Commission on Phytosanitary Measures:

STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP meeting

**Possible revision of the International Plant Protection Convention**

**Introduction**

1. The current text of the IPPC was agreed in 1997 and entered into force in 2005, involving intensive consultations and approval process. Since agreement of the current text there have been various developments within and surrounding the IPPC and issues identified for improvement in the IPPC text.
2. Discussions at CPM8 revealed the need for further analysis to identify issues for a possible revision, and the CPM Bureau had a brief discussion at its June meeting.
3. This document is an attempt to provide thoughts for the SPG’s consideration on how to deal with the issue of possible revision of the IPPC, and to consider any other possible alternatives. This could include the use of exiting mechanisms within the Convention text itself to pursue long term goals.

**Revise or not**

1. The primary question should be:
   * Whether we need a revision or not, and how we will reach the conclusion to this question. There should be an agreement at an initial stage or after certain preliminary discussions (identifying the specific issues to focus) whether the revision work is necessary, taking into account the cost and complexity of the issue. Alternatively, is there a possibility of establishing a process to consider the use of any existing mechanisms, perhaps within the Convention itself, to improve the work of the IPPC.

**Revision process**

1. In the event of an agreement on the need for a revision effort (or in parallel to such consideration), the following questions will be useful to consider:
   * Why we want to revise, and what do we want to revise.
   * What the mechanism is for revision of the IPPC according to the current Convention text (should be different from the previous occasion when there was no CPM).
   * When the appropriate target date should be for the actual revision.

**Suggested actions of the SPG**

1. The SPG is invited to:

* *C*onsiderand *discuss* this document, and *suggest* any additional actions for the CPM, Contracting Parties, Bureau members and the Secretariat, for possible inclusion of this issue in CPM9 agenda.