



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
SEVENTEENTH SESSION
REPORT OF THE CPM CHAIRPERSON
AGENDA ITEM 6

(Prepared by the CPM Chairperson)

- [1] The year 2022 started with the presence of the Corona virus pandemic (COVID-19) and its enormous challenges that had to be faced, in particular the numerous travel restrictions that were in place in several countries and which, once again, disrupted the work program of the IPPC. Notwithstanding these impediments, the IPPC Secretariat and contracting parties remained active and were able to advance the priorities and objectives of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030. The sixteenth session of the CPM (CPM-16, 2022) was organized, in virtual mode for the second consecutive year, and was attended by a large number of delegates from contracting parties and by partners from the phytosanitary community. Similarly, several IPPC bodies and working groups were able to hold meetings. Some meetings were organized first in virtual mode and then, with the gradual lifting of restrictions at FAO and by contracting parties, some other meetings took place face-to-face. The CPM Bureau met on a monthly basis. IPPC technical Committees, Subsidiary Bodies, Panels, Governance Committees, Working Groups, Expert Groups, and other ad hoc bodies continued to implement their work program. The CPM focus groups authorized by CPM-16 were formed and made great progress. These activities were made possible thanks to the IPPC Secretariat which has been instrumental in keeping us all connected and productive during these unpredictable times. Each working group was supported by the Secretariat and representatives of contracting parties and regions. Partners of like-minded organizations and stakeholder groups have been very active as well. The partnership with these organizations that can provide resources, ideas and support that would enable us to better achieve the objectives of the IPPC deserves to continue and be strengthened.
- [2] The efforts of everyone over the past year have resulted in progressing the work on phytosanitary standards among which are finalized and will be submitted for adoption during this CPM session. These include three (3) International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) (Amendments to ISPM 5: *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*; Annex to ISPM 20: *Use of specific import authorizations* and the Revision to ISPM 18: *Requirements for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure*) and one (1) CPM Recommendation (*Revision of CPM Recommendation 06 on Shipping Containers*). I would like to thank Standards Committee members and the staff of the Secretariat for the work done over the past year.
- [3] With regard to implementation and capacity development, the IPPC Secretariat managed capacity development projects aimed at improving the capacity of IPPC members to implement the Convention. The Secretariat continued to conduct Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCEs) in countries to support their phytosanitary development program, and facilitated seven (7) regional workshops on draft ISPMs. With the support of the Implementation and Capacity Building Committee, the Secretariat managed the production of phytosanitary technical training materials/guides and e-learning courses. These capacity building activities are essential to achieve the objectives of the IPPC. My appreciation to the members of this Committee.
- [4] The new IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 adopted in 2021 gave concrete direction to the actions of the IPPC. Last year, CPM-16 took steps to operationalize this plan through focus groups to prepare detailed implementation plans for each of the development agenda initiatives. These focus groups were set up and worked hard. They gave us the opportunity to address important topics such as implementation of the development programs of the 2020-2030 strategic framework, climate change, e-commerce, pest outbreaks alert and response, long-term financing of ePhyto, phytosanitary safety of food aids and strategic communications. I would like to thank our contracting parties who have

generously provided funds and/or experts from their NPPO to support and advance these priority initiatives.

- [5] The sea container discussion group also continued its work through virtual meetings and an international workshop that brought together experts and partners in this strategic area of international trade. This workshop marks an important step in this work aimed at meeting the phytosanitary challenge associated with the global movement of sea containers as it has provided a better understanding of the issue and has significantly advanced the subject. At this CPM meeting, we will review some of the key lessons learned so far and consider next steps and future directions on this complex topic. Once again, thanks to Chair Greg Wolff, and members of the task force for their efforts.
- [6] Under the leadership of the Government of Zambia, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 12 as the International Plant Health Day (IDPH), building on the momentum of the International Year of Plant Health. The IDPH aims to continue raising awareness on the importance of plant health for food security, environmental protection and trade facilitation, with six (6) specific objectives; the targeted outreach communities include academia, civil society and the private plant health sector. I thank the Government of Zambia for its commitment to this project. The very first edition of the IDPH was celebrated in 2022 with the main theme being "Phytosanitary innovation for food safety" and highlighting the 70th anniversary of the IPPC. A series of conferences related to the theme of the Day were organized by FAO including a presentation made by CPM Chair on the *Contribution of the Global Plant Health Community to Food Security*. IDPH is an important part of the IPPC communication strategy and its goal to improve 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 securing trade. and economic growth.
- [7] Despite the travel lockdowns and other constraints due to the pandemic, we were relatively successful in advancing the objectives of the Convention in 2022, thanks to the hard work of all of us: Secretariat, contracting parties, groups of experts, committees and partners. We are now meeting face-to-face after three years of virtual meetings, with the constraints and inconveniences that these types of meetings deliver. I dare to hope that we have definitely passed the pandemic milestone and that 2023 will be the pivotal year when the activities of the CPM return to the old normal to better advance the priorities and objectives of the Convention.
- [8] We organized the first-ever International Plant Health Conference in collaboration with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) of the United Kingdom. Over 500 policy makers, academics and experts from 74 countries gathered at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Center in London. Current and future plant health challenges, including climate change impacts, food security, environmental protection, facilitation of safe trade, e-commerce and emerging pest and disease pathways were addressed from September 21 to 23, 2022. Delegates shared knowledge and discussed global scientific, technical and regulatory issues, as well as actions to address these existential threats to our society, economy and environment. All my appreciation to the IPPC Secretariat and DEFRA organizing team.
- [9] On October 25 2022, the NSP/IPPC Secretariat staff organized a ceremony to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the IPPC at FAO headquarters in Rome. NSP/IPPC Secretariat staff and SPG 2022 participants attended the celebration.
- [10] I would like to end by thanking my colleagues in the Bureau for their active engagement, diverse perspectives and support over the past year. We met on a monthly basis to review administrative and programmatic matters, advise the Secretariat and, where possible, take necessary and appropriate actions, in accordance with CPM decisions, to advance the mission of the IPPC. My colleagues of the Bureau are: Mr. John Greifer (North America/United States); Mr. Fuxiang Wang (Asia/China); Mr. Peter THOMSON (South West Pacific/New Zealand); Mr. Samuel BISHOP (Europe/United Kingdom); Mr. Ahmed Kamal EL-ATTAR (Middle East/Egypt); and Mr. Francisco Javier TRUJILLO ARRIAGA (Latin America and Caribbean/Mexico) who has been replaced by Mr. Diego QUIROGA (Argentina) in recent months. I would like to especially thank Javier for his long years of service to the global phytosanitary community and his service to the Bureau, and welcome Diego as the new Latin America

and Caribbean Representative. It was a great pleasure to work with you, and to have benefited from your immense experience and expertise.

[11] Finally, I wish to address my sincere thanks to all of you, members of the Bureau, Secretariat, representatives of contracting parties in bodies, committees, groups of experts, working groups, etc. of the IPPC, for your advice and your support and guidance over the many years we have spent together advancing our common plant health goals.

[12] The CPM is invited to:

(1) *Note* this report