1. Opening of the session

The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) observed a one-minute silence in remembrance of Ahmed Kamal EL-ATTAR (Head of the national plant protection organization (NPPO) of Egypt) and Margaret MILINGA MATENGU (Head of the NPPO of Namibia).

The FAO Director-General, QU Dongyu, welcomed participants to the Eighteenth Session of the CPM. He emphasized the role of the CPM in ensuring the integrity and safety of agricultural produce and agrifood systems and hence in safeguarding plants and contributing to global food security. He highlighted the complex and multifaceted challenges facing agriculture and referred to the joint work of FAO and the IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as “the secretariat”) on protecting bananas from *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 (Fusarium TR4). The director-general commented on the importance of the standards, amendments and recommendations to be adopted at this CPM session. He also noted the contribution of the IPPC ePhyto Solution in facilitating safe trade and the CPM’s work on managing the impact of climate change on plants.

The IPPC Secretary, Osama EL-LISSY, thanked the FAO director-general and offered some further opening remarks. He thanked contracting parties (CPs), regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) and partner organizations for their commitment, recognized the leadership of the CPM Bureau, thanked the immediate past CPM chairperson, Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN, and welcomed the new CPM chairperson, Greg WOLFF. The IPPC secretary expressed his gratitude to resource partners for their financial contributions and recognized the work of the CPM subsidiary bodies and the secretariat. He also looked forward to working with the newest contracting party, Somalia. Looking to the week ahead, he highlighted some of the critical tools being developed and the challenges faced in advancing the IPPC mission.

2. Keynote addresses

2.1 Keynote address by Canada’s Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

The Honourable Lawrence MacAULAY, Canada’s Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, recalled Canada’s long history of support for the IPPC, Canada being one of the first countries to sign the convention. He highlighted the role of the IPPC community as champions of science and rural-based trade with the highest safety standards, and he recognized the role of trade in strengthening global food security and prosperity. He expressed his country’s honour at chairing this session of the CPM and pledged the continued support of Canada for IPPC work in the future.

2.2 Keynote address by Somalia’s State Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

His Excellency Asad Abdirisak MOHAMED, Somalia’s State Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, emphasized the importance of agriculture to Somalia and outlined the reasons why Somalia became a contracting party to the IPPC in 2023. He explained that Somalia’s decision had been driven by an unwavering commitment to a well-developed agricultural sector. Joining the IPPC community would help Somalia safeguard crops from plant pests and diseases and streamline trade procedures, thereby contributing to Somalia’s food security and economic prosperity. Somalia would also greatly benefit from the roll-out of the Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP) within the region. In addition, the minister explained that joining the IPPC community would provide a platform for Somalia to work alongside other member states to safeguard plant health and that Somalia was eager to learn, contribute and collaborate with fellow CPs.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The CPM chairperson gave some opening remarks, reflecting on the history of the IPPC, the importance of engaging with other organizations to safeguard plant health, and the growing recognition of the importance of plant health in the One Health concept.

The CPM agreed to consider agenda item 11 (CPM recommendations) after agenda item 13.2 (Sea containers), move one decision from agenda item 9.1.1 to agenda item 16.5, and consider agenda item 24 (Date and venue of next session) after agenda item 25 (Adoption of the report). The CPM noted that agenda item 23 (Any other business) may be brought forward and considered on the Thursday morning.

The CPM:

*adopted* the agenda as modified (Appendix 1) and *noted* the list of documents (Appendix 2).

3.1 European Union statement of competence

The CPM:

1. *noted* the Declaration of Competences and Voting Rights submitted by the European Union and its 27 member states.[[1]](#footnote-2)

4. Election of the rapporteur

The CPM:

1. *elected* John EIVERS (Ireland) as rapporteur.

6. Report from the CPM chairperson

The CPM chairperson presented his report.[[2]](#footnote-3) He outlined key decisions made by the CPM Bureau, including suspending the arrangement for intersessional decisions to be taken by the bureau on behalf of the CPM, agreeing that there was no need to limit the number of focus groups, and agreeing to invite FAO permanent representatives to meet the bureau twice a year. He highlighted the need for more funding of IPPC activities, the potential benefits of greater engagement in the One Health approach, and the progress made on sea containers and the APP. Finally, he congratulated the Federal Republic of Somalia on their adherence to the IPPC and thanked the CPM Bureau and the secretariat for their work.

The CPM:

1. *noted* the report presented by the CPM chairperson.

