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REPORT

Bureau of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

**Virtual meeting
16 September 2025**

IPPC Secretariat

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1. Opening of the meeting

[1] The September 2025 meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Bureau (hereafter referred to as the “bureau”) was opened on Tuesday, 16 June 2025 in virtual mode.

[2] The CPM chairperson (Samuel BISHOP, Europe) welcomed participants.

2. Meeting arrangements

2.1 Election of the rapporteur

[3] The bureau elected Michelle GRAY (North America) as rapporteur for the meeting.

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

[4] The bureau adopted the agenda (Appendix 1).

3. Administrative matters

[5] The list of documents is attached to this report as Appendix 2.

[6] The list of participants is attached to this report as Appendix 3.

4. Review of submitted papers from contracting parties and any recommendations to the SPG

[7] The secretariat noted that most titles for papers for the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) had been reviewed at the previous bureau meeting in June, and that other papers were being prepared. The deadline for papers was 26 September, and additional papers would be examined in October meeting of the bureau.

4.1 Strategic priorities and challenges in Iraq's phytosanitary framework: a forward-thinking approach (submitted by Iraq)

[8] The CPM chairperson acknowledged the merits of the paper¹ but suggested that it include some end notes on what the SPG might discuss, as was the normal procedure. The bureau noted that Iraq might not have the funds to be in person at the SPG to present the paper.

The bureau:

(1) *suggested* that the secretariat follow up with Iraq to confirm whether a representative would be attending the SPG and would present the paper.

4.2 Presenting the ePhyto experience and a sustainability proposal (submitted by Ecuador)

[9] The secretariat reported that the paper relating to this proposal had not yet been received.

4.3 Rethinking ISPMs: what is the essence of the experienced problems? (submitted by the Kingdom of the Netherlands)

[10] The CPM chairperson commented that, while the paper was from the Kingdom of the Netherlands,² it also reflected the views of many European Union member states and fitted nicely with the ongoing discussions on this topic. The bureau noted that the paper could be interpreted as sounding “dismissive”, as it focused on the lack of plain language in International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) being the problem, whereas plain language was not the only problem.

¹ 04_Bureau_2025_Sep.

² 05_Bureau_2025_Sep.

- [11] Regarding the topic as a whole, the bureau acknowledged that they needed to think how to manage discussion at the SPG, given that it could overwhelm the time available for it at the meeting. The bureau noted that this topic had been considered at the recent IPPC regional workshops and that it might be worth including a debrief from those workshops. The Caribbean region, for example, had a different opinion to that expressed in the paper from the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

4.4 Statement from COSAVE countries on rethinking ISPMs (submitted by COSAVE)

- [12] The CPM chairperson explained that there was no need for the bureau to comment on the paper by Comité de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur (COSAVE),³ as it was a repetition of what COSAVE had presented at CPM-19 (2025).

5. Strategic Planning Group

5.1 Confirmation of funded participants (from e-decision)

- [13] At their June 2025 meeting,⁴ the bureau agreed to extend the call for funding of SPG participants to the unrepresented regions of Near East, Southwest Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean. The secretariat confirmed that the bureau had agreed, via e-decision⁵, to fund Morocco and the Dominican Republic to attend the SPG meeting to present papers. The CPM chairperson noted that, despite offering funding to countries to attend the SPG meeting, the response had been lacklustre. He therefore suggested that the issue be raised at CPM-20 (2026) so that countries and regions that did not ordinarily participate in IPPC activities understood what support was potentially available to them.

The bureau:

- (2) *confirmed* that financial support would be provided to Morocco and one person from the Dominican Republic to attend the SPG meeting in 2025.

5.2 Other topics for consideration ahead of the SPG meeting

- [14] The bureau considered whether any new issues had been raised at the IPPC regional workshops that might need to be included in the SPG agenda. They noted that implementation of ISPMs, language barriers to IPPC tools (which were mostly in English, e.g. the Plant Health Campus), sea-container strategy, and potential misuse of the pest lists in the IPPC commodity standards had been raised.

5.3 Review and finalization of the SPG agenda

- [15] The bureau considered topics for breakout sessions at the SPG meeting, including sessions on updating the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030, the terms of reference for the strategic framework, and ISPMs and the use of plain language.
- [16] The bureau recalled the request by CPM-19 (2025) for the CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health to present their advice to the 2025 SPG on the potential value of a CPM recommendation.⁶ As the issue of plant health in the context of One Health was already included as an agenda item, the bureau concluded that no additional agenda item was required.
- [17] The bureau recognized the substantial work involved in the IPPC regional workshops and the value of including updates in the SPG agenda to ensure the regions had a voice at the SPG meeting.

The bureau:

- (3) *agreed* that the SPG agenda would be updated to include an item on the Plant Health Campus, an item on sea containers and an update from the IPPC regional workshops.

³ 06_Bureau_2025_Sep.

