



International  
Plant Protection  
Convention



# **REPORT**

## **IPPC Financial Committee**

**Rome, Italy**

**8 April 2024**

**IPPC Secretariat**

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## 1. Opening of the meeting

- [1] The Chairperson of the Finance Committee (FC), Gabrielle VIVIAN-SMITH, welcomed all participants to the meeting. She noted that this was the first meeting of the FC since 2021 and that the International Phytosanitary Portal had been updated with the current FC membership.

## 2. Meeting arrangements

- [2] The list of participants is provided as Appendix 1.
- [3] The FC elected Diego QUIROGA (Latin America and the Caribbean) as rapporteur.

## 3. Objectives of the meeting

- [4] To set the context for this meeting, the IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as “the secretariat”) outlined the annual cycle of financial reporting and budgeting. The secretariat explained that the main focus of the meeting preceding the CPM session was to review the CPM papers and any potential CPM decisions that had financial implications, as well as the secretariat informing the FC of the current financial standing and the budget for the year ahead. The focus of the meeting in June was to take a forward look; the budget for the following year was discussed at the meeting in October and approved by the CPM Bureau (hereafter referred to as the “bureau”) at its meeting in December; and the budget was presented to the CPM for approval the following year.
- [5] The FC chairperson confirmed that, at this meeting, the main focus would be a review of the secretariat’s financial report for 2023 and the secretariat’s workplan and budget for 2024.

## 4. Adoption of the agenda

- [6] The FC adopted the agenda (Appendix 2), with the election of the rapporteur under agenda item 2 (Meeting arrangements).

## 5. Relevant financial and budgetary issues

### *Secretariat financial report 2023 and secretariat workplan and budget 2024*

- [7] The secretariat presented their financial report for 2023 and their workplan and budget for 2024.<sup>1</sup> The secretariat explained that the fiscal year was the calendar year and that 2023 was the final year of the FAO 2022–2023 financial biennium. In 2023, the secretariat had fully executed the funding allotment from the FAO’s regular programme and had received more than USD 820 000 for the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), together with money for projects and in-kind contributions. The income to the MDTF had included a sizeable amount of interest. The secretariat explained that, for the MDTF, FAO holds the funds in custody on behalf of contracting parties and the use of the MDTF is at the discretion of the CPM rather than the secretariat or FAO. The secretariat has obligations to contracting parties in terms of what the money can be spent on. Expenditure from the MDTF includes FAO support costs.
- [8] In answer to questions from FC members, the secretariat clarified that they always spend the regular-programme funds first, before drawing down funds from the MDTF, and money is not always spent from the MDTF in the year in which it is given. Hence, the difference between income and expenditure can vary between years. The secretariat confirmed the crucial role of the MDTF in supporting meetings of IPPC bodies, by funding translation and the provision of financial assistance for participants to attend meetings.
- [9] Regarding the funding of the IPPC ePhyto Solution, the secretariat commented that, should the CPM approve the new funding model being proposed to CPM-18 (2024), a new trust fund may be needed to hold the funds, as it may be too complex to manage it within the MDTF.

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<sup>1</sup> CPM 2024/44; CPM 2024/45.

- [10] Regarding cash donations, the secretariat noted that they tried to strike a balance between the level of funding and the work involved in receiving it. They commented that funding for projects involved far more work for the secretariat (in terms of setting up the project, etc.) than did funding for the MDTF. The FC chairperson suggested that three of the initiatives under development by the secretariat – the IPPC Centre of Excellence, digitizing ISPMs and establishing an IPPC Global Trade Support Team – could be good candidates for an investment prospectus and the secretariat confirmed that they had already been in discussion with potential donors.
- [11] In response to a question from an FC member, the secretariat confirmed that they had received a total of USD 250 000 in cash from the United States of America for the Africa Phytosanitary Programme, plus substantial in-kind support (including almost 100 people working on survey protocols, etc). The cash donation was spent on things such as materials and supplies, the development of an app, and a train-the-trainer workshop.

### ***ePhyto sustainable funding***

- [12] The FC chairperson referred the FC to the CPM paper on sustainable ePhyto funding.<sup>2</sup>
- [13] The secretariat confirmed that there were sufficient funds for the ePhyto Solution to operate at its current level for another year, but not for the other activities described in the CPM paper. Any increase in activity would be dependent on extra funding.
- [14] The FC noted that it was still uncertain whether contracting parties at CPM-18 (2024) would support the proposed new funding model and that one option would be to agree the model but defer implementation of it. This may help those countries who had yet to set up mechanisms for collecting fees.
- [15] The secretariat emphasized the importance of making clear to FAO the critical service provided by the ePhyto Solution and the synergies with the development of similar systems in the animal-health arena.

### ***Sustainable funding for the IPPC Secretariat***

- [16] The FC noted that, although it had been intended to invite FAO permanent representatives to the April 2024 meeting of the bureau, this had not happened and so it was now intended to invite them to the June 2024 meeting.
- [17] The FC:
- (1) *agreed* that bureau members would invite the FAO permanent representatives for their respective regions to meet the bureau on Thursday, 20 June 2024; and
  - (2) *requested* that the secretariat provide assistance in drafting the invitation letter to the permanent representatives.