7. Report from the IPPC Secretariat

The IPPC secretary presented the 2023 annual report of the secretariat.[[3]](#footnote-4) He highlighted activities undertaken in the three main areas of secretariat work: standard setting, implementation and facilitation, and integration and support. He updated the CPM on changes that had been made to bring greater workforce stability and highlighted the ten core values of the secretariat, which now included gender equality. The IPPC secretary outlined progress with the Global Phytosanitary Programme (starting with the APP), the IPPC Centre of Excellence and the establishment of a trade support team within the secretariat, the latter still being in the vision stage. He then reported on resource mobilization, including funding from FAO and partners. He finished by thanking the secretariat.

The CPM expressed appreciation for the benefits that the APP was already bringing to the pilot countries but acknowledged the continued need to increase the visibility of the APP and for funding partners to contribute resources to it.

The CPM:

1. *noted* the 2023 annual report presented by the IPPC Secretariat.

8. Report from the Strategic Planning Group

The chairperson of the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) presented the SPG’s 2023 summary report, which highlighted the most significant issues discussed by the SPG at its meeting in October 2023.[[4]](#footnote-5) These issues included a strategic review of the threats and opportunities for the IPPC community, terms of reference for two new focus groups, plans for the 2024 Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPOs) and the need for financial support to help some RPPOs to attend; the APP; and the planned activities for global coordination of Fusarium TR4 action.

The CPM noted a call for the timing of the SPG meeting to be moved from October to January, to increase the level of participation as there are fewer meetings in January, and for the criteria for financial assistance to be communicated more effectively. The CPM chairperson explained that the timing of meetings was determined by the timing of the CPM meeting and associated deadlines, and it would be difficult to change that cycle of meetings, but he noted the call for the matter to be considered. Regarding financial assistance, he explained that the CPM Bureau were in the process of drafting criteria for financial assistance to support attendance at SPG meetings.

The CPM:

1. *noted* the summary of the 2023 meeting of the SPG.

9. Report from CPM subsidiary bodies

9.1 Report from the Standards Committee

The Standards Committee (SC) chairperson presented the report of the SC’s activities during 2023.[[5]](#footnote-6) Among the achievements during the past year, one revised standard and one new annex to a standard had been drafted, ten draft standards had been submitted for consultation, two diagnostic protocols (DPs) had been adopted by the SC on behalf of the CPM, and four draft standards were being recommended to CPM-18 (2024) for adoption. The SC chairperson also commented on some of the challenges, including budgetary constraints affecting the participation of some SC members, changes in stewards over the long course of a standard’s development, and the time it can take to reach consensus on some issues. She finished by thanking the CPs and RPPOs that had supported the SC’s work, the secretariat, the technical panels, the CPs who had provided in-kind contributions or hosted meetings, and the members of the SC itself.

Japan pledged its continued support of IPPC standard setting activities and offered to host the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols in 2024.

The CPM noted a call for the SPG and SC to consider ways of expediting the development of standards, and the CPM chairperson suggested that the CPM Bureau should also consider this.

The CPM:

1. *noted* the report on the activities of the SC in 2023.

9.1.1 List of topics for IPPC standards

The SC chairperson presented a paper on changes to the *List of topics for IPPC standards*.[[6]](#footnote-7) This listed the modifications to subjects (glossary terms, DPs and phytosanitary treatments) that had been made by the SC. It also summarized the recommendations of the SC on which of the topics proposed during the 2023 call for topics should be added to the *List of topics for IPPC standards* (to be considered under agenda item 16.5).

The CPM:

1. *noted* the adjustments to subjects made by the SC to the list of subjects in the *List of topics for IPPC standards* (as presented in Part II of CPM 2023/09); and

*asked* the IPPC secretariat to update the list of topics database on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) accordingly.

9.1.2 Adjustments to the standard setting process and SC rules of procedure

The SC chairperson presented adjustments that had been proposed by the SC to the Standard Setting Procedure, the SC rules of procedure, and other aspects of the standard setting process detailed in the *IPPC procedure manual for standard setting*.[[7]](#footnote-8)

The CPM considered proposals that commodity standards proposed for development under International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 46 (*Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures*), along with their priorities, should be approved by the CPM rather than the SC;[[8]](#footnote-9) that observers in expert working groups should be restricted to participants from the host country;[[9]](#footnote-10) and that the decision on the attendance of observers at SC meetings should be made by the SC chairperson and the secretariat, with priority given to SC replacement members if there are more requests for attendance than can be accommodated.[[10]](#footnote-11) The CPM agreed to these proposals.

The CPM:

1. *adopted* the proposed revisions to the Standard Setting Procedure and the Rules of Procedure for the Standards Committee, together with the other associated revisions to the *IPPC procedure manual for standard setting*, as modified at this meeting (Appendix XX).

