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منظمة
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للأمم المتحدة

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

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Proposal for an International Day of Plant Health

Agenda item 14.3

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

1. Various initiatives continue to take place in first 2021 semester in the context of the International Year of Plant Health as an informal extension for those activities that did not take place in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On 2nd December 2020, recalling the criteria outlines in the FAO Policy on the Proclamation and Implementation of International Years, as adopted by the 144th Session of the Council (June 2012), and the ECOSOC Resolution 1980/67 regarding International Years and Anniversaries, the FAO Council endorsed the draft Conference resolution submitted by the 27th Session of COAG on the observance by the UN system of an “International Day of Plant Health” on 12 May every year as a result of the initiative by Zambia, which took the lead on this matter.

2. Explicit support to the initiative came from several FAO Members, from all FAO Regions. These include Indonesia on behalf of G-77 and China (further supported by interventions of Dominican Republic, Argentina, Brazil and Peru); Thailand on behalf of the Asia Regional Group (further supported by Japan, Republic of Korea and China); Germany on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States (further supported by Spain); Iran on behalf of the Near East regional group (further supported by Saudi Arabia); Sweden on behalf of the Nordic countries; Zimbabwe and Uganda on behalf of the Africa regional group (further supported by Ghana); Australia; Canada; Mexico; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and United States of America.

3. The FAO Council further recognised the importance of raising awareness of plant health as a key tool to safeguard food security and to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, emphasising the need for greater support be provided to the IPPC Secretariat. The unanimous support by the FAO Council Members happened to take place precisely one year after the official launch of the International Year itself, marking an important milestone in the successful implementation of the IYPH activities and legacies. On that occasion, Mr Dongyu QU, FAO Director-General, highlighted the importance of prevention in plant health, linking the work of the IPPC community to the many initiatives heading towards One Health.

4. These occurrences highlight the importance of plant health for the international community and mark important milestones of a process still requiring additional endorsement. In fact, the current draft resolution to establish the observance of an International Day of Plant Health is pending the endorsement by the next FAO Conference, taking place in July 2021. If endorsed, the FAO Director-General will forward the proposal to establish an International Day of Plant Health to the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The first expected International Day of Plant Health may be celebrated on 12 May 2022, which also marks IPPC 70th anniversary.

5. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *Note* the update on the process to establish the observance by the UN system of an “International Day of Plant Health” on 12 May every year.
- 2) *Thank* Zambia for its continuing efforts and support in establishing an International Day of Plant Health as well as the governments expressing support for such a proposal.
- 3) *Encourage* the IPPC contracting parties to support the proposal to establish the observance by the UN system of an “International Day of Plant Health” on 12 May every year by considering pledges to support the implementation of the occurrence and liaising with their counterparts in the FAO Conference and at the United Nations General Assembly to facilitate their final endorsement.