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International
Plant Protection
Convention

REPORT

IPPC Financial Committee Meeting

Virtual meeting

9 March 2021

IPPC Secretariat

CONTENTS

1. Opening of the Meeting.....	3
2. Meeting Arrangement	3
2.1 Documents list	3
2.2 Participants list.....	3
3. Adoption of the Agenda	3
4. Review of CPM-15 budgetary and financial documents.....	3
4.1 IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2021	3
4.2 IPPC Secretariat Financial report for 2019	3
4.3 IPPC Secretariat Financial report for 2020.....	4
5. Review of other CPM-15 documents for potential future budgetary implications	4
5.1 Long-term financial sustainability - ePhyto.....	4
6. Resource mobilization – continuation of the sustainable funding initiative for the IPPC Secretariat	5
7. Any other business	5
8. Next meeting	5
9. Closing of the meeting	5

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 01 – Agenda	6
APPENDIX 02 – Documents list.....	7
APPENDIX 03 – Participants list	8

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1. Opening of the Meeting

- [1] The FC Chair Mr. Greifer welcomed the FC participants noting his interest in continuing the tradition of engaging the whole of the Bureau in the FC meetings to promote full awareness among all Bureau colleagues on IPPC financial matters and realities.
- [2] Mr. Nersisyan, Officer in Charge for daily matters of the IPPC Secretariat, welcomed all participants and reiterated his commitment to sound financial management, budgetary transparency and efficacy, as well as accountability to the IPPC Contracting parties.
- [3] The primary objectives of the meeting were to discuss CPM-15 financial documents that include information on 2019 and 2020 financial results of the IPPC Secretariat, Work Plan and Budget for 2021, proposals for ePhyto financial sustainability and resource mobilization.

2. Meeting Arrangement

2.1 Documents list

- [4] The Documents list is attached to this report as Appendix 2.

2.2 Participants list

- [5] The List of Participants is attached to this report as Appendix 3.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

- [6] The Agenda was adopted without changes and is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

4. Review of CPM-15 budgetary and financial documents

4.1 IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2021

- [7] IPPC Secretariat presented the IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2021. IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2021 has been in development since July 2019 and has gone through many revisions to reach its present form. Events that accounted for the major revisions include FAO Council December 2019 approval of the increased regular programme allotment and the COVID-19 pandemic. The FAO Council decision increased Regular programme budget of the IPPC Secretariat from USD 5.9 million for 2018-2019 biennium to USD 6.9 million for 2020-2021 biennium. On the other hand, effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are seen in the reduction of projected travel costs by approximately 50%.
- [8] The IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2021 is directly linked to the IPPC Strategic framework 2020-2030 and the corresponding 5 year investment plan where each unit has assigned Development agendas from the Strategic framework. The IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget takes into account all core activities of the Secretariat, composed of 3 main areas: Governance and Strategies (which includes Integration and support team and ePhyto Group), Standard Setting Unit (SSU) and Implementation Facilitation Unit (IFU).
- [9] Overall proposed budget for 2021 is USD 9 million and this amount includes funding from FAO regular programme, IPPC Multi donor trust fund, IPPC projects, IPPC in-kind contributions and FAO associate professional officers programme.

4.2 IPPC Secretariat Financial report for 2019

- [10] CPM-15 document 23 contains two financial reports, both for 2019 and 2020, due to the fact that CPM did not convene in 2020 and we could not report 2019 financial results last year.

- [11] With regard to 2019, financially speaking, it was a record year for the IPPC Secretariat. FAO Regular programme allotment reached USD 3.4 million following the receipt of FAO special allotment of USD 500,000 provided to the IPPC Secretariat in October 2019 (which is an increase of 17% compared to previous year). In 2019, as in the previous years, the Secretariat's financial priority was to fully spend the regular programme allotment and execute all the budgeted activities. This goal was successfully reached.
- [12] In 2019, contributions to the IPPC Multi-donor trust fund also reached record amount of USD 1.2 million provided by 9 contracting parties, an increase of 11% compared to 2018.