9.2 Report from the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee

The IC chairperson presented an overview of implementation and capacity development activities during 2023,[[11]](#footnote-12) with further details being provided under other agenda items. Among their activities, the IC and its subgroup and teams had prepared for IPPC Observatory surveys, confirmed the contact details for IPPC official contact points, and conducted phytosanitary capacity evaluations (PCEs) and a study on ways of improving the PCE tool. They had also made good progress in the global coordination of action on Fusarium TR4, published or translated various guides and training materials, and revised the guidelines for IPPC regional workshops. The IC chair finished by thanking the IC members, the secretariat and the working groups who had worked on implementation materials and highlighting the scarcity of resources for implementation and capacity development activities.

Contracting parties expressed appreciation for the implementation and capacity development activities conducted and invited organizations to provide resources.

The CPM noted a call for translation of implementation materials into Arabic and an offer from Saudi Arabia to provide resources to support this.

The CPM:

1. *noted* the work of the IC in 2023;
2. *noted* the outcomes of the 2023 meetings of the IC;
3. *noted* the activities of the IC Subgroup on the IPPC Observatory and the activities and updates of the IC teams on national reporting obligations (NROs), PCE, Fusarium TR4, IPPC guides and training materials, e-commerce, the use of third-party entities, the IPPC regional workshop guidelines, developing the CPM participation guide, contributed resources, projects, and submission of implementation topics;
4. *noted* the revised *Guidelines for IPPC regional workshops* as presented in CPM 2024/41\_02;
5. *encouraged* contracting parties to provide resources for pest outbreak alert and response system activities and the other under-financed activities, such as NROs, Fusarium TR4 global coordination, the IPPC Observatory and PCE sustainability;
6. *requested* that the IPPC regional workshop organizing committees include activities dedicated to identifying and discussing IPPC implementation issues in their regional workshops;
7. *invited* contracting parties to promote the IPPC contributed resources and case studies that are included in different IPPC guides and training materials;
8. *supported* the efforts taken to improve communication on IPPC guides and training materials; and

*thanked* the experts who had contributed to the development of IPPC guides, as presented in Appendix XX, for their outstanding contributions.

9.2.1 List of topics for implementation and capacity development

The IC chairperson presented recommendations from the IC for the CPM to make the following changes to the *List of topics for implementation and capacity development*:[[12]](#footnote-13)

* additions:
* *Guide for participants in the meetings of the CPM of the IPPC* (2023-001), and
* *Fusarium TR4 training courses* (2023-002); and
* deletions:
* *Emergency preparedness – A guide for developing contingency plans for outbreaks of quarantine pests* (2019-012),
* *Guide to regulation of wood packaging material – Understanding the phytosanitary requirements for the movement of wood packaging material in international trade* (2017-043),
* *E-commerce – A guide to managing the pest risk posed by goods ordered online and distributed through postal and courier pathways* (2017-039),
* *Surveillance of* Xylella fastidiosa*, guide* (2018-0037),
* *Inspection of consignments for* Xylella fastidiosa *at points of entry* (2018-038), and
* *Managing non-compliant treated consignments* (2018-027).

The CPM:

1. *approved* the *List of implementation and capacity development topics*, with the above adjustments.

10. Adoption of standards

The secretariat introduced the papers for this agenda item, which presented the draft ISPMs proposed by the SC for adoption by the CPM and activities related to translation of adopted standards.[[13]](#footnote-14) The summary paper also highlighted the need for a coordinator for the Language Review Group for French, noting that the group had not reviewed any standards for eight consecutive years because the coordinator position had been vacant.

The secretariat informed the CPM that the deadline for objections specified in the Standard Setting Procedure was three weeks before CPM-18 (2024), namely 25 March 2024, but by that date no objections had been received.[[14]](#footnote-15)

Some CPs noted the extent of changes made to the draft revision of ISPM 4 (*Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*) (2009-002) after the second consultation, several of which would require drafting adjustments and improvements to technical concepts.[[15]](#footnote-16) While not objecting to the adoption of the standard, the CPs noted that similar cases had been raised at other CPM meetings and so invited the SC to explore possible solutions.

The CPM noted that some ISPMs had been adopted many years ago but that proposals for revising old ISPMs should be submitted through the biennial call for topics.

