

April 2013



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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Eighth Session

Rome, 8 - 12 April 2013

Statement by Mr Braulio F. De Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of CBD

Agenda item 12.2.3

Prepared by the Convention on Biological Diversity

[Mr Director-General]

Mr Chair,

Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to join the eighth meeting of the Committee on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), and thank you for the opportunity to share with you information about some of the recent developments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, that are relevant to your work here.

As some of you may recall, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 was adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD in 2010 with 20 global Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity is not a plan just for the CBD, it is a plan for all organizations of the United Nations and all stakeholders in biodiversity. It is also a plan that goes far beyond what the CBD constituency can do on its own: it depends on the commitments and contributions of many partners if we are to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. I am therefore grateful to the FAO, the IPPC and other international organizations for their commitment and for signing in November 2011 a Memorandum of Cooperation on the implementation of the Strategic Plan and Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Among the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, I would like to highlight Target 9, as I believe that this target must be the most interested target for the members of the CPM. Target 9 reads as follows: **“By**

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2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment”.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A large number of alien species threatening biodiversity are species recognized as “pests” under the IPPC, and such unwanted species, if introduced outside their natural range, are called “invasive alien species” under the CBD. Quarantine and surveillance, as described under the IPPC, is the most powerful tool in place to detect and consequently prevent alien species from entering new environments. I understand that sufficient surveillance at the national level can help meet the IPPC Strategic objective B: protect the environment, forests and biodiversity from plant pests, as laid out in the IPPC Strategic Framework 2012 – 2019, therefore contributing directly to Target 9 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

The International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) provide effective guidance, not only for protecting plant health, but also for protecting the health of ecosystems, habitats and native species. I have been emphasizing the need for the biodiversity community to engage with the representatives of other processes, in this case with the National Plant Protection Organizations. But I would also like to invite you to seek out and partner with those responsible for implementing the CBD in your countries.

At the CBD COP-11 last October in Hyderabad, India, the COP encouraged contracting parties of the IPPC, as well as members of the Committee of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization to further to address the risks associated with the introduction of alien species by developing and improving international standards, guidelines and recommendations. In this regard, I would express my sincere appreciation to the IPPC for developing the “***Pest Risk Analysis for Plants as Quarantine Pests***”, which provides substantive guidance for Parties to the CBD to take appropriate measures on potentially invasive alien plants.

The work on “***Minimizing the Pest Movement by Sea Containers***” is critically important and I thank the Expert Working Group and the Secretariat of the IPPC for providing an opportunity for the CBD to participate to this important standard setting process, noting also the participation of industry representatives in the development of cleanliness criteria. I hope for its speedy adoption as a new ISPM to ensure that the spread of alien species as well as pests of plants through this pathway will be further contained.

Capacity development in the area of plant protection is essential. In this context I appreciate the initiative of the Standards and Trade Development Facility to organize, together with the IPPC and OIE, the “***Seminar on International Trade and Invasive Alien Species***” which was held at the HQ of the World Trade Organization, Geneva, Switzerland on 12-13 July 2012, involving approximately 110 participants who work in the areas related to both biodiversity and international trade.

It is my pleasure to inform this forum that the Secretariat of the CBD, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the IPPC, organized a “Subregional Capacity-building Workshop to Address Invasive Alien Species and to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 in the Arab region” in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 11-14 February 2013. This workshop offered an opportunity for National Plant Protection Organizations from the region to discuss and interact with national focal points for the CBD. The

workshop facilitated the sharing of information on known pests/invasive species and discussed possible national policy options as part of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. The workshop was an eye-opening experience for many participants who came to realize that there are natural partners and allies for the effective prevention and management of invasive alien species located in institutions that in most countries fall under different ministries.

Some countries in which the Phytosanitary systems are well-equipped can serve as regional champions in addressing invasive alien species. This, however, requires additional efforts and resources. Further coordination and communication among the diverse sectors of Government and other stakeholders including industry, academia and civil society are necessary to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9. I am keen to continue working with the IPPC, to support countries in their efforts to address the threat posed by invasive alien species.

CBD COP-11 welcomed the close relationship of the IPPC and other relevant organizations with the CBD in making progress on setting standards for the control of invasive alien species. and we are committed to continuing our collaboration with the IPPC and other partners in this area. With this I wish every success at this meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures.

Thank you.