2 of the Provisional Agenda

1. A report on relevant activities of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) prepared by the CBD Secretariat is provided at Annex 1.

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Convention on Biological Diversity

Annex 1 Secretariat

Ref.: SCBD/BS/RH/46209R

April 2005

Report of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the Seventh Session of the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

Introduction

1. Collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) follows from decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP) 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 (COP Decision VI/23). The ICPM has developed revised International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures that take into account biodiversity considerations, which is an important example of collaboration that promotes coherence between the two regimes at international and national levels.
3. COP has also encouraged close collaboration between the CBD and the IPPC on the issue of LMOs and invited the IPPC to ensure that standards are in harmony with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Decision VI/20). The ICPM has taken into account the Protocol in the revision of ISPM#11.
4. 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 on 20 May 2004. It was agreed that the action items from that meeting would form the initial basis for a joint work plan.
5. The report of the CBD to ICPM-6 in March 2004 reported on the relevant decisions¹ of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP-7), held from 9 to 20 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), held from 23 to 27 February 2004. The COP Decision VII/13 was annexed to that report as it contains several items of relevance for the work of the ICPM.
6. 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

7. The joint work plan agreed by the two secretariats at the meeting of May 2004 identified a number of areas of potential cooperation, including but not limited to:
 - The glossary of phytosanitary terms

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

- Potential collaboration between the governing bodies (COP and ICPM), in follow-up to the request of ICPM-6
- Standards of mutual interest (e.g., ISPM#2)
- Publication of the handbook resulting from the September 2003 Braunschweig workshop
- Capacity-building
- Other specific matters arising from decisions of the ICPM or COP

8. The secretariats have agreed to convene a meeting including representatives of the bureaux of the governing bodies to consider the issue of potential collaboration between the COP and the ICPM, and possible establishment of a liaison group on invasive alien species. This meeting is expected to happen soon after ICPM-7.

9. In addition, a meeting of the open-ended working group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention will be held in November 2005. This meeting will consider the issue of cooperation between the CBD and other Conventions, including the IPPC, and also consider options for a global partnership on biodiversity to enhance implementation of the Convention and the 2010 target to achieve a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss.

Invasive Alien Species

10. 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 (paragraphs 7 & 9). This meeting is scheduled to take place from 16 to 20 May 2005, in Auckland, New Zealand. Documentation will soon be available on the CBD website at <http://www.biodiv.org/meetings/>.

11. COP Decision VII/30 on the Strategic Plan invited related conventions, assessment processes and relevant organizations to contribute reports and information that assist the monitoring of progress towards the 2010 target of a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss². One of the indicators proposed by COP in Decision VII/30 was numbers and cost of alien invasions. The recent 10th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters (SBSSTA-10), held in Bangkok in February 2005, has recommended that this indicator be changed to “trends in invasive alien species”, within which the numbers of alien invasions and the costs of alien invasions are examples of specific potential measures in this regard.

12. As requested by COP-7, SBSSTA-10 developed recommendations for a programme of work on island biodiversity. Proposed elements of this programme of work include control of pathways for major potential invasive alien species by 2010, and development and implementation of management plans for management of priority invasive alien species. The details of this recommendation will be available in the report of SBSTTA-10 on the CBD website (<http://www.biodiv.org/meetings/>), and will be considered by COP-8 in 2006.

Biosafety Protocol

13. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the CBD entered into force on 11 September 2003, and has 118 Parties as of the end of March 2005.

14. The second meeting of the COP/MOP will take place in Montreal from 30 May to 3 June 2005. Some pre-sessional papers are available on the CBD website (<http://www.biodiv.org/meetings/>) and others will be finalized and made available shortly.

² See the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Decision VI/26 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

15. The pre-session paper on Risk Assessment and Risk Management may be of particular interest to the ICPM, since the COP/MOP will consider possible development of guidance and a framework for a common approach in risk assessment and risk management. Existing relevant documents, including ISPM#11, were compiled in order to support the discussions on this topic.

16. The pre-session paper 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)), may also be of interest to the ICPM. An expert meeting on this topic was held in Montreal from 16 to 18 March 2005, in order to make preparations for a decision by COP/MOP-2. 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.