The CPM:

1. *adopted* the 2022 amendments to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) (1994-001), as presented in CPM 2024/10\_01, and *revoked* the previously adopted version;
2. *adopted* Annex 1 (Criteria for evaluation of available information for determining host status of fruit to fruit flies) to ISPM 37 (*Determination of host status of fruit to fruit flies ((Tephritidae)*) (2018-011) as presented in CPM 2024/10\_02;
3. *adopted* the revision of ISPM 4 (*Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*) (2009-002), as presented in CPM 2024/10\_03, and *revoked* the previously adopted version;
4. *adopted* PT 46 (Cold treatment for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Citrus sinensis*) (2017-029), as presented in CPM 2024/10\_04, as Annex 46 to ISPM 28 (*Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests*);
5. *requested* that the SC explore mechanisms to address technical issues that are raised about draft ISPMs submitted for adoption but that are not objections;
6. *noted* that the following four ISPMs (including annexes) had been reviewed by the Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish language review groups and FAO Translation services, and the IPPC Secretariat had incorporated the modifications accordingly and posted the new versions on the Adopted standards page of the IPP to replace the previously adopted versions:
* ISPM 18 (*Requirements for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure*),
* 2021 amendments to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*),
* Annex 2 (*Use of specific import authorizations*) (2008-006) to ISPM 20 (*Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system*),
* Annex to ISPM 28 (*Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests*): PT 45 (Irradiation treatment for *Pseudococcus jackbeardsleyi*);
1. *thanked* contracting parties and RPPOs involved in the language review groups – in particular, Mekki CHOUIBANI, Shadi DARWEESH and Sadek ABBAS from the Arabic group, Xiaoliang WANG (Chinese), Beatriz MELCHO (Spanish) and Snezhana USACHEVA (Russian) – as well as FAO Translation Services, for their efforts and hard work to improve the language versions of ISPMs and relevant annexes; and

*thanked* the experts of the groups who drafted the adopted standards and their contracting parties or international organizations (Appendix XX) for their active contribution to the development of these standards.

[*Note (to be deleted upon adoption of report): decision acknowledging SC members who left in 2023 is under agenda item 22 for consistency with decision acknowledging IC members*.]

10.1 Ink amendments to adopted ISPMs

The secretariat presented a paper on proposed ink amendments to adopted ISPMs arising from consistency reviews.[[16]](#footnote-17)

The CPM:

1. *noted* the ink amendment to the definition of the glossary (ISPM 5) term “entry (of a consignment)” (Attachment 1 of CPM 2024/11, in English) to provide parallelism with the definition of “entry (of a pest)” and hence reduce potential confusion;
2. *noted* the ink amendments to the Arabic versions of adopted standards as to the translation of the term “treatment” and its plural “treatments” (Attachment 2 of CPM 2024/11, in English);
3. *noted* the ink amendments to the Chinese versions of adopted standards as to the translation of the term “irradiation” (Attachment 3 of CPM 2024/11, in English);
4. *noted* that the ink amendments would be implemented in all FAO language versions of the standards concerned as resources permitted; and

*agreed* that, once the secretariat had applied the ink amendments, the previous versions of the standards would be replaced by the newly implemented versions.

11. CPM recommendations

The CPM considered the development of draft CPM recommendations in the work programme.[[17]](#footnote-18) One CPM recommendation was under development (see agenda item 11.1) and the CPM was also invited to discuss and agree any new proposals for CPM recommendations that may need to be included in the work programme.

No proposals for new CPM recommendations were proposed.

11.1 Revision of CPM recommendation on sea containers

The secretariat presented the draft revision of the CPM Recommendation on *Sea containers* (R-06), which had been submitted to consultation in July 2023 as agreed by CPM-17 (2023).[[18]](#footnote-19)

The CPM agreed to change the order of the recommendations on “Collaboration with multilateral bodies” and “Establishing appropriate regulatory tools” in the draft CPM recommendation.

The CPM chairperson acknowledged the efforts of John HEDLEY in the development of the IPPC work on sea containers.

The CPM:

1. *adopted* the CPM Recommendation on *Minimizing the pest risk associated with the sea-container pathway* (R-06), as modified at this meeting (Appendix XX), to supersede and replace the CPM recommendation on *Sea containers* (R-06).

12. Implementation of IPPC strategic framework – report on the implementation of the eight development-agenda items and draft prospectus

The secretariat presented an investment prospectus that they had developed in close collaboration with the CPM Bureau to raise awareness of the implementation plan for the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 and to attract funding to support the eight development-agenda items (DAIs) of the strategic framework.[[19]](#footnote-20) The CPM was invited to provide feedback on the draft prospectus.

The CPM:

1. *noted* the paper and its Attachment 1 (investment prospectus); and

*agreed* that CPs and RPPOs with comments on the draft investment prospectus (CPM 2024/13\_01) should submit them to the secretariat by 15 May 2024 for review by the CPM Bureau at their June 2024 meeting.

