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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Sixteenth Session

Virtual Meeting, 5, 7 and 21 April 2022

National Reporting Obligations - Summary of the NRO 2021 activities and  
2022 work plan

Agenda item 11.2

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

## I. Purpose of this paper

1. In November 2021 the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC VM 17) reviewed the report of the National Reporting Obligations (NROs) 2021 activities and approved the 2022 NROs work plan (IC VM 17 Report<sup>1</sup>, Appendix IX). As decided by the IC, a summary these should be presented to CPM-16 (2022).

## II. Summary of 2021 NROs activities

2. In 2021, the following activities planned in the 2021 NROs work plan (see Appendix 2 to IC VM 12 report<sup>2</sup>) were delivered by the IPPC Secretariat:

### A. Overseeing the NROs activities

3. The IC Team on NROs organized six meetings to provide guidance on NROs and facilitate the implementation of the 2021 NROs work plan. Minutes from these meetings are available on the IPP<sup>3</sup>.

4. As the NROs regional workshops were cancelled in 2021 a general presentation was developed for use at the 2021 IPPC Regional Workshops.

<sup>1</sup> IC VM-17 report: <http://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/capacity-development-committee/>

<sup>2</sup> IC VM-12 report: <http://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90381/>

<sup>3</sup> Minutes of meetings of IC Team on NROs: <http://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/capacity-development-committee/ic-sub-group/ic-team-for-national-reporting-obligations-nros/>

5. The IC Team finalized the proposal for correspondence of values of pest status between the revoked (1998) and the new version (2021) of ISPM 8 (Determination of pest status in an area). The Team considered how best to visualize pest reports and organized a meeting with the CPM Focus Group on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems, it is hoped to advance this work in 2022.
6. The IC Team drafted the Terms of Reference for the IC Sub-group on NROs and presented them to the IC in November 2021 (IC VM17).
7. One IPPC Contact Point requested permission to delete their documents they had posted on the IPP, the IC Team discussed several options (see below for more details) on how to deal with this request and presented them to the IC.
8. As several things have changed in relation to how contracting parties meet their NROs obligations, the IC Team agreed that the NROs guide needed to be updated. The NROs Team proposed a revision of the guide, along with a submission form<sup>4</sup> and a draft Specification<sup>5</sup> to the IC and the IC agreed to proposing National Reporting Obligations Guide - Revision (2021-026) to the CPM for inclusion in the Implementation and Capacity Development List of Topics (ICD LOT), noting that the IC proposed to assign a priority level of 1.

## **B. Provide direct assistance to Contact Points (Reducing IT barriers)**

9. Forty (40) new nominations for IPPC Contact Points and 14 changes to IPP editors were received as of 1 December 2021 and this information was updated on the IPP in a timely manner. New nominees received detailed guidance and support on how to present and maintain their national information on the IPP. The IPPC Secretariat assisted IPPC Contact Points through several emails. Additional information was provided during IPPC Regional workshops<sup>6</sup> to help facilitate the submission of NROs reports, to help the IPPC Contact Points maintain their country pages on the IPP and to deal with IT problems encountered during reporting.
10. The IPPC Secretariat revised the architectural infrastructure of the IPP to optimize performance. The IPP is now able to handle an increased number of users and data can be loaded without disrupting end users' activities, which makes the IPP more user-friendly.
11. The revision of ISPM 8 (Determination of pest status in an area) was adopted in 2021, some of the categories of pest status were changed. To deal with these changes, the IPPC Secretariat updated the relevant drop-down menus on the IPP, replacing the values for the pest status categories with the ones listed in the revised ISPM 8.
12. The IPPC Secretariat received a request from one IPPC Contact Point to delete the NROs documents they had posted on the IPP as they considered there was no legal reasons for a Contracting Party not to retain full control of their information provided. The IPPC Secretariat requested advice from the FAO Legal Office which indicated that there is no legal impediment for them to delete their own data. The FAO Legal Office also confirmed their previous advice to the NROs Advisory group that “the Secretariat cannot change or delete any data put on the IPP by CPs and it is the legal responsibility of a CP to execute its own reporting via IPPC Contact Points or via an RPPO. FAO Legal Office also recommended that the IPPC Secretariat should not check or correct specific national information provided by CPs, and the IPPC Secretariat should only provide general support and advice, e.g. advice on the placement of information.”
13. IC VM 17 discussed the four options presented to them by the IC Team on NROs for how to handle the removal of NROs documents and decided to allow IPPC Contact points to delete their NROs

