



**COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**  
**SEVENTEENTH SESSION**  
**PROMOTING STRATEGIC AND EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS TOWARDS THE**  
**IPPC IMPLEMENTATION**  
**IPPC PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK**  
**AGENDA ITEM 15.3**

*(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)*

## 1. Introduction

- [1] This paper is intended to trigger a strategic discussion on how the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) community should approach stakeholders and cooperators in view of establishing fully-fledged partnerships in support of the IPPC work plan, particularly implementing the Convention, the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), recommendations of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) and the IPPC Strategic Framework (SF) 2020-2030 as well as intensifying resource mobilization activities. The IPPC Secretariat conducted a thorough review of the list of IPPC partners, analyzed the new IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 and the development agenda under it. The secretariat is proposing an in-depth strategic discussion by the IPPC community on how to proceed in this domain so that it aligns with past CPM decisions while promoting effective collaborations with standing and future partners.

## 2. Background and rationale

- [2] On behalf of the CPM, the IPPC Secretariat maintains strong links with organizations that share common interests and objectives, with the purpose of supporting the implementation of the convention, ISPMs and CPM recommendations, the IPPC SF 2020-2030<sup>1</sup> and the annual IPPC work plans and budgets.
- [3] The IPPC text itself recognises the importance of international cooperation amongst national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) established by IPPC contracting parties (CPs), and of regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) as coordinating bodies that participate in various activities to achieve the objectives of this convention, gather and share information, and participate with the IPPC Secretariat and the CPM in developing international standards<sup>2</sup>.
- [4] Recalling Articles VIII and I.1 of the IPPC<sup>3</sup>, the IPPC Partnership Framework should take into consideration the evolving environment, paying particular attention to the IPPC SF 2020-2030, the CPM and IPPC Secretariat positions within the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The IPPC Secretariat reviews the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) that FAO concludes with any entity and joins the negotiations as appropriate, reporting back about such activities to the CPM and its Bureau. These activities are not included in the IPPC Partnership Framework as they are the IPPC Secretariat's routine duties to deliver the IPPC mission, vision, goals and work plan. Also,

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<sup>1</sup> IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb3995en>

<sup>2</sup> Ref. IPPC text: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/convention-text/>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.: “With the purpose of securing common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control, the contracting parties undertake to adopt the legislative, technical and administrative measures specified in this Convention and in supplementary agreements pursuant to Article XVI”

such activities originate from FAO and are the consequence of the daily monitoring of activities by the IPPC Secretariat as part of the Organization's structure.

- [5] At its 15th session, the CPM adopted the IPPC SF 2020-2030, defining the mission (*Protect global plant resources and facilitate safe trade*), vision (*The spread of plant pests is minimized and their impacts within countries are effectively managed*) and goals (*All countries have the capacity to implement harmonised measures to prevent pest introductions and spread, and minimize the impacts of pests on food security, trade, economic growth, and the environment*)<sup>4</sup>. The IPPC SF 2020-2030 also identifies three strategic objectives:
- enhance global food security and increase sustainable agricultural productivity;
  - protect the environment from the impacts of plant pests; and
  - facilitate safe trade, development and economic growth.

[6] At this stage and as a consequence of the recent institutional decisions, the IPPC community may wish to reconsider and analyze how IPPC partnerships should contribute to the IPPC mission through its vision and support the attainment of the IPPC goals and IPPC SF 2020 – 2030 strategic objectives.

[7] Currently, the IPPC Secretariat maintains a list of potential cooperators and partners in coordination with FAO to allow participation by relevant international organizations in CPM sessions. The current classification of IPPC partners includes the following categories: United Nations Organizations (UNOs), Inter-governmental Organizations (IGOs) and Non-State Actors (NSA), which are divided into Academia and Research Organizations (AROs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the Private Sector (PS).

### 3. Definition of an IPPC partner and current key partners

[8] This paper provides definitions for the types of relationships the IPPC secretariat could maintain with other entities in support of the IPPC mission. The two common forms of relationship are cooperation and partnership.