4.3 IPPC Secretariat Financial report for 2020

- [13] Year 2020 marks the first year in which IPPC Secretariat received the first half of the increased biennial allotment of USD 1 million. It was recalled that in December 2019 FAO Council decided to increase FAO Regular programme allotment to the IPPC Secretariat from USD 5.9 million to USD 6.9 million for the 2020-2021 biennium.
- [14] In 2020, IPPC Multi donor trust fund contributions reached 60% of 2019 contributions. Only 4 Contracting parties provided contributions in 2020. These countries include Canada, Ireland, Republic of Korea and USA/NAPPO.
- [15] The drop in contributions was offset by the regular programme funds, which was possible due to the postponement of CPM and reduction of many activities that involved travel in 2020.
- [16] That said, Regular programme budget for 2020 remained in surplus of USD 102,000 which will be utilized in 2021. The primary use of the Regular programme in 2020 also generated additional USD 680,000 of un-earmarked funds in the IPPC Multi-donor trust fund which CPM Bureau intends to allocate for use in 2021 following the authorization of the CPM to do so.
- [17] FC discussed the Secretariats proposal for spending 2020 savings on a number of specified activities and the other half being kept in reserve for future emergency funding needs. There was concern about the FC immediately approving the Secretariat spending proposals because of the lack of time to review the paper and questions about the relative priority of certain specific activities.
- [18] The FC:
- (1) *Noted* the update on the IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2021
 - (2) *Approved* the IPPC Secretariat Financial report for 2019 for the presentation to CPM-15
 - (3) *Approved* the IPPC Secretariat Financial report for 2020 for the presentation to CPM-15
 - (4) *Advised* the CPM Bureau to seek authorization by the CPM to allocate USD 650,000 of the IPPC Multi-Donor Trust Fund un-earmarked funds in 2021 to fund CPM priorities from the CPM-15 session and Secretariat's priority needs to support its operations.

5. Review of other CPM-15 documents for potential future budgetary implications

5.1 Long-term financial sustainability - ePhyto

- [19] FC reviewed the ePhyto long term funding options paper, presented by Mr. Craig Fedchock. There is a range of 7 options from charges per certificates, invoicing, voluntary funding, FAO funding, and industry funding. There was some exchange of views about the options, their merits, administrative aspects, and feasibility etc. The representative from the Republic of Korea indicated that APPPC region is leaning in the direction of supporting the annual invoicing option. It is expected that CPM will express a range of views as regards their preferred options. The objective for CPM is to agree on the top 3 options that a smaller sub group of the ePhyto steering group can analyse in greater depth. The question arose of how CPM

preferences will be compiled at the virtual CPM meeting. The Secretariat will determine the most practical way to collect these views.

[20] The FC:

- *Noted* the update.

6. Resource mobilization – continuation of the sustainable funding initiative for the IPPC Secretariat

[21] The FC agreed to defer the updating of the resource mobilization strategy until the new Secretary is selected and is able to actively participate in its development. However, there was some discussion regarding the more immediate planning needed to promote IPPC funding needs in the context of the FAO biennium budget process which will soon get launched. Members need to be mobilized to lobby their respective permanent representatives to the FAO in order to ensure a maximum allocation of FAO regular program funding to the IPPC for the 2022-23 biennium.

7. Any other business

[22] One Secretariat member suggested that FC, at one of its next meetings, should discuss how IPPC project funding fits into the overall work and budget planning process, having in mind CPM priorities.

8. Next meeting

[23] The Chair suggested that the FC have its next meeting shortly after the CPM.

9. Closing of the meeting

[24] The Chair thanked members of the Secretariat on behalf of the FC for their active, important work they do throughout the year and specifically for developing and agreeing on the Work Plan and Budget for 2021 and proper financial reporting for years 2019 and 2020.

APPENDIX 01 - Agenda

AGENDA ITEM		DOCUMENT NO.	PRESENTER
1.	Opening of the Meeting	--	GREIFER/NERSISYAN
2.	Meeting Arrangements	--	BENOVIC
2.1	Documents list	02_FC_2021_Mar_Tel	
2.2	Participants list	03_FC_2021_Mar_Tel	
3.	Adoption of the Agenda	01_FC_2021_Mar_Tel	GREIFER/FC
4.	Review of CPM-15 budgetary and financial documents		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2021 - IPPC Secretariat Financial report for 2019 - IPPC Secretariat Financial report for 2020 + discussion on savings from 2020 	25_CPM_2021 23_CPM_2021	BENOVIC
5.	Review of other CPM-15 documents for potential future budgetary implications		FC/SECRETARIAT TEAM LEADS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long-term financial sustainability – ePhyto - Other (if applicable) 	31_CPM_2021	FEDCHOCK
6.	Resource mobilization – continuation of the sustainable funding initiative for the IPPC Secretariat		GREIFER
7.	Any other business	--	GREIFER
8.	Next Meeting	--	GREIFER
9.	Closing of the Meeting	--	GREIFER

APPENDIX 02 – Documents list

DOCUMENT NO.	AGENDA NO.	DOCUMENT TITLE	POSTED
01_IPPC-FC_2020_Dec	3	Agenda	05.03.2021
02_IPPC-FC_2020_Dec	2.1	Documents list	05.03.2021
03_IPPC_FC_2020_Dec	2.2	Participants List	05.03.2021
CPM 2021/25	4	IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2021	05.03.2021
CPM 2021/23	4	IPPC Secretariat Financial report for 2019 IPPC Secretariat Financial report for 2020	14.03.2021
CPM 2021/31	5	Long-term financial sustainability - ePhyto	05.03.2021

APPENDIX 03 – Participants list

Attending	Participant role / Region	Name, mailing address, telephone	Email address
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Attending	Participant role / Region	Name, mailing address, telephone	Email address
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