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<sup>4</sup> Submission form for the proposed revision of NRO Guide: <http://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90611/>

<sup>5</sup> Draft Specification for the proposed revision of the NRO Guide: <http://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90612/>

<sup>6</sup> IPPC regional workshops in 2021: <http://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/regional-ippc-workshops/2021-ippc-regional-workshop/>

documents on their country pages on the IPP as they wish. While the record would no longer be visible, the data will be archived and be made available only to the generator of the record upon request.

### C. Develop Contracting Parties' NROs capacities

14. NROs workshops that are usually held in conjunction with IPPC Regional Workshops were cancelled this year as all IPPC Regional Organizing Committees felt they were not necessary. A NROs presentation, developed by the IC Team on NROs, was delivered at all the IPPC Regional Workshops held in 2021. The IPPC Secretariat reminded all contracting parties and workshop participants that they could take the NROs e-Learning course, which is available on the IPP<sup>7</sup>.

15. The IPPC Secretariat continues to develop the pest report bulletin<sup>8</sup> and keeps NROs statistics<sup>9</sup> on the IPP updated.

16. Automatic emails are sent out at different frequencies to remind the contact points to fulfil the NROs. Regarding the contact details of Contact points and information about Files or URLs, reminder emails are sent out every 3 months. For pest reporting and emergency action, reminder emails are sent out every 6 months. In addition, contact points receive the reminder to update the description of the NPPO, entry points, list of regulated pests and legislation phytosanitary requirements every November.

### III. Summary 2022 NROs Work Plan

17. The 2022 work plan includes many of the regular activities related to NROs which include:

- 1) Oversight of NROs activities will be provided and a Report on NROs activities for 2022 and draft NROs work plan for 2023 will be prepared and presented to the IC at the end of 2022. In addition the IC Sub-group on NROs will be activated and the display of pest reports on the IPP will be improved.
- 2) Direct assistance will be offered to IPPC Contact points and IPP editors will be supported. In addition the functionality of the IPP will be improved.
- 3) Contracting Parties NROs Capacities will be developed through awareness raising via an NROs section in the IPPC Secretariat's newsletter and the development of a global virtual training workshop. The NROs e-learning course will continue to be promoted.
- 4) If agreed upon by the CPM, work on the revision of the NROs guide will begin.
- 5) NROs activities are currently unfunded and it may not be possible to deliver all of the 2022 NROs work plan, and some of the NROs activities may need to be put on hold until resources are made available. Only information on the contact points will be maintained in the meantime.

18. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *Note* the summary of the National Reporting Obligations (NROs) 2021 activities.
- 2) *Note* the summary of the National Reporting Obligations (NROs) 2022 work plan.
- 3) *Add* the revision of the National Reporting Obligations guide (2021-026) to the Implementation and Capacity Development List of Topics and note that the IC will assign a priority level of 1.
- 4) *Note* the IC's decision which allows IPPC Contact points to delete any of their National Reporting Obligations documents on their country page on the IPP. While the record would no

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<sup>7</sup> E-learning course: <http://www.ippc.int/en/e-learning/>

<sup>8</sup> Pest Report Bulletin: <http://www.ippc.int/en/countries/reportingsystem-summary/all/>

<sup>9</sup> NROs statistics: <http://www.ippc.int/en/nro-reports-and-statistics/>

longer be visible on the country page on the IPP, the data would be archived and be made available only to the generator of the record upon request.

- 5) *Note* that National Reporting Obligations activities are currently unfunded and it may not be possible to deliver all of the NROs 2022 work plan and some of the NROs activities may need to be put on hold until financial resources are made available. Only information on the contact points will be maintained in the meantime.