



REPORT

STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP (TELECONFERENCE)

**ROME, ITALY
10 NOVEMBER 2020**

IPPC SECRETARIAT

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1. Opening of the Meeting

- [1] Ms Marica GATT (CPM Bureau member for Europe) opened the meeting, acting as alternate SPG Chairperson in the temporary absence of Mr Lucien KOUAME KONAN due to connectivity issues.
- [2] Mr Javier TRUJILLO ARRIAGA (Chairperson of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures) informed the SPG about the recent activities he performed on behalf of the IPPC community, as requested by the CPM Bureau, in relation to the positioning of the IPPC Secretariat in the new FAO structure and the selection of a new IPPC Secretary. He highlighted the importance of engaging Members of the FAO Council to highlight the importance of the issue of the positioning and profile of the IPPC Secretariat within FAO. Mr TRUJILLO briefed the SPG participants on the response provided by Ms Beth BECHDOL, FAO Deputy-Director General, to his letter sent on behalf of the CPM Bureau, noting FAO leadership's recognition of the importance of the role of the IPPC and the position of IPPC Secretary. In this regard, he reported the DDG's intention to issue a vacancy announcement for the currently vacant position with the objective to attract candidates of high calibre and with demonstrated leadership, managerial, diplomatic and technical skills to successfully deliver on the crucial mandate of the IPPC.
- [3] Mr TRUJILLO commented on the important items for the current SPG session, noting the peculiar situation of having little budget constraints for the moment due to the current COVID-19 pandemic while underlining the lack of certainty for extra-budgetary resources available to implement the 2021 IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget. He invited the SPG to support the IPPC community in providing guidance to establish clear priorities for the IPPC Secretariat Work Plan, particularly with reference to the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020 – 2030 and its development agenda, which may facilitate resource mobilisation activities as well as determine budgetary allocations.
- [4] Mr Avetik NERSISYAN (IPPC Officer-in-Charge for daily matters) welcomed all participants to the SPG November meeting. He updated the SPG about the vacancy announcement for the post of IPPC Secretary, which has been cleared by FAO, and specified that the position would be a D-1, reporting to a Deputy Director-General of FAO, as requested by the CPM Bureau. Mr NERSISYAN clarified that the FAO Council agenda does not contain a specific point related to the IPPC Secretariat positioning within FAO and invited SPG participants to liaise with their FAO Council counterparts to raise this topic under Any Other Business during the FAO Council session. He informed the SPG that FAO is currently undergoing a revision of its Strategic Framework and that the IPPC Secretariat has been asked to contribute to it.

2. Meeting Arrangements

2.1. Adoption of the Agenda

- [5] The Agenda was adopted without modifications and is attached to this report as [Annex 1](#).

2.2. Election of the Rapporteur

- [6] Ms Marica GATT (CPM Bureau member for Europe) asked for volunteers to be nominated as Rapporteur at the current SPG session. Several SPG participants proposed to nominate Mr Marco TRAA (Netherlands). The SPG acting Chairperson noted the proposal and Mr TRAA's acceptance of the role.
- [7] Mr Marco TRAA (Netherlands) was appointed Rapporteur at this meeting.

3. Administrative Matters

3.1. Documents list

- [8] The List of Documents was circulated and is attached to this report as [Annex 2](#).

3.2. Participants list

- [9] The List of Participants is attached to this report as [Annex 3](#).

