

CPM 2025/CRP/03

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This intervention relates to:

**Commission on Phytosanitary Measures-19 (CPM-19) Agenda Item 9.3, paper CPM2025/14: *Reflection on the relevance of the taskforce for topics and potential resource savings for the secretariat***

- Intervention submitted by: Australia.
- Supported by: New Zealand, United Kingdom, Canada

Australia thanks the Chair of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) and the Standards Committee (SC) for developing this paper that articulates a proposal to streamline the standards and implementation process and provide more flexibility to contracting parties in seeking addition of new topics to the work program.

Australia also notes the strong support that this proposal received at the Strategic Planning Group meeting in 2024, where a number of options to make the standard setting process more efficient and evolve to meet contracting parties' changing needs were discussed.

With regard to the title and recommendations, we propose that they be altered slightly, to clarify the decision and intention of the CPM when responding to the decision points.

At present, the title is:

Reflection on the relevance of the task force on topics and potential resource savings for the secretariat – a proposal for consideration by the Bureau

We propose the new title to be:

Reflection on the relevance of the task force on topics and potential resource savings for the secretariat **– a proposal for consideration by the bureau**

At present, the Recommendations are:

1. *discuss* the pertinence of the TFT in the current context of resource pressures.
2. *discuss* the potential of an open call for topics, removing the current biennial cycle
3. *agree* that topics submitted during the currently scheduled 2025 call for topics: standards and implementation be submitted directly to both the SC and IC for their review, prioritization and recommendation to CPM for addition to the work program on a trial basis until a future CPM where proposed changes to the Standard Setting Procedure to formalize this change will be proposed.
4. *encourage* the SC and IC to prepare for the review of topics submitted during the 2025 call for topics, by establishing appropriate structures.

We propose they be altered to the following:

1. *discuss* the pertinence of the TFT in the current context of resource pressures.
2. *discuss* the potential of an open call for topics, removing the current biennial cycle
3. **agree to pause the currently agreed process of using the Taskforce for Topics to review new topic submissions and make recommendations to CPM on the addition of topics to the SC and IC work program and their priority (as described in Annex 1).**
4. *agree* that topics submitted during the currently scheduled 2025 call for topics: standards and implementation be submitted directly to both the SC and IC for their review, prioritization and recommendation to CPM for addition to the work program on a trial basis until a future CPM where proposed changes to the Standard Setting Procedure to formalize this change will be proposed.



5. *encourage* the SC and IC to prepare for the review of topics submitted during the 2025 call for topics, by establishing appropriate structures.