12.2 Commodity-specific ISPMs

The secretariat presented an update on the DAI on “Commodity- and Pathway-Specific ISPMs”,[[20]](#footnote-21) explaining that the DAI covered both pathway standards in the broad sense as well as commodity standards and included the annexes of ISPM 46, which were solely for commodity standards. The secretariat noted that the first draft annex to ISPM 46 had been submitted to first consultation in 2023 and several proposals for new annexes had been submitted during the call for topics (reported under agenda item 16.5).

The CPM noted a request for the first draft commodity standard submitted to the CPM for adoption to be presented in detail in a CPM side session or to a wider audience in a webinar to demonstrate its quality and its potential added value for international trade.[[21]](#footnote-22)

The European Union confirmed that it was devoted to financially and scientifically support the activities on the development of commodity-specific ISPMs.

The CPM noted that any CPs with concerns over tariffs should raise these with the World Customs Organization.

The CPM:

1. *noted* the update on activities for the DAI on commodity-specific ISPMs.

12.3 Management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways

The secretariat presented an update on the DAI on “Management of E-commerce and Postal and Courier Pathways”, including a revised timeline of activities for 2023–2030.[[22]](#footnote-23) The report summarized the activities undertaken in 2023, including the production of an IPPC guide, a factsheet, an infographic video on e-commerce, and a new e-commerce web page on the IPP. The secretariat informed the CPM that an IPPC Observatory study on e-commerce would be launched in 2024 and that a comprehensive communications plan on e-commerce had been developed. The secretariat recognized the contribution of Canada in supporting the IPPC work on e-commerce but noted that additional funding was required and encouraged CPs and other partners to contribute.

The CPM:

1. *noted* the update on activities for the IPPC e-commerce work programme; and

*noted* the revision to the timeline of activities for the DAI on management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways.

12.4 Developing guidance for the use of third-party entities

The secretariat provided an update on the DAI on “Developing Guidance for the Use of Third-Party Entities”, the plans for which included the development of two IPPC guides: one on authorization and use of third-party entities and the other on audit in a phytosanitary context.[[23]](#footnote-24)

The CPM:

1. *noted* the update on implementation of the DAI on developing guidance on the use of third-party entities; and

*noted* the revision to the timeline of activities for the IPPC work programme “Developing Guidance on the Use of Third-Party Entities”.

12.5 Strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems

The secretariat and the bureau representative for the DAI on “Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems” (POARS) provided an update on the DAI, charting the development of this area of CPM work, the discussions about a working definition of “emerging pest”, and the role of RPPOs.[[24]](#footnote-25) The POARS steering group had begun work in early 2024.

Contracting parties emphasized the role of NPPOs in declaring pest status and developing national action plans, the role of RPPOs in developing response and preparedness plans for their respective regions, and the need to learn from the experience of the APP in terms of surveillance and response planning. There was also a call for national reporting obligations to be considered together with other sources of information for the identification of emerging pests and for POARS to be aligned with the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030.

The CPM noted a suggestion that the POARS steering group bring forward the timeline of activities and present an update and a revised timeline of activities to the 2024 meeting of the SPG.

The European Union confirmed that it was devoted to support the activities of PAORS financially and scientifically.[[25]](#footnote-26)

The CPM:

1. *noted* the update on activities for strengthening POARS;
2. *noted* the revision to the timeline of activities for the work programme; and

*encouraged* contracting parties to provide resources for POARS activities.

12.6 Assessment and management of climate-change impacts on plant health

A member of the CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues presented an update on the progress of the focus group in implementing their 2022–2025 action plan.[[26]](#footnote-27) The action plan was directed towards three outcomes: raising awareness of the impact of climate change on plant pests; evaluating and managing the risk to plant health from climate change; and enhancing the recognition of phytosanitary matters in the international climate-change debate. As one of the deliverables, a draft technical resource on *Climate-change impacts on plant pests* prepared by the focus group had been subjected to peer review and was presented to the CPMfor approval.[[27]](#footnote-28) The focus group member thanked Canada for their financial support.

Contracting parties recognized the importance of the work on the impacts of climate change on pests and supported further work in this area. The CPM noted a suggestion that data collected and prepared be posted centrally and an action plan for 2026–2030 be developed, aligned with the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030. The CPM also noted a recent special issue of the *EPPO Bulletin* on the impact of climate change on plant pests.

The United Kingdom confirmed a financial contribution of GBP 25 000 towards the IPPC work on climate change.

The CPM:

1. *noted* this update;
2. *approved* the document entitled *Climate-change impacts on plant pests* (CPM 2024/20\_01) to be published by the IPPC Secretariat; and

*extended* the mandate for the CPM Focus Group on Climate Change on Phytosanitary Issues until CPM-20 (2026).

