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REPORT

Bureau of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

Virtual meeting
16 and 18 December 2025

IPPC Secretariat

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1. Opening of the meeting

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

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

2. Meeting arrangements

2.1 Selection of the rapporteur

[3] The bureau selected Larry Mauricio RIVERA (Latin America and the Caribbean) as rapporteur for the meeting.

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

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

3. Administrative matters

3.1 Document list

[5] The list of documents and the list of participants are attached to this report as Appendix 2 and Appendix 3, respectively.

4. Follow-up actions from previous bureau meetings and the SPG 2025 meeting

4.1 List of requests to the bureau from CPM and subsidiary bodies

[6] The bureau reviewed a collated list of requests to the bureau from CPM-19 (2025).¹ The CPM chairperson noted that four of the requests listed – on rethinking ISPMs, the IPPC ePhyto Solution, the Steering Group of the Global Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System (POARS) and the Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP) – were already included as specific items in this meeting agenda. Regarding the remaining request, which related to the Task Force on Topics, the IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as “the secretariat”) clarified that the “further guidance” being sought from the bureau referred to the long-term future of the task force and so no immediate guidance was required.

[7] The CPM chairperson noted that no requests to the bureau had been made by the Standards Committee (SC) during its May and November meetings, nor from the May meeting of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC). The decisions from the November IC meeting and the report from the Strategic planning Group (SPG) were not yet available for review.

4.2 IC membership

[8] The secretariat referred to the recent bureau e-decision on IC membership.² The secretariat confirmed that notifications had been sent to all those selected and would also be sent to those not selected.

[9] North America had asked for an extension to nominate their regional representative and replacement. The secretariat presented the nominations to the bureau for consideration.³

[10] The bureau:

(1) *noted* their recommendation by e-decision of five experts and three replacement experts to the IC membership (Appendix 4).

¹ 01_Bureau_2025_Dec_Tel.

² 2025_eBureau_05_Oct.

³ 10_Bureau_2025_Dec_Tel.

(2) *noted* that North America had nominated David HIRSCH (United States of America) and Jason NEIL (United States of America) to serve as their regional representative and replacement regional representative, respectively, on the IC.

4.3 Approval of the terms of reference for the POARS steering group

[11] The secretariat summarized the modifications that they had made to the draft terms of reference (ToR) for the POARS Steering Group, based on the feedback received during the bureau's e-decision.⁴ The secretariat explained that they had clarified the responsibilities, the activities proposed for resource mobilization and that the main objective was to provide harmonized technical guidance.

[12] The bureau reviewed the revised ToR.⁵ They concurred that the ToR were now much clearer and suggested two editorial improvements.

[13] The bureau:

(3) *approved* the terms of reference for the POARS Steering Group on behalf of the CPM (Appendix 5); and

(4) *invited* CPM-20 (2026) to note the approval of the terms of reference by the bureau.

4.4 Africa Phytosanitary Programme governance

[14] The secretariat lead for the Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP) reminded the bureau that the paper for this agenda item had been presented to the bureau in June, but the bureau had agreed to wait for the arrival of the new IPPC Secretary to discuss it.⁶ During CPM-19 (2025), contracting parties had requested the creation of a strong governance structure to provide guidance to the APP. The paper described three options: (1) creation of an international steering committee, which would involve all the main stakeholders, including the donors; (2) maintenance of the current governing structure with three groups; and (3) a mix of options 1 and 2.

[15] The bureau discussed how to balance the objectives of the current pilot and the respective expectations of the donors with the desire and potential to broaden access to the tools being developed to all FAO regions. They also recognized the need to create a sustainable way of making the APP materials available to all African countries and providing the necessary training for them to use the tools. However, the bureau noted that the donor funds received were for implementation in Africa only and would only cover the pilot for the next two years.

[16] The IPPC Secretary observed that the Southwest Pacific region had voiced interest in the APP tools and that compiling lessons learned would be useful to determine whether to amplify the work after the pilot. Considering the potential impact on the structure and resources of the secretariat, the secretary's preference was for Option 1, ensuring input from the two African regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) but also from the regional FAO offices and the IC to build synergies.

[17] The bureau discussed governance issues such as: the implications of an "international" steering committee, which would imply that it went beyond the African region; circulating the ToR for comment by FAO and other regions; using the steering committee to analyse what needed to be done differently, what needs to change and what can be carried forward; and selecting the bureau representative on the steering committee from either the Latin America and Caribbean or Southwest Pacific regions.

