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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Twelfth Session

**Incheon, Republic of Korea , 5-11 April 2017**

## Strategic partnerships

## Agenda item 8.5

**Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat**

1. Strategic partnerships are carefully calculated relationships developed between businesses, organizations or individuals that involve working with each other toward a collective goal. Strategic partnerships bring together entities with similar, yet not duplicate services, as well as their combined resources of talent, knowledge, expertise and often, finances. Each entity retains its own autonomy<sup>1</sup>.
2. The IPPC has primarily focused on strategic partnerships with other international and non-governmental organizations that operate within the overall scope of IPPC efforts to prevent the spread and potential establishment of pests within the SPS framework. Widening the scope of strategic partnerships provides opportunities to leverage co-investment of both cash and in-kind resources across all of the IPPC activities. With that in mind, the Secretariat of the IPPC has developed the following for CPM consideration.
3. It is clear that the public resources available to do the work of the IPPC Secretariat are continuing to diminish in the face of general economic difficulties. However, a remaining untapped and potentially significant resource are those industries and industry groups with a significant interest in phytosanitary issues and especially protecting the world's plant resources from pests. The Secretariat considers that there are many possibilities for working with industry consistent with the objectives of the IPPC Strategic Framework in the pursuit of plant protection, subject to certain criteria that are

<sup>1</sup> Lisa McQuerrey, Houston Chronicle, 2016

fundamental to striking the right balance to provide appropriate productivity with appropriate interaction.

4. Development of Public-Private partnerships between the IPPC and stakeholders to support global plant health efforts is also consistent with discussions which have taken place during the past year in both the Bureau and SPG meetings, and something that is envisioned for the IPPC Strategic Plan from 2020 to 2030. For example, the IPPC is contemplating holding a stakeholders workshop in 2020 in association with CPM-15. One of the purposes of this workshop is to give industry representatives the opportunity to discuss and decide on the establishment of an IPPC stakeholder advisory group, along with the appropriate Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure. The intended end result of such a workshop would be the establishment of a collaborative framework between the IPPC and the advisory group which would include meetings on a regular schedule.

5. Ahead of the proposed 2020 workshop, the Secretariat proposes encouraging phytosanitary-related industry associations to create a small, independent group made up of no more than five to seven rotating industry representatives. This group would meet on a regular basis to identify those areas in which the IPPC and industry could find synergies to work together on issues of mutual interest. Getting industry to take this step would require little more than bringing the issue up in the context of the IPPC's already-existing interactions with specific industry organizations and making it clear to them that this is the direction in which we wish to go as an organization. Industry must self-select the leadership, but that should also be easy to do as those industries with the greatest interests in the IPPC are already working with us individually, save for the already-existing ePhyto project Industry Advisory Group. Over the long term, this could aid in the formation and development of both the stakeholder workshop as well as the more formal stakeholder body.

6. As an independent body, the advisory group would not be formally connected to the IPPC or the Secretariat in any way. The group would be responsible for all meeting arrangements and would only offer advice on its own initiative rather than as a result of a request from the IPPC Secretariat. IPPC participation (which could include any single member of the Bureau, Secretariat or a combination, and subject to Bureau approval) would be upon invitation only through a designated contact point in the IPPC Secretariat's communications team. The industry representatives should represent industry groups or associations and not individual firms. Meetings of the advisory committee would not be an opportunity for industry to give direction to the IPPC, but rather would be an opportunity for exchanging information on issues of interest and concern to IPPC contracting parties which may have an impact on the development of new ISPMs and capacity development projects.

7. The proposed advisory group is additional to existing industry involvement and engagement in initiatives including ePhyto, sea containers and the grains standard – where specific industry experience and expertise was sought to ensure initiative outcomes are compatible with global trading systems.

8. The advisory committee could provide an additional platform from which to initiate resource mobilization drives. The committee could have a role in identifying and providing access to those organizations/individuals with which the IPPC could most effectively partner, and especially those with which the IPPC has had no prior contact or knowledge. The advisory committee could also play a role in helping to establish a human resource conduit to provide the IPPC with needed expertise to take on the numerous projects in the standard setting or Convention implementation pipeline. . The objective would be for the committee to serve as an information exchange mechanism for the IPPC and industry in providing clear, transparently reported information and outside advice on broader/global issues of plant health.

9. The CPM is reminded that establishment of an Industry Advisory Committee is not something that should take place under the direction of the IPPC Secretariat or the CPM Bureau. The recommendation herein is to encourage industry/industry groups to act on their own and take the initiative in forming a body which could interact with the IPPC community for the purpose of broadening and strengthening the global effort to protect plants from pests. The purpose of this document is to provide encouragement from the CPM to industry to initiate the process of establishing a body. It

requires no funding from the IPPC, only a resource/ contact point prepared to interact with the group on behalf of the IPPC and a willingness and openness to engage such a body should it be established.

10. The CPM is therefore requested to:

- 1) *agree* to continue the improvement in collaboration between the IPPC and stakeholders,
- 2) *approve* the organization of a stakeholder workshop in 2020,
- 3) *encourage* globally and regionally relevant industries and industry groups to explore the formation of an IPPC stakeholder advisory body for the purpose of broadening its engagement in and contribution to the protection of the world's plant resources from pests, and
- 4) *request* relevant industries and industry groups to prepare draft ToRs and RoPs for such an IPPC stakeholder advisory body, if appropriate, for agreement at the IPPC/stakeholder workshop in 2020, if not sooner.