

## TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CPM FOCUS GROUP ON SEA CONTAINERS

*(Approved by CPM-18 (2024))*

### **A. Background and purpose**

- [1] CPM-15 (2021) discussed how best to move forward on the work related to the CPM Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF), whose mandate was ending at the end of 2021. The CPM requested the SCTF to develop a draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for a CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers (Focus Group).
- [2] CPM-16 (2022) made amendments to the draft ToR for the Focus Group based on some amendments proposed by one Contracting Party (CP).
- [3] The Focus Group met several times during 2023, both virtually and in person in Brisbane, Australia and, worked with an objective to develop viable options that will contribute to pest risk management and provide the CPM with recommendations (including the option of developing an ISPM). In March 2023, the Focus Group submitted the draft revision of the CPM Recommendation on Sea containers (R-06) to CPM-17 which was approved for countries consultation. The Focus Group subsequently completed the revision of the CPM Recommendation on Sea containers (R-06) following the consultation process, which was presented to CPM-18 for adoption.
- [4] The purpose of this Focus Group is to continue the work carried out by the 2022-2023 Focus Group and review all new, emerging and evolving technologies and opportunities. In considering these factors, the Focus Group will provide final recommendations to the CPM on long term IPPC guidance.
- [5] The proposed purpose, membership, functions, and duration of the Focus Group are described below.

### **B. Process**

- [6] The Focus Group will convene virtually as needed, with at least one in person meeting per year subject to availability of funds.
- [7] The Focus Group may seek information or feedback from other international organizations and invite them to meetings, as needed. The Focus Group may temporarily coopt experts or advisors as required to address specific issues, the term of such coopting not to exceed 6 months.

### **C. Membership**

- [8] The membership of the Focus Group will remain as per the 2022-2023 Focus Group, but with the addition of a third Industry Advisory Group representative.
- [9] The Focus Group will be composed of up to eighteen members, taking into account geographical representation and gender balance as follows:
  - Seven members from contracting parties;
  - Two representatives from regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs);
  - One representative of the CPM Bureau;
  - One representative of the Standards Committee (SC);
  - One representative of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC);
  - Three representatives (chairperson and two representatives) of the Industry Advisory Group on sea containers.
  - One representative of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)
  - One representative of World Customs Organization (WCO)
  - One representative of the World Bank Group (WBG)

- [10] The members may represent more than one role.

### **D. Functions (tasks)**

- [11] The Focus Group may recommend the addition of tasks or amendments of the tasks listed below, according to the information they uncover during the active period, for approval by the CPM Bureau.
- [12] The Focus Group may also provide any further observations or recommendations to the CPM as deemed appropriate.

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[13] The key tasks of the Focus Group will be:

- (1) Subject to the availability of suitable data assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the CPM Recommendation on Sea containers (R-06) in reducing pest risks associated with the sea container pathway (e.g., raising awareness, visual examination, methods to remove contamination, design aspects).
- (2) Invite NPPOs and other stakeholders to advise the Focus Group of outcomes related to ongoing trials, technology developments related to the sea container pathway, and the results of quantitative studies to quantify pest risk and the impact of the CPM recommendation on sea containers.
- (3) Continue to analyze potential regulatory and non-regulatory options in order to identify and describe a recommended option or options to minimize pest risks in the sea container pathway.
- (4) Consider the costs and benefits for pest risk management and the practicalities and possible impacts of the identified options on container logistics, supply chains and NPPOs as well as the required systems and tools.
- (5) Analyze the information gathered in points 1-4 (above). Provide recommendations to CPM that are consistent with the pest risk on preferred options for regulatory and/or non-regulatory actions including additional guidance and whether development of an ISPM is feasible and desirable, and draft specifications for such actions as necessary.
- (6) Continue to communicate via the IPPC Secretariat with the WCO, IMO, CBD, WBG and WOA on areas for collaboration and further consider, in cooperation with the three sponsoring UN organizations, amendments to the CTU Code, which is undergoing revision, regarding sea container pathway cleanliness.
- (7) Support the IPPC Secretariat in organizing a workshop no later than 2026 (subject to availability of funds) that brings together industry, stakeholders and NPPOs to review the uptake and effectiveness of CPM recommendation on Sea containers (R-06) and inform future considerations.
- (8) Develop an action plan detailing the steps for completing the tasks identified in this ToR and present to CPM Bureau for approval in October 2024.

#### **E. Expected Start Date and Duration**

[14] The Focus Group will initiate work by April 2024 and intend to remain active until March-April 2027 or upon completion of their outputs and their final report and recommendations are presented to the CPM.

[15] The IPPC Secretariat will support the Focus Group meetings. The meetings shall be held in English.

#### **F. Expected outputs**

[16] The final report will be provided to CPM-21, following input from the SPG, the IC, SC, and the Industry Advisory Group.

#### **G. Reports to**

[17] CPM Bureau

#### **H. Funding**

[18] It is expected that most meetings for this Focus Group will be virtual. However, where in-person meetings are required, the organization that employs an IPPC meeting participant is responsible for funding the travel and daily subsistence allowance for that person to attend. If the employer is unable to allocate sufficient funds, participants are first encouraged to seek assistance from sources other than the IPPC Secretariat. Where such demonstrated efforts to secure assistance have been unsuccessful, requests for assistance (i.e., travel and subsistence costs) from the IPPC Secretariat may be made. However, any support is subject to available funds. The IPPC Secretariat will consider funding assistance for participants following IPPC criteria for funding. Full details on these criteria can be found on the IPPC ([Criteria used for prioritizing participants to receive travel assistance to attend meetings organized by the IPPC Secretariat - International Plant Protection Convention](#)).