



الاتفاقية الدولية
لوقاية النباتات

国际植物
保护公约

International Plant
Protection Convention
Convention internationale
pour la protection des végétaux

Международная конвенция по
карантину и защите растений

Convención Internacional
de Protección Fitosanitaria

Rome, 18 January 2021

15th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
16 March, 18 March and 1 April 2021
Virtual meeting

Dear Sir / Madam,

The Bureau of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (hereinafter “CPM Bureau”) held deliberations in connection to the 15th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-15) to occur virtually so as to facilitate participation of Contracting Parties and in respect of the current provisions to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 11 December 2020, Ms Beth Bechdol, FAO Deputy Director-General, requested IPPC Contracting Parties to endorse the proposal by the CPM Bureau to hold the CPM by virtual means. The decision required a qualified majority of two thirds, equal to one hundred and twenty-three Contracting Parties. IPPC Contracting Parties could express their endorsement by participating to a poll on the IPPC website from 10 December 2020 to 15 January 2021.

I am pleased to announce that the required two thirds majority of IPPC Contracting Parties endorsed the proposal as detailed by the FAO Deputy Director-General. Thus, CPM-15 will take place on 16 and 18 March and 1 April 2021 virtually, in accordance with the schedule posted on the IPPC website at <https://www.ippc.int/>. We would like to thank you for your active participation for this poll even during the holiday period.

The following rules are now in effect:

- i. CPM-15 will be held virtually, noting that meeting documents are being made available on the IPPC website (www.ippc.int);*
- ii. exceptionally suspend any rules of the CPM Rules of Procedure that presuppose/imply in-person sessions of the Commission; and*
- iii. the CPM Bureau is authorized to assess whether credentials of Contracting Parties are in conformity with the requirements of the Organization and report to the CPM accordingly.*

Kindly also note that the FAO Director-General will send separate invitation letters to respective Ministries of IPPC Contracting Parties.

Please confirm your attendance to this virtual meeting by 12 February 2021 by writing to ippc@fao.org. Once you have confirmed your participation you will receive the personalized Zoom link for the meeting. Guidelines on how to participate in Zoom meetings are available [here](#). The same Zoom link that will be received will be used to carry out two dry run sessions on 11 March 2021 at 9:00 to 10:00 am and 6:00 to 7:00 pm (Rome time).

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Please, kindly be advised that participation to a virtual meeting requires the correct functioning of all the necessary equipment (computer, video camera and microphone) and a stable connection to the internet, which should be tested prior to the beginning of the Session. Similarly, it is advised to keep your microphone and video camera off while participating to the proceedings and may be turned on while taking the floor. Additionally, kindly allocate an adequate amount of time to familiarise with the software, which offers a number of tools to participate fully and orderly.

Please also note that credentials will be reviewed by the CPM Bureau, which will report to the CPM plenary in this regard.

I look forward to your active participation in the first-ever virtual CPM to advance the IPPC mission of protecting global plant resources and facilitating safe trade.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Nersisyan', written in a cursive style.

Avetik Nersisyan
Officer in Charge for daily matters
International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat