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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Fifteenth Session
Virtual Meeting, 16, 18 March and 1 April 2021
Interventions from Australia
Various agenda items
Prepared by Australia

**Conference Room Paper
– AUSTRALIA –
Interventions for the virtual CPM15 meeting**

Australia welcomes the opportunity to submit this Conference Room Paper to allow for interventions that would normally be presented verbally at a face-to-face CPM meeting, to be presented to Contracting Parties as we meet in this virtual format for CPM15.

Item 8.3 – Report from Strategic Planning Group

Australia strongly supports the establishment of focus groups to progress the issues of Implementation of the Strategic Framework; Communications; and Climate change impacts on plant health, as proposed by the Strategic Planning Group (SPG).

Australia has reviewed the proposed Terms of Reference for these focus groups (CPM2021/06, CPM2021/08, CPM2021/07 and CPM2021/14) and proposes some amendments for the consideration of contracting parties.

Principally, Australia proposes amendment of paper **CPM2021/14**, to refine the skill sets sought and to include provision of an open call for expertise, as proposed in the Terms of Reference for the other two focus groups.

Australia has included the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference for the focus group on Climate Change impacts on plant health, as tracked changes to the text, at **Attachment 1** to this paper.

Item 9 – Standard Setting

Australia thanks the Standards Committee and the supporting secretariat staff for the work done under the difficult circumstances of the past year.

Australia supports adoption of the Draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and Annexes presented to this CPM15 meeting.

Item 10.1 – Adoption of draft CPM Recommendation on “food aid”

Australia thanks the CPM Bureau for taking the time to review the draft *CPM Recommendation on the safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid to prevent the introduction of pests during an emergency situation*.

Australia supports the adoption of this version of the CPM Recommendation, with understanding but disappointment at the removal of the Appendices.

Australia also fully supports the intervention submitted by the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO) on this item.

Item 10.2 – Approval for first consultation of CPM Recommendation on “contaminating pests”

Australia thanks those who attended the International Symposium on Limiting the Spread of Contaminant Pests, held in Sydney, Australia in March 2020 and also the members of the virtual drafting group for providing comments and advice to develop the revised text of this *CPM Recommendation on Facilitating safe trade by reducing the incidence of contaminating pests associated with traded goods*.

Australia supports the inclusion of this draft CPM recommendation in the 2021 round of country consultation, to allow contracting parties to review and submit comment on the drafted text.

Item 11.1 – Report from the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee

Australia thanks the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee and the supporting secretariat staff for the work done under the difficult circumstances of the past year.

Australia notes that the CPM is invited to: ***agree that the PCE is a useful tool to help evaluate and develop national phytosanitary capacities***

While Australia agrees with this statement and the other recommendations in the paper CPM2021/26, Australia believes that the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) could be more useful if its method of application was reviewed. Australia considers a desktop examination could be done with a view to improving:

- ease of use of the PCE
- the regional sensitivity application
- implementation of programs or projects to address the identified areas for improvement.

By improving these aspects, Australia believes that not only the value of the PCE tool would increase, but biosecurity outcomes for contracting parties could also be improved more swiftly, for the benefit of all.

Item 11.3 – Update from the Sea Containers Task Force

Australia’s views are well represented in CPM 2021/INF/13 *Proposal for a path forward for the Sea Container Taskforce*. Australia supports the intervention submitted by the United States of America that proposes a potential way forward, aimed at implementing the findings of the Sea Container Task Force (SCTF).

Sea containers continue to pose a biosecurity concern to Australia, with a number of resources being used to address issues of pest risk linked to container contamination.

Australia would like to draw contracting parties' attention to the articles published on the IPPC [<https://www.ippc.int/en/news/200-million-reasons-to-take-global-action-on-sea-containers-to-keep-khapra-beetle-out/>] outlining Australia's current work in this regard.

Item 13.1 – Long-term financial sustainability

Australia congratulates the IPPC and the ePhyto Steering Group for guiding the implementation of ePhyto across the globe.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the difficulties experienced using paper certificates over this period has demonstrated the value of the ePhyto system in facilitating maintenance of phytosanitary certificate transmission and safe movement of plant products.