[18] The bureau also discussed aspects of strategy, such as: taking a methodical approach to assessing which materials are useful and which may be shared, how and when, considering that other regions would rather not wait two years to access the materials; making use of capacity building and the IPPC Plant Health Campus to provide the necessary training to be able to use the tools; considerations on data access at the end of the pilot, given that access was provided under licence through an external service provider;

⁴ 2025_eBureau_06_Oct.

⁵ 08_Bureau_2025_Dec_Tel.

⁶ 05_Bureau_2025_Dec_Tel.

the possibility of greater involvement from RPPOs or regional FAO offices; and the need to refocus the programme on the early detection of pests as originally intended.

[19] The secretariat APP lead observed that, while current funds were allocated to Africa, the secretariat was working in parallel to make the material produced through the programme available more broadly. The secretariat explained that the project outcomes would be presented at CPM-20 (2026) at a side session, including lessons learned and how the project might be amplified. A donor information meeting would take place in 2026, to present successful cases and aim to secure more resources.

[20] The bureau discussed how the project might be rolled out on a global scale, mainly to make available the tools, including the procedures and protocols (but not the data, as the data was not shared among countries). The caveat was that interested parties would need to seek their own funds for capacity development in their regions and that secretariat support for training would not be available. The bureau noted that, while the objective of the paper was to define a governance structure, information on a global roll-out should at least be available at CPM-20 (2026) should the question be raised. The general APP update could include an item on funding gaps.

[21] The secretariat modified the paper on APP governance according to the discussion by the bureau.

[22] The bureau:

- (5) *noted* the report on APP governance;
- (6) *requested* that the secretariat prepare a short paper on what would need to be done to share the APP tools more globally, including a potential parallel project;
- (7) *agreed* that the preferred governance structure was a modified Option 1 – an APP Steering Committee, with an additional function in the ToR to describe how the project could be rolled out globally and including an additional bureau member from either the Southwest Pacific or Latin America and the Caribbean regions;
- (8) *agreed* to include information about the gap in APP funding in the general APP update to CPM-20 (2026);
- (9) *approved* the paper on APP governance, as modified in this meeting, for presentation during CPM-20 (2026); and
- (10) *recommended* the APP Steering Committee to CPM-20 (2026) as the most suitable option for stable APP governance at this stage.

4.5 IPPC ePhyto Solution

[23] The secretariat provided an overview of the IPPC ePhyto solution update for CPM-20 (2026), including actions on governance in response to discussions and recommendations from the SPG and the bureau. The document included proposed revisions to the TOR for the ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) and clarified the mechanisms for supporting countries that use the IPPC ePhyto Solution.

[24] The bureau discussed whether the ESG would report to CPM or the bureau, which would be able to be more reactive. The bureau also discussed the number of experts to be included and the use of the IC membership structure as a model. The secretariat clarified that the *ad hoc* groups mentioned in the revised ToR would consist of existing ESG members to delve deeper into specific topics – they were not separate groups with different terms of reference, but similar to IC Teams. The bureau suggested that membership consists of seven regional representatives nominated by the respective FAO regions, encouraging a commitment to attend, and up to five experts as needed.

[25] The secretariat also presented a paper on the ePhyto funding model, which included an update on the financial contributions received in 2025 and the proposed voluntary contributions for 2027. The secretariat reported that the target budget had not changed. However, although more contracting parties were using the IPP ePhyto Solution, the secretariat was not confident that they could reduce fees, as so far only 50% of the target budget had been collected through voluntary contributions. The proposed 2027 fees were therefore the same as for 2025–2026. The secretariat confirmed that a letter has been

sent to each national plant protection organization (NPPO) with the suggested amount for its contribution.

[26] The bureau considered holding an informal discussion at CPM-20 (2026) to answer questions.

[27] Finally, the secretariat presented a paper on change management and enhancement proposals, which described the types of change to the IPP ePhyto Solution and how these would be managed. Changes considered to be development changes would be presented to the CPM for approval. Additional text had been included on the scheduling of implementation of approved changes. The paper also included a request to CPM-20 (2026) to agree to enhancement work on additional declarations, which had some budgetary implications.