[9] **Cooperation (Alliances):** Cooperation involves the creation of alliances with entities that share similar interests or mutual benefits and typically occurs without changing the cooperating entities' independent status. Cooperation does not involve the full sharing of risks, resources and responsibilities. Informal cooperation can be an initial step prior to forming partnership, or may be the best form of relationship for the entities involved.

[10] **Partnership:** Involves the creation of alliances with entities that share similar interests and mutual benefits, but also are prepared to fully share potential risks and rewards, resources, and responsibilities. Unlike cooperation, which could be informal, partnership is typically codified based on formal agreements that define the goals, objectives, scope, duration and resources.

[11] It is important to note that the type of relationship may change overtime in that a partner could become a cooperator and conversely, a cooperator could become a partner. The type of relationship will be determined by the scope and the objectives of the engagement.

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<sup>4</sup> IPPC Strategic Framework 2020 – 2030: <http://www.fao.org/3/cb3995en/cb3995en.pdf>

[12] Currently, the IPPC Secretariat maintains a list of key cooperators and partners, including<sup>5</sup>:

**Partners:**

- **World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)** – recognizes the standards, guidelines and recommendations developed under the auspices of the IPPC Secretariat as the reference for trade disputes in the area of plant health<sup>6</sup>.
- **Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD)** – given the IPPC’s role in protecting the environment and biodiversity from Invasive Alien Species as plant pests, and the IPPC Secretariat’s membership of the Biodiversity Liaison Group since 2015<sup>7</sup>.
- **Climate change-related organizations** – the IPPC SF 2020-2030 calls for greater attention to phytosanitary issues in general policy considerations on climate change, and also to better incorporate the topic of plant health into the overall mainstream of the global climate change debate. It is also pivotal to better incorporate climate change considerations into plant health policies. IPPC Secretariat, in the context of CPM focus group on climate change and phytosanitary matters, has been seeking to establish a relationship with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to advance its mission in this field.
- **Other organizations** – these include the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, a part of the World Economic Forum. The Alliance is funded by a number of governmental aid organizations and has input on its efforts via a steering group made up of representatives of both its donor governments and its business partners. The European Food Safety Authority, International Seed Testing Association, International Organization for Standardization are among these organizations.

**Cooperators:**

- **Academia and Research Organizations (AROs) in the field of plant health** – FAO has a large number of collaborative agreements with academia and research organizations active in the field of plant health, and these collaborations have proven to foster sharing and exchanging knowledge and technical expertise, promoting innovative research techniques, and raising awareness on key issues related to plant health, food safety, biodiversity and climate change. Considering the IPPC SF 2020-2030 Development Agenda, some of these collaborations may be revised and expanded to become partnerships.
- **Private Sector** – private sector organizations and companies are of extreme importance, particularly those working on trade facilitation issues, including organizations engaged in the IPPC ePhyto solution via the ePhyto Industry Advisory Group<sup>8</sup> and those working on e-commerce, sea container and ISPM implementation issues.

#### 4. Purpose, scope and objectives

[13] The purpose of this IPPC Partnership Framework is to establish an approach that will facilitate formal agreements with other entities not included in or defined by the Convention, as well as to review and enhance standing IPPC partnerships when appropriate.

[14] The IPPC Partnership Framework applies to any entities not included in the Convention that wish to engage in activities aligned with the IPPC mission, vision and goals as well as the IPPC SF 2020-2030 strategic objectives and principles. The IPPC Partnership Framework does not include collaborations that may be considered extemporaneous and/or lack continuity (e.g. IPPC secretariat participation in

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<sup>5</sup> A detailed list of current IPPC collaborations is attached in [Annex 01](#).

<sup>6</sup> Ref. WTO SPS text: [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/sps\\_e/spsagr\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/spsagr_e.htm)

<sup>7</sup> Ref. BLG web page: <https://www.cbd.int/blg/>

<sup>8</sup> Ref. <https://www.ippc.int/en/ephyto/ephyto-industry-advisory-group/>

public events, media engagement and occasional seminars or webinars not organised by the IPPC community).