13. Update from other CPM focus groups

13.1 Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid (including item 13.1.1)

The vice-chairperson of the CPM Focus Group on the Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid presented an update on the activities of the focus group.[[28]](#footnote-29) The focus group had revised the draft specification *Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid* (2021-020) and had also drafted a gap-analysis diagram on existing ISPMs and a proposed definition for the “emergency pathway”.

In response to a written intervention received,[[29]](#footnote-30) the focus group vice-chairperson suggested that the term “emergency pathway” could be referred to as a concept description rather than a definition. This was supported by the CPM.

The secretariat presented draft terms of reference for an extension of the focus group’s mandate in order to address this complex topic.[[30]](#footnote-31) This had been supported by the CPM Bureau and welcomed by the SPG in October 2023. On behalf of the focus group, the secretariat proposed that the mandate of the focus group be extended for two years, rather than the 12 months proposed in the CPM paper.

Contracting parties made diverging suggestions about whether the SC should first review the draft specification and whether consultation comments on the draft specification should be addressed by the focus group or the SC. The CPM chairperson therefore suggested that interested CPs participate in a Friends of the Chair meeting, which took place outside of the session. This resulted in a revised set of proposed decisions for the CPM to consider.[[31]](#footnote-32)

The CPM:

1. *noted* the work of the CPM Focus Group on the Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid to date;
2. *approved* the draft specification on *Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid* (2021-020) to be submitted for consultation in July 2024 (Appendix 1 of CPM 2024/23);
3. *requested* that the focus group prepare a cover note outlining the steps and process to accompany with the draft specification for the consultation period;
4. *agreed* that the focus group would review the consultation comments received for the draft specification on *Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid* (2021-020) and present a revised draft specification, and responses to the comments, to the SC;
5. *agreed* that the SC would present to the CPM the finalized draft specification with a request for the CPM to decide whether the development of an ISPM should proceed; and

*agreed* to extend the mandate of the focus group until CPM-20 (2026), with tasks as presented in CPM 2024/24, including the review of consultation comments and revision of the draft specification to be presented to the SC before being presented to CPM-19 (2025).

14. Implementation and Capacity Development

14.1 IPPC guides and training materials

The secretariat provided an update on the development of IPPC guides and training materials.[[32]](#footnote-33) Four new guides had been published in 2023, several had been translated into French and Spanish and a comprehensive communications plan had been rolled out to promote their use. The secretariat also reported on the uptake of the e-learning courses launched in 2022. The secretariat thanked all partners who have contributed to the translations of IPPC guides and training materials: the European Union, the Common Market for Southern and Eastern Africa (COMESA) Secretariat, the FAO Subregional Office for Mesoamerica, Committee Linking Entrepreneurship-Agriculture-Development (COLEAD), the All-Russian Plant Quarantine Center, the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO), Comité de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur (COSAVE), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA).

The CPM:

1. *noted* the activities of the secretariat to develop high-quality guides and training materials, thoroughly promote their use, and work with partners to translate them as quickly as possible after their initial publication; and

*thanked* the experts who had contributed to the French translations of the IPPC *Guide for establishing and maintaining pest free areas*, the IPPC *Surveillance* guide and the IPPC *Prevention, preparedness and response guidelines for Fusarium Tropical Race 4 (TR4) of banana*, for their commitment and excellent service in proofreading (Appendix XX).

14.2 Update on projects managed by the IPPC Secretariat

The secretariat presented a paper on the eight projects managed by the secretariat’s Implementation and Facilitation Unit in 2023,[[33]](#footnote-34) which had been managed in full compliance with IC procedures and priorities. The secretariat thanked the partners who had provided financial support for the projects and in-kind contributions and extended its deepest gratitude to China, the European Union, Japan, COMESA, GIZ, Canada, France and the Republic of Korea. Transparency with the wider IPPC community had been enhanced through dedicated web pages for those projects over USD 500 000.

The CPM:

1. *noted* the deliverables of projects managed by the secretariat; and

*noted* the compliance of the projects with secretariat and IC procedures and the increased transparency as presented in Appendix 1 of CPM 2024/27.

14.3 Update on the IPPC Observatory

The secretariat presented an update on the 2023 IPPC Observatory activities and priority activities for 2024, including preparations for the IPPC third general survey and a study on e-commerce.[[34]](#footnote-35) The secretariat also highlighted the ongoing collaboration with the observatories of the Codex AlimentariusCommission and the World Organisation for Animal Health about monitoring the implementation of standards, best practice for conducting surveys and suggestions made by the IC to address the low response rate to IPPC surveys. The secretariat thanked funding partners, namely Canada and the Republic of Korea, for their contributions.