[28] The bureau:

- (11) *noted* the draft CPM papers on ePhyto implementation and proposed governance, the ePhyto funding model, and ePhyto change management and enhancement proposals; and
- (12) *recommended* to CPM-20 (2026) that the ePhyto Steering Group report to the bureau as a standing item on the bureau agenda.

4.6 Benefits and implications of moving the June bureau meeting outside of Rome

[29] This item was deferred to the next meeting of the bureau.

4.7 Membership of the CPM Focus Group on Diagnostic Laboratory Networking (North America regional representation)

[30] Further to the bureau's selection of nine members of the focus group,⁷ the North American region had put forward two nominees to be their regional representative.

[31] The secretariat reported that the first in-person meeting of the group is tentatively scheduled for 1–6 June 2026. The European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization had offered to host it at their headquarters.

[32] The bureau:

- (13) *requested* that the secretariat open an e-poll for the bureau to select the North American representative on the CPM Focus Group (to be opened the week of 22 December 2025 and closed the first week in January 2026).

5. CPM-20 agenda and discussion papers

5.1 Rethinking ISPMs

[33] The CPM chairperson confirmed that the draft CPM-20 (2026) discussion paper from the bureau, recommended by the SPG, would be available for bureau members to comment online by the end of the week.

5.2 Review of the update to CPM-20 (2026) from the Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations

[34] The bureau:

- (14) *noted* the update to CPM-20 (2026) on the Thirty-Seventh Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations.

⁷ CPM Bureau 2025-10, agenda item 5.7.

5.3 Report from the CPM Focus Group on Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination

[35] The Chairperson of the CPM Focus Group on Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination, Maikel AVESKAMP (Netherlands), joined the bureau meeting for this agenda item and presented the group's final report. The focus group chairperson explained that starting in 2024, the group had met 16 times and had compiled an inventory of 100 research networks, all evaluated against four criteria: network scope, geographical coverage, phytosanitary relevance and involvement with policymaking. The group had also interviewed representatives from five networks and had sent a survey to IPPC contracting parties and RPPOs regarding their research needs.

[36] The focus group chairperson reported that the results of the group's work showed a high diversity among the networks in terms of the four criteria – the group did not find any globally operating network with a broad enough focus to cover all phytosanitary issues. A broad focus only appeared at a national or regional scale. Other results showed: difficulty in getting regions to align with research needs; limited interaction amongst the networks; and no oversight into research needs or research undertaken across the world. The focus group found that some countries have trouble getting involved in global research and there is insufficient funding for a global network.

[37] The focus group chairperson explained that the group had proposed several possible solutions: creating a database to track phytosanitary research results and needs; exploring mechanisms to communicate research needs and outcomes; engaging with research networks more actively to focus on priority setting; supporting RPPOs and NPPOs in accessing networks; ensuring coverage across commodities, regions and pests with existing networks; and identifying available in-kind support. The bureau clarified with the focus group chairperson that, while CABI is involved in several research networks that were contacted, they were not contacted directly as they are more of a service provider than a network.

[38] The secretariat clarified that the focus group had finished its tasks in providing a scoping study report, and the next step would be the implementation of the action plan. However, the focus group would finish at CPM-20 (2026) unless its term was extended. So, the paper to CPM-20 (2026) needed to be clear about what the CPM was being asked to discuss regarding the next steps.

[39] The bureau:

- (15) *requested* that the secretariat work with the chairperson of the CPM Focus Group on Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination to tighten up the recommendations in the report so that it was clear what the CPM was being asked to do and the resource implications; and
- (16) *approved* the focus group's report, with these modifications, for presentation to CPM-20 (2026).

5.4 CPM Focus Group on Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid

[40] The bureau representative on the CPM Focus Group on Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid, Temarama ANGUNA-KAMANA (Southwest Pacific), summarized the modifications made by the focus group to its action plan since the bureau's meeting in October.⁸ She explained that the work was now focused within the IPPC community with linkages to the *Codex Alimentarius* Secretariat, the World Organisation for Animal Health and the World Food Programme. However, she observed that contracting parties also have a role to play within their regions in strengthening their relationship with these organizations.

[41] The bureau noted that an SC e-decision was currently underway to select members for the expert working group to develop the ISPM on *Safe provision of humanitarian aid in the phytosanitary context* (2021-020). One member emphasized the need for a balance of donor and recipient countries to adequately represent all stakeholders. The bureau discussed ways to address an imbalance, should that occur.