- [15] The IPPC Partnership Framework's primary objective is to enlarge the number of entities and enhance existing relationships as defined in Section 5 of this document, contributing to the implementation of the convention, ISPMs, CPM Recommendations and the IPPC SF 2020-2030.

## **5. Establishing an IPPC Partnership: principles for engagement and proposed approach**

- [16] Pursuant to Article XI.2.(f) of the IPPC, the CPM establishes cooperation with other relevant international organizations on matters covered by the Convention. The CPM Bureau and the IPPC Secretariat provide the CPM with the necessary support in this task by identifying, proposing and liaising with potential IPPC partners. Depending on cooperation type and flexibility level, the highly defined IPPC partnerships must be detailed in a written agreement (MoU) specifying the focal points from the IPPC Secretariat and the entity, the respective duties and responsibilities, expected outcomes, a suggested timeline and work plan for implementation as well as key performance indicators (KPIs) to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the partnership.

- [17] Engagements should:

- a) demonstrate a clear contribution to the attainment of the IPPC mission, vision, objectives, Strategic Framework 2020-2030 as well as the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- b) respect the values of the IPPC, FAO and the United Nations;
- c) not compromise the IPPC community's neutrality, impartiality, integrity, independence, credibility or reputation;
- d) be effectively managed and avoid any conflicts of interest or other risks to the IPPC community;
- e) respect the intergovernmental nature of the IPPC and the decision-making authority of its contracting parties as set out by the Convention;
- f) support and enhance, without compromise, the neutral and independent scientific and evidence-based approach that underpins IPPC community's work;
- g) protect the IPPC community from any undue influence, especially on processes for setting and applying policies, norms and standards; and
- h) be conducted based on transparency, openness, inclusiveness, accountability, integrity and mutual respect.

- [18] IPPC CPs, the CPM Bureau and the IPPC Secretariat may propose to assess an entity to become an IPPC partner. The Bureau and Secretariat will assess the partnership viability and inform the CPM of any potential written agreement at the first available CPM session

- [19] Each relationship requires a tailored approach that the IPPC Secretariat develops on a case-by-case basis but all potential IPPC partners must be entities that will be approached directly and in line with FAO rules governing relationships. The IPPC Secretariat presents a summary of the IPPC partnership status at CPM and Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meetings each year. The summary includes the standing partnerships and those under negotiation, specifying the level of implementation for standing partnerships and the expected outcomes of the potential partnerships (e.g. resource mobilization, joint activities on phytosanitary matters, implementation and capacity development, promotion, advocacy, etc.).

## 6. IPPC Partnership categorisation

[20] IPPC partners may be identified amongst the following categories:

- United Nations Organizations (UNOs);
- Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs);
- Non-State Actors (NSA), which may be:
  - Academia and Research Organizations (AROs);
  - Private Sector (PS);
  - Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

[21] This categorization should facilitate the identification of the envisaged relationship for each category.

### 6.1 United Nations Organizations (UNOs)

[22] The IPPC community has been contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and UNOs have been identified as custodians of the SDGs. The IPPC community may consider establishing partnerships with such UNOs contributing to one or more SDG to which the IPPC community is already working towards the delivery of the IPPC mission and the SF 2020-2030 strategic objectives. Other relevant UNOs may also be considered as IPPC partners as appropriate, such as the WTO and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) wherein the IPPC community can frame plant health in broader debates in trade and climate change, respectively.

### 6.2 Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs)

[23] Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) often gather their members on specific objectives or on a territorial basis<sup>9</sup>. The IPPC Secretariat will conduct an analysis of potential IPPC partners that may be suitable to facilitate the deliverance of the IPPC, the ISPMs, CPM Recommendations, mission, vision, goals and the SF 2020-2030, particularly to create synergies that may optimise the use of allocated resources and with resource mobilisation purposes primarily. Territorial or Regional IGOs may be considered to support the RPPO work, if appropriate.

