“One Health” in the framework of the IPPC

*Prepared by Argentina*

1. Background

The concept of One Health has recently been addressed by different bodies/groups of the IPPC. Specifically, it has been discussed at the CPM, during the Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations, at the Bureau meetings and it is being part of the next SPG agenda.

The importance of health in our global eco-system seems to have a broad consensus in all regional and international bodies or organizations, especially intensified with this pandemic crisis. However, the concept of One Health has been addressed and developed mainly from a human and animal health perspective. Only recently has it begun to include plant health as another key component of what we should understand by One Health. This is due to the clear interrelation among the health of plants, animals, people and the environment. There is a well-known history of serious incidences of plant pests that have had a great impact not only on agro-ecosystems but also on food shortages in human populations.

Fortunately, FAO has been promoting the One Health concept in relation not only to nutrition, animal and plant health, but also to food security, sustainable agriculture and food safety. In addition, it has indicated that the application of a One Health approach is critical for achieving the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The FAO's Strategic Action Plan is currently focused on safeguard human and animal health, to reduce disease threats and to ensure a safe food supply through effective and responsible management of natural resources. Clearly, WHO, OIE and Codex have an important role in this regard.

From an IPPC perspective, the incorporation of plants into this concept is not only a matter of an appropriate approach to the subject, but it is also directly linked to the three strategic objectives stated in the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030. Furthermore, it is one more way for the international phytosanitary community to raise awareness about the importance that plant health has by itself within the framework of an indissoluble interaction with the environment and its communities.

2. Argentina’s position

For the aforementioned reasons, Argentina understands that it would be important and fruitful to instill, from the IPPC, the notion that the concept of One Health should be understood from the health of its three main components: humans, animals and plants. The agri-food production system shares a single territorial space, the need for greater integration between the different public and private parties, as well as the most appropriate use of resources. Thus, the world agri-food production system should be also understood not only as an economic and development engine for many countries, but also as the basis for the generation of food whose health is a necessary condition for the sustain of the population, animals and environment. The logic sequence then would be healthy plants, more and better food, strengthening human and animal health. In such a situation, collaboration, coordination and communication between governments and stakeholders is a key factor.

In this sequence, the Contracting Parties through their NPPOs have a key role by operating in the different stages of the agri-food production chain. To a greater or lesser extent, their roles are linked to good agricultural practices, post-harvest activities, good manufacturing practices, food processing and handling, etc.

Finally, we consider it relevant that the discussion for the inclusion of plant health in the concept of One Health is an activity in the framework of the IPPC, which would also support in giving greater visibility to the role of the Organization within the international agro-food trade.

Argentina recommends that SPG:

1. *Emphasize* the health of plants, animals, people and the environment is interconnected
2. *Support* continuous discussions on One Health that include plant health and contribute to strengthening the concept in the appropriate international bodies
3. *Present* these recommendations to the CPM-16 (2022) for consideration, after being discussed by the SPG.