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Food and
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para la
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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Eighth Session
Rome, 8 - 12 April
Outcome of the evening session on <i>Minimizing pest movement by sea containers (2008-001)</i>
Agenda items 8.1.4
Prepared by IPPC Secretariat

1. The Steward gave a brief presentation, providing an overview of the issues faced during the development of this draft ISPM. It was noted that an Expert Working Group (EWG) held in May 2012 in Malaysia had developed a draft standard on the topic which had been presented to the SC in November 2012. The CPM were reminded that in December 2012 an update from the CPM Bureau was sent out to IPPC contact points requesting them to submit their views to SC members. Comments collected were taken into account and the draft ISPM was revised and several issues were identified for further discussion, these are outlined in the CPM discussion paper¹.
2. An evening session was held to discuss these issues further.
3. After lengthy discussions during the evening session, it was clear that further consideration on this complex topic was needed. It was agreed that a survey on pest interceptions on sea containers was needed. However, some members felt that this would be a very difficult task and that specific NPPOs should be requested to volunteer for this task. As many stakeholders are involved in the movement of sea containers, some members considered that these stakeholders should be responsible to help ensure containers were clean. The Steward and the Secretariat informed members that the EWG (with guidance from the industry representatives) recommended that shipping companies were the logical choice to be responsible for the cleanliness of sea containers because they provide oversight to the depots and already audit them.
4. It was noted that initial dialogue with the World Customs Organization (WCO) on expanding their WCO data model to include some data on container cleanliness had progressed and that the WCO would be considering the IPPC request further in the next few months. If the WCO accepted the IPPC

¹ CPM 2013/28

request, further work would still be needed with industry who would initially collect this information in their own Bayplan / Stowage Plan Occupied and Empty Locations (BAPLIE) file system. Then later this data would be transferred to national customs organizations who in turn would share with NPPOs.

5. Some members were convinced a comprehensive standard was needed to help NPPOs address all the issues while other members felt the issues could not realistically be addressed in a standard. All members expressed appreciation for the work done on the draft ISPM so far and acknowledged that the contents would be useful for NPPOs. Some members felt some frustration that the development of this draft ISPM was not moving forward quickly.

6. The Secretariat reminded the meeting that major advances had been made with industry, who, stimulated by the EWG discussions, had incorporated phytosanitary requirements in their own cleaning guidelines. These take the form of a Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units being jointly updated by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). During this updating, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) had been invited to comment on the Code and had suggested ways to address their concerns. These guidelines will be used by industry when examining and cleaning sea containers to address human and animal health and phytosanitary issues.

7. Most members felt the content of the draft ISPM required further consideration, in particular how to proceed with audits (including accreditation) and verification methods. Finally it was decided that a step wise approach should be followed. It was agreed to continue processing the draft ISPM through the IPPC standard setting process and re-evaluate how to proceed at a later stage.

8. The CPM:

Regarding *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* (2008-001)

- 1) *Requested* the SC, with input from the Secretariat, to develop a survey to be carried out by NPPOs to gather information of pest interceptions on sea containers.
- 2) *Requested* NPPOs to take part in the survey and gather information on pest interceptions on sea containers, over a limited time, and submit this information to the Secretariat for analysis and reporting.
- 3) *Welcomed and thanked* the ILO, IMO and UNECE for the development of the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units and encouraged industry to implement these guidelines as soon as possible.
- 4) *Thanked* the EWG, the SC and the Secretariat for all their efforts in attempting to address this complex issue.
- 5) *Requested* the SC to develop a preliminary draft standard to be sent for member consultation and used by NPPOs for discussion in order to gather stakeholders comments.
- 6) *Requested* the SC to develop a description of options for possible systems for sea containers examination including audit and verification mechanisms for NPPOs to discuss with relevant stakeholders at the national level.
- 7) *Requested* NPPOs and RPPOs to liaise and engage relevant stakeholders at the national level, including national representatives to relevant international organizations (CBD, IMO, OIE, WCO, WHO, etc.) as well as industry.
- 8) *Requested* the Steward and the Secretariat to continue to liaise and engage with relevant international organizations, and gather information on the components of comprehensive systems.