⁸ 09_Bureau_2025_Dec_Tel; CPM Bureau 2025-10, agenda item 5.3.

[42] The bureau:

- (17) *noted* the modified action plan for the CPM Focus Group on Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid; and
- (18) *requested* that the secretariat relay the bureau's concerns about the need to have a balance of donor and recipient countries on the expert working group on *Safe provision of humanitarian aid in the phytosanitary context* (2021-020) to the secretariat lead for the focus group and review whether any changes were needed to the processes for future calls.

5.5 Status of the IPPC Financial Committee

[43] As agreed by the IPPC Financial Committee (FC),⁹ the CPM chairperson presented a draft paper to CPM-20 (2026) proposing that the Financial Committee (FC) be disestablished. He commented that the establishment of an FC had been recommended in the resource mobilization strategy adopted by CPM-7 (2012). However, in reviewing documents on the International Phytosanitary Portal from that period, it was not clear when or whether the CPM had asked that the FC be established, as the next record stated that the bureau had already established the FC. This meant that it was unclear which body may disestablish the FC. The CPM chairperson suggested that the secretariat look into the background of the decision to ascertain which body may decide to disestablish the FC; if no information could be located, it would fall to the CPM to take the decision on whether to continue the FC.

[44] The bureau noted that the activities of the FC were already covered in the ToR of the bureau, under its financial planning and management function, and so the disestablishment of the FC would not require any consequential amendments to the bureau ToR.

[45] The bureau:

- (19) *approved* the paper to CPM-20 (2026), subject to modifications regarding the functions of the IPPC Financial Committee being covered by the ToR of the bureau; and
- (20) *recommended* to CPM-20 (2026) that the IPPC Financial Committee be disestablished and its functions be delivered through a standard item on the bureau agenda.

5.6 Follow-ups on other priority discussion papers from the bureau review (via SharePoint)

[46] No additional discussion papers were discussed.

6. CPM-20: other arrangements

6.1 Update on arrangements for poster sessions, the innovation fair and side sessions

[47] The secretariat presented the layout of the poster sessions to be held in the atrium during the week of CPM-20 (2026). As the bureau had decided that international organizations would not be invited to speak at CPM-20 (2026), the secretariat explained that such organizations may avail themselves of the opportunity to present their updates at the poster session instead. The innovation fair would be held separately on the Friday morning, while side sessions would be held during lunchtimes. The secretariat confirmed that the NPPO orientation session was scheduled for Monday morning before the opening of CPM-20 (2026). The science session would focus on safe aid and be held in a plenary session, fully in-person.

[48] The secretariat updated the bureau on the organization of the innovation fair,¹⁰ which included a briefing prepared in consultation with the North American Plant Protection Organization on artificial intelligence and with the bureau member from North America as the technical champion for the fair. The secretariat confirmed that topics had been selected and a call for proposals had attracted two submissions thus far. The deadline to submit proposals had been extended to 30 January 2026. The secretariat reported that

⁹ FC 2025-11, agenda item 5.

¹⁰ 07_Bureau_2025_Dec_Tel.

the fair would include four stations and interested parties may participate with either a booth or a poster, in coordination with the atrium poster sessions.

[49] The bureau:

(21) *noted* the arrangements for the poster sessions, the innovation fair, the side sessions and the science session at CPM-20 (2026).

6.2 Innovation fair

[50] This item was considered under agenda item 6.1.

6.3 Confirmation of keynote speakers

[51] The bureau noted that, while a few leads were being pursued, there were no formal confirmations of speakers at this stage.

6.4 CPM observers

[52] The IPPC secretariat presented requests received from two organizations that were not recognized as partners by FAO but who wished to attend CPM-20 (2026) as observers.¹¹

[53] One request was from the Arab Organization for Agriculture Development. The secretariat explained that a provision for intergovernmental organizations in the CPM Rules of Procedure allowed the IPPC Secretary and the bureau to decide whether there are concrete reasons for approving such a request.

[54] The other request was from a national private-sector trade organization, Frutas de Chile. The secretariat confirmed that, as they are neither an intergovernmental organization nor an international non-governmental organization, their participation is not covered by the CPM Rules of Procedure.

[55] The bureau:

(22) *requested* that the secretariat go back to the two organizations and clarify their reasons for wishing to attend as observers; and

(23) *requested* that the secretariat open an e-decision in January 2026 for the bureau to decide on the organizations' requests.