⁴ CPM bureau June 2025, agenda item 13.1

⁵ 2025_eBureau_03_July

⁶ CPM-19 (2025), agenda item 13.3.

5.4 Discussion about the format of the SPG

- [18] The bureau expressed concern about the plan to use the Ethiopia Room for SPG breakout sessions, as it was an oval shape and not conducive to effective working in groups. The secretariat confirmed later that the Cuba Room had been made available.
- [19] The secretariat highlighted the high number of papers to be presented, which would limit the number of breakout sessions that was feasible. The secretariat added that “prompts” were needed to kick off the breakout sessions. A bureau member suggested that the sessions be more interactive than before and led by bureau members.
- [20] The secretariat explained that a time limit might be placed on presenters because of the high number of papers already on the agenda. The secretariat added that interactive elements such as digital polls might be incorporated into the proceedings. A bureau member suggested that the polls might ask questions about what the SPG participants thought were the most important issues. The CPM chairman offered to look for similar polls he had seen conducted at other meetings. The bureau noted that digital polls gave more opportunity for participants to have their voice heard.

The bureau:

- (4) *agreed* that breakout sessions at the 2025 SPG meeting would be led by bureau members, and that individual bureau members would be responsible for facilitating a half day of agenda items. Bureau members would be given an AM or PM session on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday to facilitate.
- (5) *agreed* that the presenters of SPG papers time would be limited.

6. Review and finalization of the agenda for the October 2025 bureau meeting

- [21] The secretariat suggested the following items be added to the agenda of the October 2025 bureau meeting: a review of bureau roles, the renewal of the ISPM 15 (Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade) trademark, SPG preparation, CPM-20 (2026) and associated keynote speakers, membership of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee, and issues arising from the October Financial Committee meeting.
- [22] The secretariat confirmed that the new IPPC secretary would start work on 6 October and should be available to attend the October bureau meeting and the SPG meeting.

The bureau:

- (6) *agreed* the provisional agenda for the October 2025 meeting of the bureau, subject to the addition of any further updates by the secretariat.

7. CPM-20 (2026) arrangements

- [23] The secretariat informed the bureau that FAO management had not yet confirmed the dates for CPM-20 (2026). The secretariat explained that major construction work was being carried out at FAO headquarters, which might be a factor in the indecision, but it was hoped that the CPM dates would be confirmed by the end of the year. The bureau emphasized that the end of the year would be too late, as participants would need to make travel arrangements and hotel bookings before then. The CPM chairman expressed a preference for early April.

7.1 Draft agenda

- [24] The bureau reviewed the provisional CPM-20 (2026) agenda, which would need to be attached to the official invitations.⁷ It noted that a CPM focus group was considering the issue of antimicrobial resistance and hence there was no need to add a stand-alone agenda item on it. The bureau suggested that the report on IPPC finance and budgeting should be held on the first day, rather than the last,

⁷ 07_Bureau_2025_Sep.

giving participants an insight on financial constraints before decisions having financial consequences were taken.

The bureau:

(7) *approved* the provisional CPM-20 (2026) agenda as modified at this meeting (Appendix 4).

7.2 Concept note for a side session on sea containers

[25] The secretariat presented a concept note for a side session on sea containers to be held at CPM-20 (2026).⁸ The aim of the session would be to gain feedback on whether the issue should be dealt with by developing an ISPM or by management through regulatory and non-regulatory measures, or a mixture of the two. The secretariat added that the side session would provide an update on the work of the CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers, as well as relaying information to a symposium to be held in Copenhagen in October 2025.

[26] The bureau:

(8) *agreed* that a side session on sea containers would take place at CPM-20 (2026).

7.3 Concept note for a side session on commodity standards

[27] The secretariat reported that the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards had drafted five commodity standards, of which one had been adopted, two were out for consultation and two others were in the early stages of drafting. A further commodity standard was going to be drafted later in 2025. The secretariat explained that the main concern about the standards was that countries might misuse them. The technical panel, said the secretariat, was looking forward to presenting its work to CPM-20 (2026), outlining the benefits of the standards, as already planned for a side session at CPM-19. The secretariat confirmed that the side session should be translated into other FAO languages (as for other side sessions), given that the budget for this was available, and that a workshop might also be held, depending on the discussions at CPM-20 (2026). The bureau said it was important to have the draft standards translated into Arabic in addition to the current languages and asked the IPPC secretariat to explore this further.

The bureau:

(9) *agreed* that a side session on commodity standards would take place at CPM-20 (2026). (10) *asked* the IPPC secretariat to explore options and budget implications in translating draft ISPMs, mainly commodity standards, under first consultation period into Arabic language.

8. Any other business

[28] No other business was discussed.

9. Next meeting

[29] The next meeting was scheduled for 22–24 and 30 October 2025 in Rome, Italy.

10. Close of the meeting

[30] The CPM chairperson thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

[31] (Although this meeting had originally been scheduled for 16 and 18 September, the bureau concluded its business on 16 September and did not meet on 18 September.)

