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Продовольственная и
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Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Fourteenth Session

Rome, 1-5 April 2019

Five year strategic plan for ePhyto: Transitioning from project to business as usual operation - New Zealand Statement on Sustainable Funding for e-Phyto

Agenda item 8.6

Prepared by New Zealand

English only



1. New Zealand has been a strong and long standing supporter of the IPPC ePhyto work programme. We commend the ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) and the Secretariat for the progress made to date in establishing the ePhyto Hub, piloting its use, and developing the web-based Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS). New Zealand is successfully exchanging certificates via the Hub on an operational basis with three countries and looks forward to doing so with additional countries as soon as they are ready.
2. The five year strategic plan as proposed in paper CPM 2019/35 provides confidence that forward thinking and planning is occurring. However, we are concerned that the financial plan relies on substantial donor funding of \$US1 million per year for the next five years. Reliance on donor funds for such a long period place the ePhyto solution at serious risk. We are also concerned at the protracted proposed timeline to design, gain approval, and implement a sustainable funding model.
3. **Relying on donor funding:** New Zealand questions how feasible this model is for a 5 year period. We anticipate it will be extremely challenging to attract such a large amount of funding to a single project. The paper does not provide any information to suggest it can be achieved. We expect it to be particularly challenging because there are also calls for donors to provide substantial funding to support the 2020 International Year of Plant Health.
4. **Timeline for Sustainable cost recovery:** The timeline to establish a sustainable cost recovery model Annex 1 indicates this will not be presented to CPM for approval until 2023. The TDAF Consulting report recommends a mechanism should be in place before the end of year three (presumably 2021). It may take some time for countries to implement an agreed model due to government funding models or regulatory requirements.
5. **Proposal:** New Zealand proposes the ePhyto Steering Group and the Finance Committee of the Bureau work together with urgency to propose a sustainable cost recovery model for adoption by CPM-15 (2020). Implementation by countries using the Hub could then begin in at the start of the 2021 Financial year. This timeline will significantly decrease the risk to the ePhyto solution.