Australia recognises that this initiative is at the stage where a sustainable funding model is required and considers Option 3, presented in CPM2021/31, provides the most reasonable basis for a sustainable funding model that does not unduly burden contributing organisations.

Australia also considers that some elements of Options 4 and 5 may be beneficial or prove useful and should be considered by the small group tasked with investigating this issue further for presentation to CPM 16.

Australia notes the number of options provided in CPM2021/31 and proposes Options 1 and 2 should not be further investigated due to the potential administrative burden of these options; and that Options 6 and 7 should be disregarded due to private sector interests, which may negatively impact the integrity, early on, of this principally NPPO-to-NPPO system.

Item 19 – CPM authorization for the CPM Bureau to operate on its behalf during 2021

Australia supports the recommendations presented in this paper.

Australia also takes this opportunity to thank the CPM Bureau for their sustained work over the past 12 months to maintain the momentum of activities on the IPPC work program.

The CPM Bureau's support of the IPPC Secretariat and advice provided to subsidiary bodies was also critical for these groups to progress work in the absence of a 2020 CPM meeting.

As in the 2020 letter to the CPM Bureau Chair, Australia continues to support the CPM Bureau to make decisions to facilitate the operation of the IPPC Secretariat, and the progress of items on the IPPC workplan and workplans of its subsidiary bodies.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - Proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference for the focus group on Climate change impacts on plant health



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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Fifteenth Session
Virtual Meeting, 16, 18 March and 1 April 2021
Report from Strategic Planning Group - Establishment of CPM Focus Group on Climate change impacts on plant health
Agenda item 8.3
Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat and the SPG

I. Terms of Reference for a CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues

A. Background

1. Available science suggests that climate change has a significant impact on plant health, especially due to the actual and potential expansion of pest distribution and intensity, and changes in pest epidemiology and life cycle. Mitigation of these impacts will present a major challenge to the national, regional and international plant protection organizations.
2. The IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 includes assessing and managing the impacts of climate change on plant health as one of the eight development agenda items to be addressed by the global plant health community over the current decade.
3. The goal defined in the IPPC Strategic Framework is that by 2030, the impacts of climate change on plant health and the safe trade of plants and plant products are 1) evaluated on a regular basis, especially in relation to pest risk analysis and management issues, and that 2) phytosanitary matters are

adequately reflected in the international climate change debate and better considered for example by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

4. To enhance understanding of the issue, the IYPH International Steering Committee has commissioned a study report on the impacts of climate change on plant health, which will be published on 1 June 2021. The results and recommendations of the study report will be presented at the first **International Plant Health Conference in Helsinki in June 2021**, where climate change is also one of the major thematic topics to be discussed. The study report, which will be accompanied by a summary for

Commented [Aus1]: Sadly, it is understood this conference has had to now be cancelled. It is proposed that an introductory webinar be held (in addition and prior to that referenced in (5) below) to present the report and provide some background and explanation of the recommendations to contracting parties.

policy makers, will be one of the key legacies of the International Year of Plant Health 2020, and its results and recommendations, together with the findings of the Helsinki conference, will provide an important scientific basis for the future action on assessing and managing the impacts of climate change.

5. At its October meeting, the SPG provided guidance to the IPPC Secretariat on how to proceed with the afore-described development agenda item. The SPG agreed that the major goal in 2021 with regard to this should be to increase understanding of the phytosanitary issues associated with climate change, and that the study report and the Helsinki Conference form an important basis for this understanding. The SPG also agreed that the Helsinki Conference should be followed up by a webinar organized by the Secretariat, targeting IPPC contracting parties, to further inform and enhance countries' understanding of the issue. The primary goal of the webinar would be to better define the key actions that the CPM should take.

6. In addition, the SPG agreed to recommend the CPM to establish a focus group on climate change and phytosanitary issues. The mandate of the focus group would be, inter alia, to develop an IPPC action plan on climate change and to coordinate its implementation. Its proposed purpose, further functions, composition, funding and duration are explained in more detail below.

B. Purpose

7. The focus group will coordinate the development and support the implementation of the IPPC's action plan on climate change

- 1) to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on plant health;
- 2) to enhance evaluation and management of risks of climate change to plant health and
- 3) to enhance the adequate recognition of phytosanitary matters in the international climate change debate, inter alia by providing related advocacy.