4. Strategic review of the SPG

- [10] Mr Omar EL-LISSY (United States of America) presented the key points of the paper¹ on SPG rules of procedures, highlighting that this discussion should reaffirm the role of the SPG within the IPPC community and its contribution to the strategic discussions and trends that can impact on the IPPC work. He expressed appreciation for the work the SPG has managed to deliver so far and emphasised that an SPG revision would clarify and strengthen its function also in the future, ensuring it continues to operate in a strategic as well as forward-looking fashion.
- [11] Mr EL-LISSY presented some of the key elements that are being proposed for SPG discussion and consideration, emphasising how such an approach would ensure the SPG remains useful and strategic for IPPC contracting parties (CPs) to identify key issues, also facilitating resource mobilisation activities.
- [12] The SPG welcomed the proposal to review the SPG Terms of Reference (ToRs) to reinforce its strategic work, underlining the importance that such proposed modifications remain minor improvements, since several SPG participants noted that many IPPC achievements over the past ten years had been conceived within the SPG.
- [13] The SPG agreed to avoid discussions on procedural or administrative matters when such matters are not themselves intrinsically strategic and take into consideration both ongoing and emerging issues, without affecting the IPPC core activities. The SPG underlined the importance of the proposal on revising the SPG agenda drafting process, which should be drafted by the CPM Bureau in consultation with the IPPC CPs and the support and inputs from the IPPC Secretariat.
- [14] The SPG:

¹ 05_SPG_2020_Nov

- (1) *Agreed* to continue the review process of the Terms of Reference of the Strategic Planning Group to improve its focus on strategic ongoing and emerging issues.
- (2) *Recommended* that the Terms of Reference of the focus group working on said task include the suggestions presented in paper 05_SPG_2020_Nov, “*Strategic review of the SPG*”.
- (3) *Emphasized* that the Terms of Reference of the focus group working on the SPG review would be submitted to FAO Legal Services for revision prior to the submission to the Commission for Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) for final approval.

5. Prioritisation and staging of the Development Agenda programmes across the ten years of the IPPC Strategic Framework

- [15] Mr Omar EL-LISSY (United States of America) introduced the paper on the topic highlighting the profound global impact of the pandemic on many aspects of work, including the IPPC Work Plan. He stressed the importance that the CPM consider increasing the focus of the 2021 IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget by defining clear priorities for the IPPC community, arguing that it would require a broad consensus over the most pressing matters over the next two years.
- [16] Mr EL-LISSY suggested to discuss each development agenda item during CPM-15, underlining that each requires a considerable amount of resources for its successful implementation, which may have detrimental effects on resources from the IPPC regular budget allocated to ensure continuity to the IPPC core functions.
- [17] The SPG agreed with the need to proceed with appropriate prioritisation of the eight development agenda items as well as ensuring the IPPC core functions continue to receive the necessary budgetary allocations to deliver their work, which is the primary objective of the Convention itself.
- [18] The SPG also agreed that prioritising the eight development agenda items does not imply assigning different ranking of relevance or urgency but highlights the necessity to allocate available extra-budgetary funds to maximise the effectiveness of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020 – 2030 over its ten-year implementation period.
- [19] The SPG underlined the importance of allowing an open discussion at CPM-15 on assigning priorities, noting that the SPG should provide guidance and indications on the principles to follow but not being excessively prescriptive in defining said priorities beforehand, as some countries may interpret this approach as a limitation to their ability to express their views on the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020 - 2030.
- [20] The SPG:
- (4) *Recommended* the CPM Bureau to develop the Terms of Reference for a focus group on the implementation of the development agenda Items to be established by CPM.

- (5) *Suggested* that the CPM consider, during its next session, assigning priority to development agenda items currently under development or next to completion.