### 6.3 Non-State Actors (NSAs)

#### 6.3.1 Academia and Research Organizations (AROs)

[24] The IPPC SF 2020-2030 Development Agenda includes an item on *Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination* and the IPPC community is engaged in some forms of research coordination. CPM-15 established a Focus Group (FG) on the Implementation of the IPPC SF 2020-2030 Development Agenda Items, which is developing an action plan on this topic and the IPPC Partnership Framework should incorporate the outcomes of the CPM FG's work, once completed.

[25] AROs should be considered as potential IPPC partners with the purpose of enhancing the technical expertise of the IPPC community primarily. AROs dealing in phytosanitary matters and trade facilitation should be the primary target of the IPPC Partnership Framework, bearing in mind the benefits and reputational risks of approaching and partnering with sub-national entities (e.g. universities, research centres, laboratories, etc.). AROs also provide value-added to the work of the IPPC through evidence-based research that could inform national phytosanitary and trade policies.

#### 6.3.2 Private Sector (PS)

[26] FAO largely adopts the definition of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Common Approach to Prospect Research and Due Diligence for Business Sector Partnerships, in which engagement with the private sector is defined as “any type of interaction with business entities, with

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<sup>9</sup> A list of UN-recognised IGOs may be found at this location: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/intergovernmental-and-other-organizations>

different objectives, ranging from informal talks and discussions, to knowledge-exchange platforms, to full-fledged partnerships entailing funding. These engagements may be implemented through different modalities, including but not limited to partnering, and may entail different levels of public exposure<sup>10</sup>.”

- [27] FAO reviewed its partnership strategy in 2020<sup>11</sup> and the IPPC Partnership Framework aims to align with the Organization’s approach towards the private sector engagement. Private sector partnerships, particularly with industry associations (e.g. seed and trade), can have a high impact on IPPC’s work in developing and implementing the Convention, standards and CPM recommendations.

### 6.3.3 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

- [28] Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) should be considered as potential IPPC partners after assessing their concrete contribution to the IPPC mission, vision and goals as well as to the IPPC SF 2020 – 2030 strategic objectives. CSOs add value to IPPC’s global awareness campaign, i.e. International Day of Plant Health, as they can mobilize citizens to raise awareness and change behaviors towards plant health. CSOs’ concrete contribution should also be continuous and verifiable. The IPPC Secretariat will gather the necessary documentation to support the assessment of any CSO when reporting to the CPM Bureau. Partnering with CSOs should aim at ensuring inclusivity and the enrichment of the IPPC work globally.

## 7. Entry Into Force, Duration, and Termination

- [29] The IPPC partnership agreement (MoU) should have a term of 3-5 years and may be renewed by written agreement.
- [30] All partnership agreements will contain appropriate wording to support orderly commencement, renewal and termination.

## 8. Conclusion

- [31] This paper on the IPPC Partnership Framework outlined the main principles and features to identify, engage, liaise and revise IPPC partners. The latest IPPC SF 2020-2030 contains a strong partnership component that the IPPC governing bodies and the secretariat should implement jointly and in coordination. The discussion on priorities and modalities of engagement for the coming decade require a strategic discussion within the IPPC community to provide guidance to the IPPC Secretariat, bearing in mind the potential future needs to shift priorities and engagement levels if needed.
- [32] The CPM is invited to:
- (1) *Note* the paper on the IPPC Partnership Framework,
  - (2) *Discuss* the paper on the IPPC Partnership Framework, particularly providing strategic guidance on the role of a partner and the principles of engagement, and
  - (3) *Adopt* the IPPC Partnership Framework.

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<sup>10</sup> FAO follows the UN Common Approach to Prospect Research and Due Diligence for Business Sector Partnerships, approved in August 2019. See UNSDG (2020)

<sup>11</sup> FAO’s Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025: <http://www.fao.org/3/nd961en/nd961en.pdf>