The CPM:

1. *noted* the update on the 2023 IPPC Observatory activities;
2. *noted* that the IPPC Strategic Framework project coordinator[[35]](#footnote-36) should be hired before DAI monitoring activities commence, following which the IPPC Observatory would provide support by monitoring DAI achievements;
3. *requested* that the secretariat launch the third IPPC general survey, including a search function allowing the compiled data to be freely consulted and adding the following general survey criteria to monitor the implementation of the IPPC – NRO updates on the IPP, World Trade Organization notifications, phytosanitary legislation and pest reports;
4. *invited* contracting parties to respond to the third IPPC general survey;
5. *requested* that the secretariat launch the survey for the IPPC Observatory study on e-commerce;
6. *invited* contracting parties to respond to the e-commerce survey;
7. *agreed* that, from 2025, the call for IPPC Observatory topics for studies and surveys would be included in the IPPC Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation with a dedicated submission form; and
8. *encouraged* the secretariat to maintain collaboration with the Three Sisters working group on monitoring the implementation of their standards.

14.4 Update on phytosanitary capacity evaluation

The secretariat presented an update on PCE,[[36]](#footnote-37) including an overview of what a PCE entails, the training of facilitators, PCEs carried out during 2023 and underway in 2024, communication activities related to PCE, the drafting of a desk study on PCE, and the development of terms and conditions for use of the online PCE system. The secretariat also highlighted the need for sustainable funding for PCE activities, as PCEs are funded by projects and there is no dedicated budget in FAO for maintaining the process and the online system.

Some CPs expressed their general appreciation for all efforts in advancing the PCE strategy and increased transparency. Contracting parties also expressed appreciation for the support received from the secretariat in facilitating PCEs, gaining financial support for PCEs, and advancing the priorities identified by countries in the framework of a PCE. In addition, the CPM welcomed the fact that new PCE facilitators had been trained.

In response to a query about the terms and conditions for the online PCE system, the secretariat confirmed that only the country conducting the PCE had access to the data for their PCE, countries could download their PCE strategy at any time, and it was most unlikely that FAO would terminate the application without notifying countries.

In response to a request for financial assistance for developing countries who wished to conduct a PCE, the secretariat explained that there was currently no budget line for such activity in the secretariat, but they would support the country to approach donors. The CPM chairperson clarified that the IC would be considering the sustainable funding of PCE activities.

The CPM:

1. *noted* the achievements during 2023, aligned with the key results of the PCE Strategy 2020–2030;
2. *noted* the advances made towards realizing the desk study on PCE;
3. *noted* both the continually increasing requests for implementing PCEs in countries and the need to improve the process and tool, while no sustainable funding is available at the secretariat level for this activity; and

*noted* the *Terms and conditions for using the phytosanitary capacity evaluation (PCE) online system* as presented in Appendix 1 of CPM 2024/47, which will be publicly available on the online PCE system and will have to be agreed upon to access the PCE online system.

14.5 Update on coordination of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* TR4 action

Further to the request by CPM-17 (2023) for the secretariat to lead the global coordination of action on Fusarium TR4,[[37]](#footnote-38) the secretariat and the CPM Bureau representative for this activity presented an update on the progress made and a table of planned activities.[[38]](#footnote-39) The secretariat outlined some of the outputs produced, including preparedness and response guidelines, webinars, a desk-top simulation exercise and the coordination of some field activities. The secretariat also reported on liaison with colleagues within the secretariat, within FAO and with other international organizations. The bureau representative emphasized the role of RPPOs in regional coordination, the need for inter-regional cooperation and the need for resources to continue this area of work.

Contracting parties thanked the secretariat for the update and for the support the secretariat had provided in helping countries prepare for and respond to Fusarium TR4, and they shared their experiences. The CPM noted the difficulties in controlling the pest, the value of simulation exercises in identifying weaknesses, and the importance of ensuring the official notification of pest status by exporting countries. The CPM also recognized the need for coordination and collaboration and the need for resources to continue the work.

The secretariat thanked CPs for some specific suggestions about amendments to the table of activities, which the CPs confirmed they would forward to the secretariat.

One RPPO presented a statement on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean group (GRULAC) seeking a renewed commitment to coordination of action on Fusarium TR4 and for the mobilization of resources.[[39]](#footnote-40)

The European Union reiterated its commitment to support the TR4 global coordination in the framework of POARS with scientific and financial resources.

The CPM:

1. *noted* the update of activities for TR4 global coordination;
2. *requested* that the secretariat consider the amendments suggested at this meeting for the activities presented in Appendix 1 of CPM 2024; and

*agreed* to identify financial and/or in-kind resources and partnerships (including public-private partnerships) to implement the global coordination on TR4 efficiently and ensure the sustainability of the IPPC Secretariat efforts.

