CPM chair’s letter to ministers of IPPC contracting parties regarding contributions to the IPPC Multi-donor Trust Fund

Excellency (or appropriate),

I have the honor to bring to your attention the importance of International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in the light of decisions made during the 13th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures in 2018. The Commission is the governing body of the IPPC.

The global community is demanding, as a right, access to sufficient safe and nutritious food for its people. This also requires food to move without unjustified impediment from where it is produced to where it is consumed. Trade builds wealth and supports economic and social stability. However, plant pests can destroy livelihoods, communities, economies and leave millions without food to eat while pest occurrence can impede trade. The IPPC is the leader in the global effort to prevent pest spread, promote and maintain plant health, and therefore food security.

The IPPC Secretariat’s annual budget is approximately USD 5 million and supports the strategic objectives of the IPPC:

* protecting sustainable agriculture and enhancing global food security through the prevention of pest spread;
* protecting the environment, forests and biodiversity from plant pests;
* facilitating economic and trade development through the promotion of harmonized scientifically based phytosanitary measures, and
* developing phytosanitary capacity for members to accomplish the preceding three objectives.

Despite the important role it plays, the funding of IPPC Secretariat’s work is not sustainable. Out of the total annual budget, USD 2.95 million is received from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations’ (FAO) Regular programme. Approximately USD 2 million is received through voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties and international organizations. In other words, 40% of IPPC Secretariat budget is largely dependent on 10-15 donors from the 183 IPPC CPs and other organizations, which makes the IPPC Work programme both unstable and unsustainable. The continuing unpredictability of 40% of funds is a heavy burden to the smooth operation of the IPPC Secretariat. It is increasingly hard to manage the IPPC work programme under these circumstances, and this is directly impacting on the ability to meet the increasing demands from Contracting Parties and the communities they represent.

As a step towards a sustainable funding solution for the IPPC Secretariat, this year the Commission a procedure for Contracting Parties, which significantly simplifies financial contributions to the work of the IPPC Secretariat. This eliminates the need for a formal agreement with FAO prior to providing funding to the IPPC Secretariat.

Contracting Parties are invited to make voluntary contributions to the valuable work of the IPPC Secretariat represented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), through the “IPPC Multi-donor Trust Fund” (MDTF), by simply making the transfer of funds to the trust fund. The Commission “Strongly encouraged Contracting Parties to continue contributing to the IPPC MDTF and IPPC Projects until a permanent funding solution was defined and agreed”.

The use of funds is transparent and set out in the Work Plan and Budget of the IPPC Secretariat, which is approved annually by the Commission.

Excellency, as the Chair of the Commission, I would like to invite your Government to consider providing voluntary contributions to support work programme of the IPPC in the light of its importance and the lack of sustainable funding.

The staff of the IPPC Secretariat will provide you with every assistance to enable your contribution, should your Government be willing to support the work programme. The Secretariat can be contacted by email at ippc@fao.org.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga

Chair of Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

Rome, DD MM YYYY