

January 2006



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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

First Session

Rome, 3 – 7 April 2006

CPM Working Group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance

Agenda Item 12.2.2 of the Provisional Agenda

I. Introduction

1. At its Second session in 1999, the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) decided to establish two informal open-ended working groups:
 - a) Informal Working Group on Strategic Planning
 - b) Informal Working Group on Technical Assistance.
2. In order to create a synergy between the two groups and to save costs, ICPM-2 decided that the two Informal Working Groups should meet back to back in Bangkok in 2000. Since this first meeting in 2000, the two groups have met annually in joint sessions, and in fact the two groups have *de facto* merged into one Informal Working Group – the Informal Working Group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance (SPTA).
3. At ICPM-6 in 2004, the role and function of the SPTA was discussed. A number of issues in relation to the operation of the SPTA were raised which included, amongst others, that no formal terms of reference for the SPTA had been established. ICPM-6 recognized the very important role that the SPTA had played and its contribution to increasing the profile of, and the funding for, the IPPC, and also recognized that the open-ended nature of the SPTA had enabled the input of those particularly interested in this subject and had allowed flexibility. However, ICPM-6 also noted that there were some shortcomings in the current operation of the SPTA and decided that a proposal on a sound structure be developed by a Focus Group, analyzed by the SPTA and submitted to ICPM-7.
4. Based on a proposal developed by a Focus Group and the deliberations of the SPTA at its sixth meeting in 2004, ICPM-7 in 2005 discussed the role and functions of the SPTA. While it was recognized by several parties that it may be preferable that the SPTA becomes a subsidiary

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body of the ICPM, others believed that it should remain informal until entry into force of the 1997 amendments of the IPPC. ICPM-7 adopted interim Terms of Reference for the Informal Working Group on Strategic Planning with the explicit provision that “*these interim terms of reference will be in place until the final structure for the Informal working group on strategic planning and technical assistance will be agreed upon*” (see report of ICPM-7, Appendix XVIII).

5. With the coming into force of the new revised text of the IPPC on 2 October 2005, the ICPM ceases to exist and is replaced by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM). Informal working groups, which are not subsidiary bodies, could however continue to meet and, if the CPM wishes so, the SPTA could continue to meet under the same terms of reference and rules of procedure.

6. However, in view of the outcome of ICPM-6, the CPM may find it necessary to formalize the SPTA in a new body that focuses its activities on strategic planning, technical assistance, administrative matters (such as financial issues, staffing etc.) and procedural matters. The following chapters provide some thoughts for consideration by CPM-1 on how such a body might be established.

II. Establishment of a working group for strategic planning and technical assistance under the CPM

7. CPM-1 may consider it necessary to formalize a working group on strategic planning and technical assistance. In formalizing a working group on strategic planning and technical assistance, the CPM should also adopt Terms of Reference (TOR) and possibly Rules of Procedure (ROP) for this working group. Considering that TOR for the ICPM-SPTA were adopted in 2005, the CPM may wish to consider them for adoption. The draft TOR in Annex 1 are based on the TOR of the ICPM-SPTA, and could be considered by CPM-1.

8. The CPM may also take into account that the establishment of a working group on strategic planning and technical assistance, based on the TOR for the ICPM-SPTA, may be the most effortless procedure which may ensure an uninterrupted continuation of the work in strategic planning and technical assistance. Rules of procedure for the working group may not be needed immediately and could be elaborated at a later date.

9. If CPM-1 considers it necessary to formalize a working group, members for the working group should be nominated by the FAO regions and confirmed by the CPM-1. FAO regions may wish to consider using the expertise acquired over the last year by nominating members to the working group which are already members of the ICPM-SPTA core group. Annex 2 lists the members of the ICPM-SPTA core group.

III. Establishment of an enlarged “Bureau”

10. At the seventh meeting of the SPTA in 2005, an alternative approach to establishing a working group on strategic planning and technical assistance was discussed (see agenda item 12.2.1). The SPTA discussed the possibility to enlarge the Bureau from three members to seven, allowing one representative from each FAO region to be a member of the enlarged Bureau. The SPTA considered that the enlarged Bureau could be attributed with the functions of the Focus Groups and of the core group of the ICPM-SPTA, and could in addition assist the Chairpersons of the CPM in dealing with administrative matters.