15. Collaboration with regional plant protection organizations

15.1 Role of Regional Plant Protection Organizations

Two RPPO representatives presented a video introducing the ten RPPOs, the history of RPPO involvement with the IPPC as an international treaty and its governance, and the role and responsibilities of RPPOs. The video highlighted that RPPOs were not only plant-health pioneers but also play an indispensable part in implementation of the IPPC objectives.

15.2 Report from Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations

One of the RPPO representatives presented a report on behalf of the chairperson of the thirty-fifth TC-RPPOs.[[40]](#footnote-41) The thirty-fifth TC-RPPOs was held in Bogotá, Colombia, from 24 to 26 October 2023. Matters considered included, among other things, the role of RPPOs in coordinating the work of the IPPC on a regional level, the relationship between RPPOs and the IPPC, and the harmonization of RPPO information on the IPP.

Some CPs expressed their gratitude to the outgoing executive director of NAPPO and the director-general of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) who were attending a CPM session for the last time, for having served the IPPC community with great professionalism and dedication.

The CPM:

1. *noted* the report from the thirty-fifth TC-RPPOs; and

*noted* the document entitled *The roles and basic responsibilities of regional plant protection organizations* as presented in CPM 2024/42\_01.

16.5 Recommendations from the Task Force on Topics on the 2023 *Call for topics: Standards and Implementation*

The Task Force on Topics (TFT) chairperson presented a report on the 2023 Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation, including the TFT’s recommendations for consideration by the CPM.[[41]](#footnote-42)

The CPM considered a suggestion that the proposed revision of ISPM 12 (*Phytosanitary certificates*) be assigned priority 2 rather than priority 1, as the standard had been revised very recently, but agreed to priority 1 so as to keep this critical standard up-to-date.[[42]](#footnote-43)

The CPM:

1. *adopted* the recommended topics in response to the 2023 Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation as presented in Table 1 of CPM 2024/INF/10;
2. *adopted* the *List of topics for IPPC standards*, including the newly adopted topics with the associated recommended priorities and the SC’s adjustments noted under agenda item 9.1.1
3. *requested* that the IC integrate the submitted topics into existing ones within the work programme of the IC and promote the information already available for the topics proposed;
4. *noted* the TFT’s recommendations on the SC subjects (for DPs) outlined in Table 3 of CPM 2024/INF/10;
5. *encouraged* contracting parties, RPPOs, and other interested parties to consider providing support and resources to deliver high-priority topics on the lists of topics; and

*noted* that the TFT would revise the submission forms and the *Criteria for the justification and prioritization of proposed topics* with inputs from the CPM Bureau, SPG, SC and IC, and present the revised forms to CPM-19 (2025).

1. CPM 2024/CRP/04. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. CPM 2024/04. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. CPM 2024/05. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. CPM 2024/46. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. CPM 2024/06. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. CPM 2024/07. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. CPM 2024/08; CPM 2024/INF/09. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. CPM 2024/INF/20; [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. CPM 2024/INF/20. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. CPM 2024/CRP/07. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. CPM 2024/41, including CPM 2024/41\_01 and CPM 2024/41\_02. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. CPM 2024/09. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. CPM 2024/10 (including attachments 01–04). [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. CPM 2024/INF/13. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. CPM 2024/INF/20. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. CPM 2024/11. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. CPM 2024/12. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. CPM 2024/12\_01. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
19. CPM 2024/13 (including attachment 01). [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
20. CPM 2024/16. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
21. CPM 2024/CRP/05. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
22. CPM 2024/17. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
23. CPM 2024/18. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
24. CPM 2024/19. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
25. CPM 2024/CRP/05. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
26. CPM 2024/20. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
27. CPM 2024/20\_01. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
28. CPM 2024/23. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
29. CPM 2024/CRP/05. [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
30. CPM 2024/24. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
31. CPM 2024/CRP/13. [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
32. CPM 2024/26. [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
33. CPM 2024/27. [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
34. CPM 2024/28. [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
35. Suggested by CPM-17 (2023), agenda item 12.1. [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
36. CPM 2024/29; CPM 2024/47. [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
37. CPM-17 (2023), agenda item 15.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
38. CPM 2024/30, including Appendix 1. [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
39. CPM 2024/CRP/XX. [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
40. CPM 2024/42 (including attachment 01). [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
41. CPM 2024/34; CPM 2024/INF/10. [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
42. CPM 2024/INF/20. [↑](#footnote-ref-43)