## **6. Any other business**

### ***Draft criteria for the provision of financial support to attend meetings of the SPG and TC-RPPOs***

- [18] The FC chairperson recalled that this agenda item had arisen from a comment made at the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) in October 2023,<sup>3</sup> where it had been noted that regional representation at meetings of the SPG and the Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPOs) depended on potential participants being able to afford the associated travel.
- [19] The secretariat explained that the drafting of criteria for the provision of financial support would normally happen once the funding was in place, but it would be relatively easy to draft the criteria for financial assistance to attend the SPG and the TC-RPPOs. However, only a limited amount of funding was available – perhaps enough to support the attendance of five to ten people in total for both meetings

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<sup>2</sup> CPM 2024/15\_Rev1.

<sup>3</sup> SPG 2023, agenda item 5.4.

combined – as it was important that the provision of financial assistance for the SPG and TC-RPPOs was not at the detriment of financial assistance for CPM and bureau meetings or the IPPC regional workshops.

- [20] The secretariat suggested that, if funds were limited, support for attendance at the TC-RPPOs should take precedence over support for attendance at the SPG, as the IPPC secretary was under an obligation under the IPPC to convene TC-RPPOs.
- [21] The FC chairperson asked whether, if a contracting party had a paper for the SPG meeting but could not afford to attend, they would be able to present it virtually.
- [22] The CPM chairperson recalled that, at the bureau’s meeting in December 2023, the bureau had agreed in principle that they would be responsible for taking decisions on who would be provided with financial support to travel to SPG meetings, and they had requested that the secretariat draft the criteria for the provision of financial support to attend meetings of the SPG and TC-RPPOs. The FC noted, therefore, that the matter should be referred to the bureau.
- [23] One FC member suggested that one of the criteria for the provision of financial assistance for attendance at SPG meetings should be that the recipient has an active role in the meeting.
- [24] The FC:
- (3) *referred* further discussion about financial assistance for attendance at SPG and TC-RPPO meetings to the bureau, to be discussed at their April 2024 meeting.

## 7. Next meeting

- [25] The next meeting of the FC is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of Wednesday, 19 June 2024, Rome, Italy.

## 8. Close of the meeting

- [26] The FC chairperson thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

**Appendix 1: Participants list**

	<b>Region/ Role</b>	<b>Name, mailing, address, telephone</b>	<b>Email address</b>
✓	North America <i>CPM Chairperson</i>	<b>Mr Gregory WOLFF</b> Canadian Food Inspection Agency 59 Camelot Drive Ottawa, Ontario K1A0Y9 <b>CANADA</b>	<a href="mailto:greg.wolff@inspection.gc.ca">greg.wolff@inspection.gc.ca</a>
✓	Europe	<b>Mr Samuel BISHOP</b> Head of International Plant Health Policy Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs <b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	<a href="mailto:sam.bishop@defra.gsi.gov.uk">sam.bishop@defra.gsi.gov.uk</a>
✓	Africa	<b>Mr Jan Hendrik VENTER</b> Director Plant Health Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development <b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	<a href="mailto:janhendrikv@dalrrd.gov.za">janhendrikv@dalrrd.gov.za</a>
✓	Asia	<b>Mr Mamoru MATSUI</b> Director (Operation Division) Kobe Plant Protection Station (PPS), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF) <b>JAPAN</b>	<a href="mailto:mamoru_matsui430@maff.go.jp">mamoru_matsui430@maff.go.jp</a>
✓	Latin America and Caribbean	<b>Mr Diego QUIROGA</b> Director Nacional de Protección Vegetal SENASA <b>ARGENTINA</b>	<a href="mailto:dquiroga@senasa.gob.ar">dquiroga@senasa.gob.ar</a>
✓	South West Pacific <i>FC Chairperson</i>	<b>Ms Gabrielle VIVIAN SMITH</b> Chief Plant Protection Officer Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forest <b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<a href="mailto:gabrielle.vivian-smith@aff.gov.au">gabrielle.vivian-smith@aff.gov.au</a>

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## Appendix 2: Agenda

AGENDA ITEM		DOCUMENT NO.	PRESENTER
1.	<b>Opening of the Meeting</b>	--	EL-LISSY / VIVIAN-SMITH
2.	<b>Meeting Arrangements</b>	--	BENOVIC
3.	<b>Objectives of the meeting</b>	--	VIVIAN-SMITH
4.	<b>Adoption of the Agenda</b>	01_FC_2024_Apr	VIVIAN-SMITH /FC
5.	<b>Relevant financial and budgetary issues</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IPPC Secretariat Financial report for 2023</li> <li>• IPPC Secretariat Work plan and Budget for 2024</li> <li>• ePhyto Sustainable funding</li> <li>• Outlook / Sustainable funding for the IPPC Secretariat</li> </ul>	CPM doc. no. 44  CPM doc. no 45  CPM doc. no 15_Rev1	BENOVIC/ VIVIAN-SMITH/FC
6.	<b>Any other business</b>	--	VIVIAN-SMITH
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft criteria for the provision of financial support to attend meetings of the SPG and TC-RPPOs</li> </ul>		FC
7.	<b>Next Meeting</b>	--	VIVIAN-SMITH
8.	<b>Closing of the Meeting</b>	--	VIVIAN-SMITH