The IPPC in Twenty Years – IPPC Secretariat Proposal

1. During the 15th meeting of the SPG in October 2013, the Secretariat presented a paper calling on the membership of the Convention to “take the initiative to establish a longer term view and actively scan the horizon for those threats, gaps and opportunities that may be ten to fifteen years in the future.” Then and now, the Secretariat considers this undertaking to be of significant importance. Consequently, it is gratifying to see the number of papers presented for discussion under this agenda topic bringing to the table a number of creative and potentially beneficial ideas.
2. The original Secretariat proposal to last year’s SPG called for a small think tank to follow this topic, but it is now clear following discussions last year and as evidenced by the production of the papers for this topic that the concept of “horizon scanning” can and should be tackled through the SPG. The Secretariat believes that the SPG should maintain an agenda topic of “future-casting” for the express purpose of regularly scanning the future for threats and opportunities and providing guidance to the IPPC Secretariat on how best to adjust to changing realities related to plant health and the mandate of the IPPC.
3. The SPG is invited
* to *adopt* the recommendation of the IPPC Secretariat for a standing agenda item on “future-casting” for the SPG,
* to *suggest* possible topics and questions of a medium or longer term nature from both an issue and operational perspective for discussion in the SPG, and
* to *engage* in an unfettered discussions during SPG 15 and future SPGs on longer term planning and strategies.