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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Thirteenth Session

Rome, 16-20 April 2018

International Year of Plant Health in 2020 (IYPH 2020)

Agenda item 12.2

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

## I. Introduction

1. At CPM-10 (2015) Finland proposed to establish an International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) in the year 2020. The proposal received strong support from the CPM-10 and it was decided to pursue the establishment of IYPH in 2020 under the leadership of Finland.
2. CPM-11 (2016) adopted a defining scope of “Plant Health” in the context of the IYPH, setting the parameters of what the IYPH will cover. In addition, CPM-11 adopted the main and specific objectives for the IYPH and established an IPPC steering committee for the IYPH (hereinafter “IYPH StC”). The 25th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture held in September 2016 reviewed the proposal made by Finland and decided to submit a draft resolution to the 155th Session of the FAO Council (December 2016), which also endorsed the draft resolution.
3. CPM-12 (2017) adopted the envisaged outputs and outcomes for the IYPH. Contracting Parties were encouraged to provide extra-budgetary contributions to enable promotional activities to support the IYPH proclamation process and to propose potential IYPH events and activities to their regional representatives in the IYPH StC.

## II. Activities to promote the proclamation of the IYPH in 2020

4. A well-attended reception to support the IYPH proclamation was organized on 4th July 2017 at the presence of speakers Andrew DOYLE, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Ireland, Aulikki HULMI, Director of International Relations at Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, Jingyuan

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XIA, IPPC Secretary, and Ralf LOPIAN, IPPC Contact Point for Finland, as well as FAO management and Permanent Representatives. In this occasion, the IYPH promotional video was displayed for the first time.

5. On 5th July 2017, the 40th Session of the FAO Conference approved the proposal by the Government of Finland to establish IYPH 2020 in the UN system and endorsed the Draft Conference Resolution, requesting the FAO Director-General to transmit this Resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider at its next session declaring the Year 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health. The resolution, which will be proposed to the UN by the Government of Finland, is expected to be presented to the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) from October to November 2018.

### **III. Second and Third meetings of the IPPC Steering Committee for the IYPH**

6. The 2nd meeting of the IYPH StC was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 12 to 13 April 2017. It elected Ms. Kyu-Ock YIM (Republic of Korea) as the new vice-chairperson and renewed the membership of the working groups on finances and on communications and partnerships. The meeting's main outcomes included: an improved IYPH communications work plan; advancements in the discussion over the IYPH resource mobilization and partnerships; arrangements for the proposed IYPH side event at the upcoming 40th Session of the FAO Conference.

7. The 3rd meeting of the IYPH StC was held at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 8 to 10 November 2017. It was attended for the first time by an invited stakeholder: a representative from the International Seed Federation. The meeting was also attended by members of FAO management namely Ms Marcela VILLARREAL, Director of the FAO Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division (DPS) and Ms Clara VELEZ FRAGA from the FAO Office for Corporate Communication (OCC). They congratulated the IPPC Secretariat and steering committee members for their early preparation. They also confirmed that the new steering committee which will be established by FAO after the IYPH proclamation will be based on the current one, thus building on the experience and work plan being developed by the IYPH StC. They further stressed the significance of raising extra-budgetary resources, and to involve academia, civil society organizations and other UN agencies in the planning and implementation of the IYPH. It was clarified that FAO will undertake all necessary activities for a successful delivery of the IYPH.

8. The IYPH communication work plan was revised to rally support for the IYPH proclamation and to inform relevant stakeholders about the importance of plant health to eradicating hunger, improving livelihoods, facilitating trade and protecting the environment, in view of celebrating IYPH in 2020.<sup>1</sup> This includes three major outputs: 1) develop IYPH campaign material and events; 2) develop IYPH media presence; 3) develop IYPH social media presence. The IYPH communication work plan will be reviewed and updated continuously to allow taking new communication developments and trends into account.

9. With regard to financial matters, the IYPH StC recognized that according to FAO procedures "an International Year will not be proclaimed unless full financing (which in principle should be based on voluntary contributions) .... [is] confirmed"<sup>2</sup>. It concluded that consequently, no programme activity of the IYPH should be financed directly by the IPPC Secretariat from its regular budget. Subsequently, extra budgetary funds are necessary in order to promote the proclamation of the IYPH and to prepare a relevant programme.

10. Concerning the resource requirements for promoting the proclamation of the IYPH, the IYPH StC believed that a number of communication and lobbying activities would have to be carried out, such as organizing side events at FAO or other UN meetings. Currently there are extra-budgetary

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<sup>1</sup> Ref. Appendix 3 of 3rd IYPH StC Report

<sup>2</sup> FAO, C 2013/LIM/15

contributions of approximately USD 173 000 earmarked for the IYPH. As noted by CPM-12 (2016), some funds would have to be committed to support the proclamation process until 2018.

11. The IYPH StC further estimated the costs of the IYPH by establishing a skeleton programme of flagship events during 2019/2021 and costing them in a general manner. It considered that the total budget for IYPH activities (2019 - 2021) should be at a minimum of 600 000 USD, which would include:

- 1) IYPH launch and opening ceremony in New York and/or Rome (November/December 2019) - *estimated costs USD 75 000;*
- 2) Launch of IYPH photo and video competition (January 2020) - *estimated costs included in the general IYPH communication budget of USD 200 000;*
- 3) Ministerial CPM meeting (April 2020) - *estimated additional costs of USD 100 000;*
- 4) World Food Day with focus on Plant Health (16 October 2020) - *costs included in the communication budget;*
- 5) International Global Conference (November 2020) - *estimated costs USD 150 000;*
- 6) IYPH closing event (January 2021) - *estimated costs USD 75 000.*

12. The IYPH skeleton of events was submitted for contracting parties consideration through a survey opened from December 2017 to March 2018.

#### **IV. Recommendations to CPM-13**

13. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *Note* the report of the 2nd and 3rd meeting of the IYPH StC, including the revised communications work plan and potential partners for IYPH.
- 2) *Agree* to the skeleton of IYPH programme events and their associated estimated costs
- 3) *Encourage* Contracting Parties to provide extra-budgetary contributions to enable promotional activities to support the IYPH proclamation process and subsequent the IYPH programme development.
- 4) *Urge* Contracting Parties to contact their competent authorities in charge of United Nations affaires to support the proposal for an IYPH in 2020 within the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (October to November 2018).
- 5) *Request* Contracting Parties to share national and regional level activities relevant to IYPH with their regional representatives in the IYPH StC.