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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Sixteenth Session

**Virtual Meeting, 5, 7 and 21 April 2022**

**Report from the CPM Chairperson**

**Agenda item 6**

**Prepared by the CPM Chairperson**

1. Despite the enormous challenges and constraints which were presented to us this past year, the IPPC Secretariat and contracting parties were successful in remaining active and committed to advancing IPPC priorities and objectives. Most if not all the IPPC committees, working groups, panels, Bureau, and other bodies continued to meet virtually, in some cases more often than in pre-pandemic times to carry on their work.

2. The Secretariat played an indispensable role in making it possible for all of us to stay connected and productive during these difficult times. I have counted about 37 different expert and focus groups, subsidiary bodies, panels, teams, governance committees, and ad hoc bodies. Each of these require Secretariat support and representation from the contracting parties. Each of these reflect distinct areas of work that the CPM has agreed to be actively pursued. Given all the work we want to do, I see the continued need to enhance our partnerships with like-minded organizations and stakeholder groups who may contribute resources, ideas, and support, all of which would allow us to better achieve IPPC's plant health outcomes.

3. Our collective efforts this past year have resulted in finalizing several key standards which are now ready for CPM adoption at this at this CPM-16, 2022 session. Colleagues will be asked to adopt four ISPMs related to commodity-based standards, auditing procedures, re-export certifications, and updated terminology. We also will have the opportunity to adopt five new phytosanitary treatments. Three expert working groups drafted new standards in their virtual meetings as a new way to progress the work program during this pandemic. I want to thank the Standards Committee members and the Secretariat staff for their hard work in progressing this vital work over the past year.

4. With respect to the implementation and capacity development, the IPPC Secretariat managed eight capacity development projects aimed at improving the ability of IPPC members to implement the

Convention. The Secretariat was able to deploy the PCE in several countries to support a targeted development program, directed the production of guidance/training material, technical guides, and facilitated a number of regional workshops on draft ISPMs. Going forward, these implementation programs will be key to putting IPPC objectives into actual practice.

5. The new IPPC Strategic Framework was officially adopted in 2021. This past year we took steps to operationalize this plan. We now have the necessary Focus Groups in place which are now preparing detailed implementation plans for each of the various initiatives on the development agenda. Through these focus groups we will have the ability to begin taking actions to address important topics such as climate change, e-commerce, pest alert and response, long term e-phyto funding, and strategic communications. I want to thank our contracting parties who have generously contributed funding and/or experts from their NPPOs to support and advance these priority initiatives.

6. Another area of strategic work where many activities were carried out is that of sea containers. This CPM meeting marks an important juncture in the five years of work on addressing the phytosanitary challenge associated with the global movement of sea containers. At this CPM-16 we will consider future directions on this complex subject. We will discuss some of the key lessons learned and next steps going forward. Again, thanks to the Chair Mr Greg Wolff and the task force members for their efforts these past five years.

7. Despite the pandemic and the travel lock down and other constraints, we were relatively successful in promoting the International Year of Plant Health which had been originally planned for 2020. The Secretariat and various NPPOs followed through on various public events, including plant health conferences, press releases, and other advocacy of plant health programs. We are hopeful at this stage that the United Nations General Assembly will support our request that May 12 of every year be proclaimed the International Day of Plant health. We see this as an important element in an IPPC communication strategy and our ongoing goal to enhance public understanding of national and international plant health programs and the role these programs play in protecting food production, achieving food security, safeguarding the environment, and enabling safe trade and economic growth.

8. Looking ahead, I wish I could say that 2022 will be easier in terms of managing through the ongoing pandemic. I am optimistic that we will be turning a corner soon in this year, but we don't know when CPM business will return to the old normal. We do know that plant pests are not social-distancing, and their threat is not a virtual matter. The need to maintain effective biosecurity and safeguarding systems remain.

9. Growth in movement of sea containers has emerged as new pathway for hitchhiking pests and contaminants. Climate change is impacting pest biology and the ability of pathogens to spread into themselves in new habitats. E-commerce has grown rapidly, creating new opportunities for importing harmful materials that evade normal commercial and inspection channels. And, for these reasons we need to continue to work together to develop harmonized approaches for mounting a global defense against these changing plant pest risks.

10. I want to thank my Bureau colleagues for their active engagement, diverse perspectives, and support this past year. We meet monthly to review administrative and programmatic issues, advise the Secretariat, and wherever possible take the necessary and appropriate actions—consistent with CPM decisions—to advance the IPPC mission. My Bureau colleagues include: Mr John GREIFER (North America/United States); Mr Fuxiang Wang (Asia/China); Mr Francisco Javier TRUJILLO ARRIAGA (Latin America and Caribbean/Mexico); Mr Ahmed Kamal EL-ATTAR (Near East/Egypt); Mr Peter THOMSON (Southwest Pacific/New Zealand); and Ms Marica GATT (Europe/Malta). I want to thank Marica for her service on the Bureau and welcome Mr Sam BISHOP as the new European representative replacing her.

11. I look forward to working with all of you to advance our shared plant health goals in the year ahead.

Konan, CPM Chairperson.