6. Review of 2021 Work Plan and Priorities of the IPPC Secretariat

- [21] Mr John GREIFER (Chairperson of the Financial Committee) reported about the discussions during the latest meeting of the Financial Committee (FC), underlining that the IPPC Secretariat should receive clear and detailed guidance from the CPM Bureau and SPG to continue delivering its work effectively and efficiently.
- [22] The IPPC Secretariat further illustrated the content of the proposed budget allocations for 2021, clarifying that budget allocations for the development agenda have been included under the operational costs of each team/unit, in accordance with the five-year investment plan. He clarified that the development agenda items are funded up to approximately 60 percent for 2021.
- [23] Some SPG participants asked the IPPC Secretariat for clarifications regarding the inclusion of the commodity standards in the development agenda table and suggested to review the IPPC work plan constantly, especially under the current circumstances that may alter the status quo considerably or may allow for the repurposing of some donations. One SPG participant queried about the ownership of expected level of savings and whether this should be reflected in the paper, elaborating on the potential expenses regarding the current positioning of the IPPC Secretariat within FAO.
- [24] The IPPC Secretariat agreed with the proposed approach of constantly reviewing the IPPC Work Plan, clarifying that such an approach has always been adopted but may be strengthened under the current circumstances, also by including a discussion with donors for potential repurposing of already-submitted contributions. He further clarified that expected savings remain under total control of the IPPC Secretariat and will be available to support the IPPC 2021 Work Plan and Budget and may equal the average costs for holding a CPM session minus some fixed costs. He also concluded that the IPPC Secretariat shares some costs with the Plant Production and Protection (NSP) Division of FAO.
- [25] The SPG suggested to consider the inclusion of certain activities such as regional workshops, the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation as well as organising webinars and populate resource pages with information relevant to the IPPC community. The SPG also agreed that the IPPC Secretariat should consider the added value of strengthening the partnerships with FAO technical divisions, particularly those working on pest control and other IPPC-related activities, developing coordinated strategies in 2021 to deliver the IPPC Work Plan.
- [26] Mr John GREIFER (FC Chairperson) welcomed the discussion and informed the SPG that the FC would hold its meeting in December 2020, including a paper summarising the SPG discussion for consideration aiming to provide clear guidance to the IPPC Secretariat.

7. Resource mobilisation

[27] Mr John GREIFER (FC Chairperson) introduced the discussion, highlighting that the current IPPC resource mobilisation strategy² was adopted by CPM-7 in March 2012, guiding the IPPC Secretariat resource mobilisation efforts ever since, noting that it expires at the end of 2021. The IPPC Secretariat presented the achievements and major issues in implementing the IPPC resource mobilisation strategy.

[28] The SPG welcomed the presentation and noted with appreciation the achievement in implementing the IPPC resource mobilisation strategy, inviting the IPPC Secretariat to use the expiring document as basis to draft a new resource mobilisation strategy. Several SPG participants underlined the importance of including in the new IPPC resource mobilisation strategy clear indications on how to approach donors, formulate projects and elaborate effective publications to mobilise resources, especially for national plant protection organizations (NPPOs), which may lack specific skills to mobilise resources. The SPG suggested the drafting of specific papers focusing on the relevance of the IPPC work.

[29] The IPPC Secretariat reported that certain resource mobilisation activities are already taking place and suggested to hire a fundraiser to probe potential new donors, who would require strong supporting documents and papers to promote the IPPC work.

[30] The SPG noted that the current IPPC resource mobilisation strategy continues to be an excellent basis for improvement and suggested that the coming IPPC Secretary may play a strong leadership role negotiating resource mobilisation with new potential stakeholders and that the IPPC community may consider revising the IPPC Supplementary Agreement for Resource Mobilization, adopted by CPM-6 in 2011, under Article XVI of the IPPC to establish a new, sustainable source of resources.

[31] The SPG:

- (6) *Noted* the achievements made through the implementation of the IPPC Resource mobilization strategy for 2012-2021.
- (7) *Commended* the United States of America, Finland for drafting the IPPC Resource mobilization strategy for 2012-2021 and the IPPC community and IPPC Secretariat for implementing it effectively.
- (8) *Suggested* that the IPPC Resource mobilization strategy for 2012 – 2021 be used as primary reference to draft the new strategy for the coming decade 2022 – 2031.
- (9) *Recommended* the establishment of a focus group to redraft the IPPC resource mobilisation strategy for 2022 – 2031.