7. IPPC Secretariat updates

7.1 2026 IPPC Secretariat workplan and budget (from Financial Committee)

[56] The IPPC Secretary reported that the forecast was that all our FAO regular programme funds would be spent by the end of 2025 and approximately USD 1.7 million of the IPPC Multidonor Trust Fund would be carried forward to 2026. The IPPC Secretary commented that the budget for 2026 was robust and he highlighted the project funded by the European Union to assist five African countries in ePhyto implementation.

[57] The bureau:

(24) *recommended* the 2026 IPPC Secretariat workplan and budget for approval by CPM-20 (2026).

8. Any other business

[58] There was no other business.

9. Next meeting

[59] The next meeting of the bureau will be held 4–6 March 2026 at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy.

¹¹ 11_Bureau_2025_Dec_Tel.

10. Close of the meeting

[60] The CPM chairperson closed the meeting.

Appendix 1: Agenda

AGENDA ITEM		DOCUMENT NO.	PRESENTER
1. Opening of the meeting			CHAIR
2. Meeting arrangements			
2.1 Confirmation of the rapporteur - LAC member			CHAIR
2.2 Adoption of the agenda	01_Bureau_2025_Dec_Tel		CHAIR
3. Administrative matters			
3.1 Document list	02_Bureau_2025_Dec_Tel		MOREIRA
3.2 Participants list	03_Bureau_2025_Dec_Tel		MOREIRA
4. Follow up actions from previous Bureau meetings and the SPG 2025 meetings	Link to Bureau October 2025 report		
4.1 List of requests to the bureau from CPM and subsidiary bodies: - CPM-19 - SC May/Nov - IC May/Nov - SPG	04_Bureau_2025_Dec_Tel		CHAIR / CASSIN
4.2 IC membership - Confirmation from eDecision - North America nominations	Link to eDecision summary 10_Bureau_2025_Dec_Tel		BRUNEL
4.3 Approval of the TORs for the POARS steering group - Follow-up from eDecision	08_Bureau_2025_Dec_Tel		BELTRAN
4.4 APP governance	05_Bureau_2025_Dec_Tel		NERSISYAN
4.5 IPPC ePhyto Solution - ePhyto implementing and proposed governance - ePhyto change management and enhancement proposals - ePhyto funding model	CPM 2026/11 CPM 2026/12 CPM 2026/13		NUZZO/BRUNEL
4.6 Membership for the focus group on Diagnostic laboratory networking (North America regional representation) - Zip file with CV	Link to Focus Group page 06_Bureau_2025_Dec_Tel		MOREIRA / MARTINO/
5. CPM-20 agenda and discussion papers	Link to SharePoint review folder		MOREIRA / CASSIN
5.1 Rethinking ISPMS - Draft CPM-20 discussion paper from the bureau (as per SPG recommendation)			CHAIR / NERSISYAN
5.2 Review of the TC-RPPO update to CPM-20	CPM 2026/25		CAPLEN
5.3 Report from the CPM Focus Group on Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination - Cover paper - Attachment 1: Final report	CPM 2026/19 CPM 2026/19_01		CAPLEN
5.4 Focus Group on Safe Humanitarian Aid	09_Bureau_2025_Dec_Tel		MOREIRA / MARTINO/ TEMERAMA
5.5 Status of the IPPC Financial Committee	CPM 2026/04		Chair / FC chairs
5.6 Follow-ups on other priority discussion papers from the bureau review (via SharePoint)	--		Chair / leads
6. CPM-20 other arrangements			
6.1 Update on arrangements of: - Side sessions - Science Session	--		PEROTTI / MOREIRA / FRIO

	- Poster session		
6.2	Innovation Fair	07_Bureau_2025_Dec_Tel	BRUNEL/BELTRAN
6.3	Confirmation of keynote speakers	--	PEROTTI / MOREIRA
6.4	CPM Observers	11_Bureau_2025_Dec_Tel	MOREIRA / CASSIN
7.	IPPC Secretariat updates		
7.1	2026 IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget (from Financial Committee)	PPT	PEROTTI
8.	Any other business		
9.	Next meeting - 4 – 6 March 2026 (FAO HQ Canada Room):		
10	Closing of the meeting		