C. Membership

8. The IPPC focus group on climate change and phytosanitary issues ~~is~~ will be composed of up to ten members with relevant skills and experience in one or several of the following fields: plant health (including plant pathology and entomology) phytosanitary measures, understanding of NPPO operations (including regulatory functions) and their interactions and relationships with other agencies, climate change, ecology ~~plant pathology, agricultural entomology, climatology, modelling, economics, genomics, statistics biometrics, spatial analysis, Decision Support Systems (DSS), advanced automated trend/pattern analysis, advanced optimization, social sciences, ecosystems, phytosanitary measures~~ or other relevant field.

9. In addition, all members should have knowledge of the IPPC's mandate and activities.

D. Functions

10. The focus group will:

- conduct an analysis of the CPM responsibilities on climate change issues as appropriate, with a view on their effect on plant health policies;
- develop ~~a draft~~ IPPC climate change action plan with a schedule to be presented to the CPM-16 (2022) for consideration, based on the analysis above and the findings and recommendations of the IYPH International Steering Committee commissioned report on the impacts of climate change on plant health;
- provide guidance on and lead the development of the IPPC future actions with regard to the impacts of climate change on plant health;
- support implementation of the action plan at the global, regional and national levels;

Commented [Aus2]: Consider these skill sets should be utilised for the IYPH commissioned study report, but that different skill sets are required for development of the IPPC Action Plan and promotion. Other complementary skill sets include an understanding of NPPOs, their function and interaction with other agencies.

Commented [Aus3]: Is this schedule for the development or implementation of the action plan? This timeframe for development is very short if the group have only 5 months to draft this action plan after release of the IYPH International Steering Committee commissioned report.

- call IPPC contracting parties, regional plant protection organizations, relevant international organizations, and major donors, for actively contributing to the planning and implementation of the IPPC climate change action plan;
- identify and with support of the IPPC Secretariat, solicit revenue sources to fund the implementation of the action plan;
- monitor implementation of the action plan against its key performance indicators;

- perform other related functions as required.

E. Process

11. ~~The establishment of the focus group will follow a CPM decision on this subject in its 2021 session. A call for nominations will be published on the IPPC website to allow contracting parties and regional plant protection organizations to nominate their representatives to be part of the focus group. The IPPC Secretariat Management Team will review the nominations and select focus group members assuring gender and geographical balance and submit them to CPM Bureau for endorsement. The CPM Bureau, upon consultation with the IPPC Secretariat and taking account of the balance of skills and experience required, stakeholder and geographical representation and gender balance, will select and appoint the members by June 2021.~~

Commented [Aus4]: This method ensures a transparent process and makes the process for establishment of this Focus Group more similar to the other two seeking establishment at CPM15.

~~12.~~12. The focus group will convene virtually for the first time by July 2021, soon after the results and recommendations of the study report on the impacts of climate change on plant health are published on 1 June 2021, to select its chairperson and discuss its action plan and functions as described in section 3.

~~12.~~13. The relevant action plan will be presented to the CPM Bureau and the SPG by December 2021.

Commented [Aus5]: This is a very short timeframe given the report will only be released in June/July 2021.

~~13.~~14. A webinar on the impacts of climate change on plant health will be organized by the IPPC Secretariat to present the proposed action plan.

Is the intention to hold an additional SPG meeting in December to address this action plan?

~~14.~~15. The action plan will be presented to CPM-16 (2022).

Commented [Aus6]: Is the intention that this is a draft of for adoption or seeking comment? The status/intention should be clear here to understand the expectation.

F. Funding

16. The organization that employs an IPPC meeting participant is responsible for funding the travel and daily subsistence allowance for that person to attend. If the employer is unable to allocate sufficient funds, participants are first encouraged to seek assistance from sources other than the IPPC Secretariat. Where such demonstrated efforts to secure assistance have been unsuccessful, requests for assistance (i.e. travel and subsistence costs) from the IPPC Secretariat may be made. However, any support is subject to available funds. The IPPC Secretariat will consider funding assistance for participants following IPPC criteria for funding. Full details on these criteria can be found on the IPP (<https://www.ippc.int/publications/criteria-used-prioritizing-participants-receive-travel-assistance-attend-meetings>).

G. Duration

17. The focus group will remain effective until CPM-19 (2025).