⁸ 09_Bureau_2025_Sep.

Appendix 1: Agenda

	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT NO.	PRESENTER
1.	Opening of the meeting		CPM CHAIR (BISHOP) / IPPC OIC
2.	Meeting arrangements		
2.1	Election of the rapporteur		CHAIR
2.2	Adoption of the agenda	01_Bureau_2025_Sep	CHAIR
3.	Administrative matters		
3.1	Document list	02_Bureau_2025_Sep	SENTINELLI / CASSIN
3.2	Participants list	03_Bureau_2025_Sep	SENTINELLI / CASSIN
4.	Review of the submitted SPG papers from CPs and consider any recommendations to the SPG	--	CHAIR
4.1	Strategic Priorities and Challenges in Iraq's Phytosanitary Framework: A Forward-Thinking Approach. Submitted by: Iraq	04_Bureau_2025_Sep	CHAIR/ALL
4.2	Rethinking ISPMS, what is the essence of the experienced problems? Submitted by: The Netherlands	05_Bureau_2025_Sep	CHAIR/ALL
4.3	Statement from COSAVE countries on rethinking ISPMS Submitted by: COSAVE	06_Bureau_2025_Sep	
5.	Strategic Planning Group (SPG)		
5.1	Confirmation of funded participants (from eDecision)	--	CASSIN
5.2	Other topics for consideration ahead of the SPG	--	CHAIR/ALL
5.3	Review and finalisation of the SPG agenda	Link to agenda	CPM Vice-Chair (DRIS)
5.4	Discussion for the format of the SPG	--	CPM Vice-Chair (DRIS)
6.	Review and finalisation of the bureau October agenda	Link to agenda	CHAIR/ALL
7.	CPM-20 arrangements		
7.1	Draft agenda	07_Bureau_2025_Sep	CASSIN
7.2	Concept note for a side session on Sea Containers	09_Bureau_2025_Sep	STIRLING
7.3	Concept note for a side session on Commodity Standards	08_Bureau_2025_Sep	MOREIRA
8.	Any other business		CHAIR
9.	Next meeting 22-24 October 2025		CHAIR
10.	Closing of the meeting		CHAIR

Appendix 2: Documents list

DOCUMENT NO.	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT TITLE	DATE POSTED / DISTRIBUTED
01_Bureau_2025_Sep	2.2	Agenda	2025-09-08
02_Bureau_2025_Oct	3.1	Documents List	2025-09-08
03_Bureau_2025_Oct	3.2	Participants List	
04_Bureau_2025_Sep	4.1	Strategic Priorities and Challenges in Iraq's Phytosanitary Framework: A Forward-Thinking Approach. Submitted by: Iraq	2025-09-08
05_Bureau_2025_Sep	4.2	Rethinking ISPMS, what is the essence of the experienced problems? Submitted by: The Netherlands	2025-09-08
06_Bureau_2025_Sep	4.3	Statement from COSAVE countries on rethinking ISPMS Submitted by: COSAVE	2025-09-08
07_Bureau_2025_Sep	7.1	Draft agenda CPM-20	2025-09-08
08_Bureau_2025_Sep	7.3	Concept note for a side session on Commodity Standards	2025-09-08
09_Bureau_2025_Sep	7.2	Concept note for a side session on Sea Containers	2025-09-10

Appendix 3: Participants list

BUREAU MEMBERS

Attended	Region / role	Name, address, number	e-mail
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✓	Europe <i>(Chairperson)</i>	Mr Sam BISHOP Head of International Plant Health Policy Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs UK Ph. (+44) 2080262506	sam.bishop@defra.gsi.gov.uk ;
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IPPC Secretariat	Mr Simon CRITTLE	Wesley.crittle@fao.org

Appendix 4: Approved CPM-20 (2026) provisional agenda

The approved CPM-20 provisional agenda (as modified in this meeting):

- 1. Opening of the Session**
- 2. Keynote Address**
- 3. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 4. Election of the Rapporteur**
- 5. Report from the credentials committee**
- 6. Report from the CPM Chairperson**
- 7. Report from the IPPC Secretariat**
- 8. Report from the Strategic Planning Group**
- 9. Report from the CPM Subsidiary bodies**
- 10. Financial report and budget**
- 11. Adoption of international standards for phytosanitary measures**
- 12. CPM recommendations**
- 13. Implementation of IPPC Strategic Framework**
- 14. Update from other CPM Focus Groups**
- 15. Implementation and capacity development**
- 16. Collaboration with Regional Plant Protection Organizations**
- 17. Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP)**
- 18. Other emerging topics**
- 19. Emerging pest situations**
- 20. Science session**
- 21. Update on communication activities**
- 22. External cooperation**
- 23. Memberships and potential replacements for CPM Bureau, CPM Standards Committee and the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee**
- 24. AOB**