Appendix 2: List of documents

DOCUMENT NO.	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT TITLE	DATE POSTED / DISTRIBUTED
01_Bureau_2025_Dec	2.2	Agenda	09-12-2026 16-12-2026
02_Bureau_2025_Dec	3.1	Documents List	
03_Bureau_2025_Dec	3.2	Participants List	
04_Bureau_2025_Dec	4.1	List of requests to the bureau from CPM and subsidiary bodies	09-12-2026
05_Bureau_2025_Dec	4.4	APP governance	
06_Bureau_2025_Dec	4.7	Membership for the focus group on Diagnostic laboratory networking (North America regional representation)	09-12-2026
07_Bureau_2025_Dec	6.2	CPM-20 Innovation Fair	12-12-2026
08_Bureau_2025_Dec	4.3	TORs for the POARS steering group	12-12-2026
09_Bureau_2025_Dec	5.4	CPM Focus Group on Safe Humanitarian Aid - draft Action Plan	15-12-2026
10_Bureau_2025_Dec	4.2	IC membership nominations - USA	15-12-2026
11_Bureau_2025_Dec	6.4	CPM-20 observer requests	16-12-2026

Appendix 3: List of participants

Attended	Region / role	Name, address, number	e-mail
✓	Africa	Mr Mamba Mamba DAMAS Head of Plant Protection Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Intersection of Boulevard du 30 juin and Avenue Batetela, Commune of Gombe, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo Ph. (+243) 81 29 59 330	damasmamba@yahoo.fr ; damasmmb5@gmail.com ;
✓	Asia	Mr Glenn F. PANGANIBAN Director of the Bureau, Bureau of Plant Industry 692 San Andres St., Malate, Manila, 1004 Philippines Ph. (+63) 915 3141 568	glenn.panganiban@da.gov.ph ; gfpanganiban@gmail.com ;
✓	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 ;
✓	Latin America and Caribbean	Mr Larry Mauricio RIVERA General Coordinator of Plant Health Agency for Plant and Animal Health Regulation and Control, Eloy Alfaro and Federico Gonzalez Suarez, Av. Interocianico Km 1/2, La Granja Sector, Ecuador Ph. (+593) 02-382-8860	larry.rivera@agrocalidad.gob.ec ;
✓	Near East <i>(Vice-Chairperson)</i>	Mr Barik Dris Chef de la Division de la Protection des Végétaux Office National de Sécurité Sanitaire des Produits Alimentaires (ONSSA) Morocco Phone: +212 5 37 67 65 00 / +212 5 37 68 13 51	dris.barik@onssa.gov.ma ; barikdris@gmail.com ;
✓	North America	Ms Michelle GRAY International Phytosanitary Standards Coordinator, USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine,	michelle.l.gray@usda.gov ;

		920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27606 United States of America Ph. (+1) 919-937-8528	
✓	Southwest Pacific	Ms Temarama ANGUNA-KAMANA Head of the Ministry of Agriculture PO Box 302, Victoria Park, Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands Ph. (+682) 00682 55871	temarama.anguna@cookislands.gov.ck ;

IPPC Secretariat

Role	Name,	Email address
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Enrico PEROTTI	Enrico.Perotti@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Avetik NERSISYAN	Avetik.Nersisyan@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Sarah BRUNEL	Sarah.Brunel@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Camilo BELTRAN	Camilo.Beltran@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Gianluca NUZZO	Gianluca.Nuzzo@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Adriana MOREIRA	Adriana.Moreira@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Paola SENTINELLI	Paola.Sentinelli@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Aoife CASSIN	Aoife.Cassin@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Russell CAPLEN	Russell.Caplen@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Rebecca LEE	Rebecca.Lee@fao.org

Appendix 4: Confirmation of IC membership

[1] The CPM Bureau selected the five following **IC members** as experts for the term **2026-2029**:

- (1) Thorwald Geuze (Netherlands)
- (2) Kyu-Ock Yim (Republic of Korea)
- (3) John Eivers (Ireland)
- (4) Lucien Kouamé Konan (Côte d'Ivoire)
- (5) Emily Lamberton (Australia)

[2] The CPM Bureau selected the following three **potential IC replacements** as experts for the term **2026-2029**:

- (1) Claire Hollis (Australia)
- (2) George Momanyi (Kenya)
- (3) Ravinder Khetarpal (Laos)

Appendix 5: Approved Terms of Reference for the Steering Group of the pest outbreak alert and response system (POARS)

Title: Steering Group of the Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System

Background and purpose: CPM 19 in 2025 approved the establishment of a POARS Steering Group to oversee POARS.

