



Conference Room Paper

Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) meeting 18; Agenda Item 13

Refer to papers –

13.1 - [23 CPM 2024 FG Safe Aid UpdateReport DraftSpecificationForISPM Diagram 2024-02-02.docx \(ippc.int\)](#)

13.1.1 - [24 CPM 2024 Draft ToR Extended mandate FG on Food other aid 2024-02-02.docx \(ippc.int\)](#)

Submitted by Australia

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Items 13.1 and 13.1.1: CPM Focus Group on Safe Provision of Food and other Humanitarian Aid

Australia thanks the Focus Group for their work to meet the tasks allocated by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) in 2022. We also thank the Focus Group for working to take on feedback of members, other invited stakeholders, the Bureau and SPG.

The Focus Group papers presented to CPM18 provide several recommendations and request several decisions by CPM. On reflection, we would like to propose the slight adjustment of some of these, to better support the Focus Group to achieve its intended objectives and to ensure momentum is maintained.

In paper 13.1.1, the FG has requested an extension of 12 months. We would like to propose a 24 month extension to the mandate of the FG as the work of the FG is unable to commence until after this CPM meeting (assuming agreement) and will then need to provide update to Bureau in June/July prior to SPG in September/October) and to the CPM in March 2025. The FG requires sufficient time in order to collaboratively develop and deliver a number of the activities listed in their proposed workplan and the severely limited time window available within this time frame is insufficient.

In paper 13.1, the FG has requested CPM to agree that the Specification for the ISPM (as revised by the FG as part of their current mandate), be consulted through the IPPC's routine country consultation in 2024 with comments to be submitted by contracting parties through the OCS, as with all other documents consulted over this period. Responsibility for addressing the comments received through this requested consultation process was not included within the list of Tasks for the renewed FG. For completeness and clarity, we consider that this should be included in the new Terms of Reference.

We understand that the IPPC Standards Committee (SC) is unable to take this topic on until there is an agreement by CPM to develop an ISPM and add this topic to the SC work program. Seeking comments from contracting parties on the specification through a consultation round is the only mechanism the IPPC community has to seek wider views on draft documents. The responses received will assist twofold; they will help inform the FG on the views of contracting parties and also inform CPM on contracting parties' views as to whether this topic (or part thereof) can and should be addressed through development of an ISPM.

We have a precedent for addressing complex issues in this way. The issue of Commodity Standards was developed through a Taskforce under the CPM and this group developed and consulted the overarching document (now ISPM 46) to a point that could be handed over to SC (and a decision by CPM made to that effect). Given the success of this approach in giving additional focused development and consultation time to a complex phytosanitary topic, we consider the issue of safe aid a prime candidate for similar treatment.

With this introduction and background, the CPM is invited to consider the following amended recommendations to the paper 2024/24 13.1.1:

The CPM-18 is invited to:

- (1) *provide* comments and feedback on the proposed additional tasks of the FGSA especially on the webinar, development of an Action Plan and further engagement and collaboration with the WFP, FAO and across the three sisters on this topic, **including adding a task for the FG to address the comments on the draft ISPM Specification, once formally consulted through contracting parties during the 2024 consultation period;**
- (2) *approve* the extension of the CPM FGSA until CPM-~~19 20~~ **(2025/2026)**.
- (3) *provide* any suggestions related to funding these proposed activities.