8. Any Other Business

[32] The IPPC Secretariat informed the SPG that the CPM-15 would be held virtually and that the current proposed schedule is to have five different sessions, conducted over a two-week span. He further

² <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/572/>

informed the SPG about the cancellation of the Ministerial Segment and plant health declaration, clarifying that the first four sessions will be entertaining all the agenda items and one session will take place at a later stage for report adoption, which is a similar approach adopted by other FAO Governing Bodies as well as the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

[33] Several SPG participants expressed some disappointment for this arrangement but also recognised the exceptional times that may have not allowed Ministers to participate fully and endorse the Ministerial Declaration. The IPPC Secretariat noted the concerns and suggested that a similar setting be considered for CPM-16 or possibly during the first celebration of the International Day of Plant Health, on 12 May 2022, if endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly.

[34] The IPPC Secretariat informed the SPG about a virtual meeting discussing potential methods for making the e-Phyto solution sustainable in the long-term, occurring on November 24, 21:00 CET, and extended an invitation to all SPG participants and encouraging sharing the invitation throughout their networks.

9. Next Meeting

[35] The next SPG meeting will take place on 19 – 21 October 2021.

10. Close of the Meeting

[36] Ms Marica GATT (CPM Bureau member for Europe) thanked all participants for the active participation and closed the meeting.

Annex 1 –Documents List

DOCUMENT NO.	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT TITLE (PREPARED BY)	DATE POSTED / DISTRIBUTED
01_SPG_2020_Nov	02.1	Draft Agenda	2020-11-05
02_SPG_2020_Nov	03.1	Documents List	2020-11-05
03_SPG_2020_Nov	03.2	Participants List	2020-11-09
04_SPG_2020_Nov	05	Prioritisation and staging of the Development Agenda programmes across the ten years of the IPPC Strategic Framework – US discussion paper	2020-10-23
05_SPG_2020_Nov	04	Strategic review of the SPG – US discussion paper	2020-10-23
06_SPG_2020_Nov	05	Prioritisation and staging of the Development Agenda programmes across the ten years of the IPPC Strategic Framework – New Zealand discussion paper	2020-10-30
07_SPG_2020_Nov	07	Resource mobilization	2020-11-04
08_SPG_2020_Nov	06	Review of 2021 Work Plan and Priorities of the IPPC Secretariat	2020-11-05
IPP LINKS:			
SPG October 2019 Report			

Annex 1 – Provisional Agenda

AGENDA ITEM		DOCUMENT NO.	PRESENTER / IPPC Secretariat support
1.	Opening of the Meeting		Lucien KOUAME (SPG Chairperson)
2.	Meeting Arrangements		Lucien KOUAME
2.1	Adoption of the Agenda	01_SPG_2020_Nov	
2.2	Election of the Rapporteur	--	
3.	Administrative Matters		Arop DENG
3.1	Documents lists	02_SPG_2020_Nov	
3.2	Participants list	03_SPG_2020_Nov	
4.	Strategic review of the SPG	XX_SPG_2020_Nov (TORs) Plus papers from CPs 05_SPG_2020_Nov	Konan KOUAME
5.	Prioritisation and staging of the Development Agenda programmes across the ten years of the IPPC Strategic Framework	Papers from CPs 04_SPG_2020_Nov 06_SPG_2020_Nov	Konan KOUAME
6.	Review of 2021 Work Plan and Priorities of the IPPC Secretariat	08_SPG_2020_Nov	John GREIFER/ Marko BENOVIC
7.	Resource mobilization	07_SPG_2020_Nov	John GREIFER/ Marko BENOVIC
8.	Any Other Business		Lucien KOUAME
9.	Next Meeting		Lucien KOUAME
10.	Close of the Meeting		Lucien KOUAME

Annex 2 –Participants List

Annex 3 – Action List

N.	Action	Lead	Lead within Secretariat/ CPM Bureau/ Persons involved	Deadline
1	Develop the Terms of Reference for a focus group on Prioritisation of Development Agenda Items to be established by CPM	CPM Bureau	Arop DENG	26/02/2021
2	Establish of a focus group to redraft the IPPC resource mobilisation strategy for 2022 – 2031	CPM Bureau	John GREIFER Marko BENOVIH	29/01/2021