POARS is a mechanism that identifies emerging pests of global concern before they escalate. It issues global pest alerts, drawing on horizon scanning and pest reporting under National Reporting Obligations (NROs), to support early situational awareness. POARS also promotes harmonized technical approaches and common reference materials that support consistency and a shared technical understanding across countries, fostering early coordination and collective action to strengthen prevention, preparedness, and response measures against emerging pests that can rapidly scale beyond national borders.

The POARS steering group will be managed by the Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) and report to the CPM Bureau.

Process:

The IPPC Secretariat will issue a call for experts on the IPPC website to allow contracting parties and regional plant protection organizations to nominate their representatives and their alternates to be part of the steering group. Nominations will be presented to the CPM Bureau for their review and endorsement.

Meetings of the steering group will be held virtually, although there could be at least one in-person meeting within 12 months of the establishment of the steering group. If a steering group member is unable to participate in a meeting, they may, with the approval of the Steering Group Chairperson, nominate a substitute with the requisite skill set to engage and participate actively.

Membership:

The CPM Bureau will decide the membership of the steering group. The membership should be both skills- and knowledge-based, with broad geographical and gender representation.

The steering group will be composed of a maximum of ten members:

1. One expert from an RPPO and its representative
2. Up to seven experts from NPPOs and their representatives, aiming for broad geographical representation (ideally one per FAO region).
3. One representative from each of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) and Standards Committee (SC).

The steering group may invite experts for selected subjects or information sharing (e.g. from an international organization dealing with pest outbreaks and emergency response) but these invited experts will not be steering group members.

The following criteria should be used for selecting SG members:

- Actively engaged in existing global and/or regional pest alert and response frameworks,
- Experience in designing and managing pest alert and response systems,

- Experience in risk assessment and/or risk management.
- Familiarity with international and regional plant protection organisations and other government and private institutions engaged with plant health and phytosanitary matters.

Functions (tasks)

The POARS Steering Group oversees the activities of the POARS, supporting NPPOs and RPPOs to prepare for and respond to emerging pests of a global concern, and provides advice to the CPM Bureau on POARS matters.

The key tasks of the steering group will be to:

1. Oversee the implementation of the POARS for the early detection of and rapid response to emerging pests, specifically:
 - 1.1. The call for nominations of potential emerging pests
 - 1.2. Evaluation of potential emerging pests
 - 1.3. Prioritisation of emerging pests
 - 1.4. Make recommendations to the CPM Bureau on the need to establish expert working groups to undertake specific activities.
 - 1.5. Preparedness, prevention, response and recovery actions for emerging pests
 - 1.6. Provide technical advice for alerts and related communication products developed by the IPPC Secretariat
 - 1.7. Provide technical advice on resource mobilisation priorities if requested
2. Suggest and implement improvements to the POARS as necessary
3. Make requests to the CPM Bureau for the necessary POARS resources (staff and financial)
4. Seek synergies with the Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP), Implementation and Capacity Development Committee, Standards Committee, FAO and other international and regional capacity development organisations
5. Promote and articulate the establishment of a network of international organizations actively involved in prediction, preparedness, detection, response and recovery activities
6. Consult subject matter experts as necessary, including experts on specific pest groups or those who nominated a potential emerging pest

Expected Start Date and Duration:

The POARS Steering Group will be established for an initial term of three years. At the end of this period, its mandate and duration will be reviewed by the Bureau. The steering group will initiate work by February 2026.

Expected outputs:

1. Annual POARS workplan and implementation report submitted to the CPM Bureau.
2. Delivery of POARS activities for each prioritized emerging pest of global concern, including alerts and harmonized technical materials to support early detection and coordinated preparedness, prevention, and response for NPPOs and RPPOs.
3. Updated list of prioritized emerging pests based on yearly nominations and evaluations.
4. Created and updated the POARS Toolbox for each emerging pest with practical tools and learning resources for NPPOs and RPPOs.
5. Technical advice on resource mobilization priorities to enable POARS implementation is provided, as needed.

Reports to: CPM Bureau

Funding: 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 (<https://www.ippc.int/publications/criteria-used-prioritizing-participants-receive-travel-assistanceattend-meetings>).