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منظمة  
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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Sixteenth Session

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

**Update on the first International Plant Health Conference**

**Agenda item 15.1**

**Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat**

1. The International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) work plan included the organization of the first ever International Plant Health Conference (IPHC) in November 2020, which did not take place to date due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In July 2021, the IYPH International Steering Committee (ISC) suggested the IPHC take place during the week of 9-13 May 2022, in concurrence with the potential first ever International Day of Plant Health. The IYPH ISC discussed and approved a draft four-day programme for the first IPHC, which included one daily plenary session, three daily parallel sessions (technical, scientific and regulatory), two side events and daily press conferences.

2. In the meantime, Finland withdrew as host country due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other IPPC contracting parties (CPs) initiated informal negotiations with the IPPC Secretariat to hold the IPHC. Negotiations continued from July to December 2021 and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 12 January 2022 confirmed its willingness to host the first ever International Plant Health Conference. The Conference had to be rescheduled due to time constraints and is now planned on 21-23 September 2022 tentatively, in London. The proposed programme was shortened by one day but retained the same structure as proposed while increasing the slots for side events. The Conference is planned as a hybrid event, co-hosted with FAO.

3. The IPPC Secretariat took note of the decision of the IYPH ISC and CPM-15 decisions to re-establish a Technical Advisory Board for the IDPH, which would oversee the Conference's preparation. The current circumstances forced the IPPC Secretariat to separate the IPHC from the IDPH, as originally planned, thus the CPM should agree on whether the Technical Advisory Board of the International Day of Plant Health should retain oversight on the International Plant Health Conference, and the two events should be kept separate or planned together in the future. The IPPC Secretariat consulted with the FAO Meeting Services and followed the protocol for FAO Regional Conferences, *mutatis mutandis*, establishing a Conference Secretariat with members from the host country and the IPPC Secretariat to

support the event's implementation. The IPPC Secretariat has been coordinating also with other relevant FAO divisions to deliver the Conference.

4. Several IPPC CPs contributed or pledged to the IPHC as of today for approximately 400 000 USD<sup>1</sup>: the Republic of Finland, the Republic of Ireland, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom. The European Union is contributing through a co-funding mechanism up to 300 000 EUR.

5. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *Note* the paper.
- 2) *Thank* the United Kingdom for hosting the first International Plant Health Conference and the Republic of Finland, the Republic of Ireland, the Republic of Korea and the European Union for providing financial support to the event.
- 3) *Encourage* IPPC contracting parties to support the International Plant Health Conference.

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<sup>1</sup> At time of drafting, the financial review of 2021 is not yet complete. The IPPC Secretariat will provide an update on the resources mobilised towards the IPHC.

# INTERNATIONAL PLANT HEALTH CONFERENCE

Queen Elizabeth II Centre  
London – United Kingdom  
21 – 23 September 2022

## DAY 1

10:00 – 11:00 Opening Ceremony  
11:00 – 12:00 Plenary Session  
12:00 – 14:00 Lunch Time / Side Session  
14:00 – 16:30 Parallel Sessions  
17:00 – 18:00 Online Side Events

## DAY 2

09:00 – 10:00 Online Side Events  
10:00 – 12:00 Parallel Sessions  
12:00 – 14:00 Lunch Time / Side Session  
14:00 – 16:30 Plenary Session  
17:00 – 18:00 Online Side Events

## DAY 3

09:00 – 10:00 Online Side Events  
10:00 – 12:00 Parallel Sessions  
12:00 – 14:00 Lunch Time / Side Session  
14:00 – 16:30 Plenary Session  
17:00 – 19:00 Closing Ceremony

**Objective:** the objective of the conference is to provide for the first time a forum to discuss global scientific, technical and regulatory plant health issues in a conference setting and at the same time advocate plant health to the media and general public.

**Scope:** the scope of the conference would be wide, covering the entire spectrum of plant health, and would be oriented towards attaining the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This would help maximize public attention and mainstream plant health policies into UN discussions.

**Target audiences:** the main target audiences are researchers, policy makers and plant health experts. Consequently, the conference is designed to attract participants on a scientific, technical or regulatory level. In addition, the aim is also to advocate plant health and the outcomes of the conference as much as possible to the general public.

**Outputs:** the primary output is to generate and disseminate current scientific and technical information about plant health issues. The conference proceedings are intended to be published electronically and selected papers in book format. Parts of the conference would be widely used by generating a kind of list of “recommendations” which then could form the basis of a paper on how to proceed after the IYPH has been completed. Recommendations of this conference may be incorporated into the CPM work-programme in coming years as well as being translated into political decisions for future CPM/FAO Conference decisions.