11. It was argued in the SPTA that such a structure could have some benefits to the CPM:

- The establishment of an enlarged Bureau would ensure that all FAO regions would be equally involved in strategic, administrative and procedural matters which may result in a higher acceptability of decisions presented to the CPM for adoption.

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- An enlarged Bureau of seven persons would be smaller than the core group of the ICPM-SPTA (currently 10 persons), which would result in savings for the IPPC Secretariat in relation to travel and subsistence.
 - Consistency and quality of outputs by an enlarged Bureau may be higher since a relatively constant group would be responsible for their development.
 - The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons may be assisted in their administrative and representational duties.

12. The SPTA also discussed that the informal character of the ICPM-SPTA has had some benefits by allowing interested contracting parties to participate in the meetings of the SPTA. It was argued that if an enlarged Bureau would be constituted, such a system should be considered, through, for example, having some of its meetings open to interested contracting parties. The SPTA also realized that the establishment of an enlarged Bureau would involve a change to the ROP of the ICPM [CPM].

13. If CPM-1 considers it of advantage to establish an enlarged Bureau, the ROP of the CPM would have to reflect the changed composition. The CPM may wish to consider amending Rule II of the ROP of the ICPM for that purpose. CPM-1 may also consider that TOR and ROP of such an enlarged Bureau would have to be developed and, if necessary, be attached as an Annex to the ROP of the CPM.

14. If CPM-1 considers it of advantage to establish an enlarged Bureau, advice is needed on how to proceed in developing TOR and ROP for this enlarged Bureau. The CPM may find it of advantage to establish a Focus Group or charge the Secretariat and the CPM Chairpersons to develop such TOR and ROP. CPM-1 should also indicate in this case what interim measures it intends to take until such a structure is established.

15. The CPM is invited to:

1. *Consider* how strategic, administrative and procedural matters should be developed in the CPM.
2. *Provide* advice on how to proceed on this matter.

Annex 1**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE****1. Establishment**

The working group on strategic planning and technical assistance was established by the First Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-1, 2006).

2. Scope of the Informal working group on strategic planning and technical assistance

The working group on strategic planning and technical assistance is to deal with issues in the areas of:

- strategic planning
- technical assistance
- administrative matters (such as financial matters, staffing etc.)
- procedural matters.

3. Objective

The objective of the working group on strategic planning and technical assistance is to formulate recommendations, advise the CPM on issues referred to it and report on those issues.

4. Structure of the working group on strategic planning and technical assistance

The working group on strategic planning and technical assistance will consist of:

- a core group of 10 members consisting of:
 - the Bureau of the CPM
 - plus seven representatives, one from each FAO region
- chairpersons of the Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement and Standards Committee on invitation for relevant agenda points
- plus other members (interested persons from contracting parties).

Meetings of the working group will be chaired by one member of the Bureau of the CPM.

Whenever possible, members of the working group on strategic planning and technical assistance voluntarily fund their travel and subsistence to attend meetings. Members of the core group may request financial assistance from FAO for meetings with the understanding that the priority for financial assistance is given to developing country representatives.

5. Functions of the working group on strategic planning and technical assistance

The working group on strategic planning and technical assistance has the functions listed below, and also provides recommendations and advice to the CPM, as appropriate, in relation to these functions:

- review of the strategic plan and business plan
- review of the work programme
- review of technical assistance activities
- review of information exchange activities
- recommendation of strategic priorities for new standards

- undertaking of financial planning
- development of appropriate procedures
- consideration of a possible CPM response to emerging issues
- undertaking of any other activity referred by the CPM.

6. IPPC Secretariat

The Secretariat provides administrative, technical and editorial support as required by the working group on strategic planning and technical assistance. The Secretariat is responsible for reporting and record keeping regarding the activities of the Informal working group on strategic planning and technical assistance.

Annex 2

**CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON STRATEGIC
PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CORE GROUP**

FAO Region	Country	Name
Africa	Ghana	Edmond Kojo Jack-Vesper SUGLO
Asia	Philippines	Larry R. LACSON
Europe	Sweden	Göran KROEKER
Latin America and Caribbean	Trinidad and Tobago	Lilory McCOMIE
Near East	Lebanon	Charles ZARZOUR
North America	USA	Richard DUNKLE
Southwest Pacific	Samoa	Kirifi POUONO
ICPM Bureau	Kenya	Chagemu KEDERA
ICPM Bureau	Canada	Reinouw BAST-TJEERDE
ICPM Bureau	Finland	Ralf LOPIAN