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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

**Fifteenth Session**

**Virtual Meeting, 16, 18 March and 1 April 2021**

**Report from Standards Committee - Speech by the Chairperson of the  
Standards Committee**

**Agenda items 9.1**

**Prepared by Ezequiel Ferro, SC Chairperson**

Dear CPM colleagues. In this very special year, it is a pleasure to share with all of you a summary of the Standards Committee's activities. It has always been much better to make this presentation in a face-to-face meeting, but the current situation has forced us to carry it out virtually with the ultimate objective of protecting everyone's health.

Without going into the details of the SC work that you will find anyway in the SC report (document 2021/17), I will briefly describe the main activities that the SC has carried out in 2019 and 2020. The year 2019 with the possibility of having face-to-face meetings, although not during 2020.

First of all, I would like to highlight the great work and commitment of the Committee's members who have remained very active even in a year where it has not been possible to meet in person, having during the last year an intensive virtual activity through electronic means, including a large number of electronic decisions: in 2019 there were 21 e-decisions and 37 in 2020.

Taken together, I am referring to drafts that were submitted both for the first time and for the second time, in 2019 it was possible to submit for Contracting Parties consultation, 4 draft Standards, 8 draft PT and one DP. In 2020, 3 drafts of the Specification, 4 drafts of Standards, and 12 draft TFs were submitted for consultation.

2019 was a satisfactory year for the Committee, not only because of the drafts submitted for consultation but also because that year 2 ISPMs were adopted and the SC approved a DP on behalf of the CPM. For the current CPM, the SC has recommended the adoption of 7 Phytosanitary Treatments and 4 Standards, 3 of which had been recommended in 2020 but due to the cancellation of the CPM are submitted for this 2021 meeting. The 4 Standards for adoption at this CPM are:

- 1) Draft Revision of ISPM 8: *Determination of pest status in an area*;
- 2) Draft ISPM: *Requirements for the use of modified atmosphere treatments as phytosanitary measures*.
- 3) Draft ISPM: *Requirements for NPPOs if authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions*
- 4) Draft 2018 Amendments to ISPM 5: *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*;

Additionally, I would like to highlight that approximately 50 of the 100 topics on the SC List of Topics have progressed. This was not merit only from the members of SC but all those who participate in some way in the standard setting process.

I would like to take this opportunity to also highlight other important works addressed by the SC, including the development and governance approach of commodity standards; also the work that is still under development on the reorganization of the standards related to Pest Risk Analysis; and the debates held on the authorization of

entities to perform phytosanitary actions.

The topic on Commodity Standards will be undoubtedly a great challenge for the future work of the SC. As you know, in 2020 the Specification for the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards and the draft Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures were submitted for Contracting Parties consultation. As a consequence of this proposal, commodity standards will actually be annexes to the concept standard that has been submitted for consultation. And the new Panel, which will be under the remit of the SC, will be the one to address its development. As I mentioned before, more details on this issue can be found in document 2021/17.

The next issue that the SC has addressed that I would like to outline is related to the proposed revision and reorganization of the pest risk analysis standards. This is a proposal that came up after addressing the draft standard on Pest Risk Management for quarantine pests. The SC analyzed 6 options for the reorganization of the Standards, until, after receiving the recommendation from the Bureau (due to the CPM did not meet in 2020), the option of moving forward with one overarching standard on PRA process with an annex for each stage of PRA was proposed. The SC is currently working on the draft specification for this standard.

I wouldn't like to fail to mention the joint cooperation work between the SC and the IC. In one of the joint activities, the SC, the IC, and the staff of both the IFU and the SSU of the IPPC Secretariat have done an excellent job of a new format and update of the Framework for Standards and Implementation, resulting in a clearer design and easier to use. This new Framework is being presented to the CPM-15 for formal endorsement. In addition, both the SC and the IC have assigned representatives to participate in activities or groups of the other Committee.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who participates in some way in the Standard Setting process. First of all, to all Technical Panels' members who carry out an enormous work and with great commitment and responsibility. I am referring to the TPDP, TPPT, TPG and especially the TPFQ whose disestablishment is being considered by this CPM. Special thanks also to the countries, NPPOs, RPPOs, and organizations that have supported standard-setting activities in different ways and the valuable comments received, as well as the commitment and input of several experts from all regions of the world. And finally and most especially, to all the Standard Setting Unit staff that without their essential support, standard setting activities would undoubtedly be impossible to carry out.

Thank you very much and I wish you all a successful meeting.