CPM focus group: Safe Provision of Food and other Humanitarian Aid

 (Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat and reviewed by the IPPC subsidiary bodies representatives of this focus group)

1. Background

The IPPC recognizes the necessity for international co-operation to prevent the global spread of plant pests. In emergency crisis situations, affected countries can be temporarily constrained in their ability to implement their phytosanitary responsibilities. Contracting parties that are donors of aid do have capacity at that time and thus their commitment to comply with Article IV of the IPPC becomes more critical.

The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) in its sixteenth session (CPM-16, 2022) agreed to establish a CPM Focus Group on the Safe Provision of Food and other Humanitarian Aid to discuss the issues and determine a way forward for this topic to be developed as a standard, or another option that meets the needs of contracting parties. It was highlighted that there is no currently international standard to guide countries on the safe movement of aid during the unique pressures and logistical constraints of emergency situations. Moreover, the CPM-16 also approved the [Terms of Reference](https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91313/) for the CPM [Focus Group on the Safe Provision of Food and other Humanitarian Aid](https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/cpm-focus-group-reports/cpm-focus-group-on-safe-provision-of-food-and-other-humanitarian-aid/) and requested that the secretariat open a call for focus group members.

1. Call for experts

To form the CPM focus group for the topic, the IPPC secretariat launched the [call for experts](https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/cpm-focus-group-reports/calls-for-nominations-for-cpm-focus-groups/) from 10 May to 08 July 2022, extended twice to get sufficient nominations from recipient and donor countries. The IPPC secretariat also contacted some individual RPPOs seeking for nominations.

Following the Terms of Reference, the secretariat obtained the following as representatives from the IPPC subsidiary bodies:

* CPM Bureau: Lucien Konan KOUAME (CPM Chairperson, Africa region)
* Standards Committee (SC): Sophie PETERSON (SC Chairperson, Australia)
* Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC): Christopher DALE (IC Vice-Chairperson, Australia)

The IPPC secretariat contacted the World Food Program (WPF/UN), and it is awaiting a reply.

The purpose, functions and process of the CPM Focus Group are described in the approved Terms of Reference (on [IPP here on the Focus Group webpage](https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/cpm-focus-group-reports/cpm-focus-group-on-safe-provision-of-food-and-other-humanitarian-aid/)).

Seven nominations were submitted by the IPPC contracting parties and regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs). The CPM Bureau approved and endorsed all nominations received via e-decision and confirmed in its September 2022 virtual meeting (Table 1)

Table 1 lists the nominee’s names, countries, current job positions, and email addresses.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Country /RPPO\*** | **R/D\*\*** | **Current position** | **Email address** |
| Mr Olive Juliet Jay To-Alesana | Samoa (PPPO) | R | Principal Quarantine Officer  | olive.alesana@maf.gov.ws  |
| Mr Thomas Kimeli Kosiom | Kenya  | R | Principal Plant Health Inspector, Agricultural Regulator | tkosiom@kephis.org  |
| Ms Leisongi Manses | Vanuatu (PPPO) | R | Plant Health Officer | lbulesulu@vanuatu.gov.vu  |
| Mr Julian Andres Rodriguez Quiroz | France (EPPO) | D | National import phytosanitary control expert | Julian.rodriguez@agriculture.gouv.fr  |
| Ms Tanya Staffen | Canada | D | Senior Policy Analyst | Tanya.staffen@inspection.gc.ca  |
| Mr Lindon McEnroe Tari | Vanuatu (PPPO) | R | Senior Compliance Officer  | Itari@vanuatu.gov.vu  |
| Mr Ramez Ali DarwisH | Syria | R | Head of the Plant Quarantine Center (Jdayda Yabos land border) | ramezali79@gmail.com |

\*Nominated by the RPPO; \*\*Recipient = R; Donor = D

1. Next steps

The functions and the work of the focus group are described in its terms of reference. A first virtual meeting was planned for July 2022, however due to the extension of the call for experts, it had to be postponed. Due to other priorities of work of the IPPC in 2022 (e.g. International Plant Health Conference) the outcomes of the focus group will be presented to the CPM-18 (2024), and in accordance with the duration of the group. Therefore, a preliminary report and recommendations will be presented to the SPG in October 2023, SC and IC in November 2023, and final report and recommendations to the CPM-18 (2024) for a decision on whether to proceed with a standard and the priority level to be assigned.

A tentative face-to-face meeting was initially planned for December 2022. However, due to better logistics and timing, it is now tentatively planned to be held in February 2023 in Fiji (TBC), hosted by Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO) and Fiji National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO). Virtual meetings are also planned to happen.

1. Recommendations to the SPG:

The SPG 2022 is invited to:

1. *note* the update of the CPM Focus Group on food and other humanitarian aid.
2. *provide* comments, if any.