Positioning of the IPPC within FAO structure

*Prepared by the CPM Bureau*

1. At the occasion of the last FAO Council meeting held in June 2020, the FAO management presented their plans for restructuring the FAO programme of work and budget, along with the new organizational structure and reporting lines. The CPM Bureau had the opportunity to review these documents and to follow the implementation of decisions taken with the agreement of the FAO Council.
2. Following discussions within the CPM Bureau some points of concern arose regarding the positioning and visibility of the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), which is governed by the CPM as an FAO Article XIV body.
3. The first point of concern relates to the visibility of the IPPC Secretariat. In fact, it was not clear from the FAO proposal where the Secretariat would be placed in the new FAO structure, as no reference to the IPPC was made in the documents presented at the FAO Council. In recent years, the IPPC Secretariat has been under the oversight of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department (AG), while the current positioning under the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) seems to be a demotion. Bureau has discussed the possibility to place IPPC in a position similar to Codex Alimentarius, as the best option.
4. A second point of concern relates to the reporting lines. In the previous setting, the IPPC Secretariat was reporting directly to the Assistant Director-General, and lately the IPPC Secretary had been reporting directly to Deputy Director General. The Bureau considers that this line of reporting, directly to DDG, is the most appropriate.
5. The CPM Bureau believes that in order to address these concerns, the FAO Council should reconsider the placement of the IPPC in the FAO structure. The CPM Bureau has already triggered the interest of IPPC Contracting Parties, to ask that this item be included as part of the agenda for next Council meeting. The Bureau invites SPG participants to discuss this issue and how best to ensure the interests of the IPPC are taken into consideration. It is expected that a product of this discussion would give participants of Council elements of decision.
6. The SPG is requested:
7. to *note* the issues raised by the CPM Bureau in this document
8. *offer advice and guidance* on the best path forward to ensure the FAO Council takes this issue into serious consideration, and
9. *commit to advocate* more visibility and higher regard for the IPPC within the FAO organizational structure.