



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

TWENTIETH SESSION

RETHINKING ISPMs – WHAT COMES NEXT

AGENDA ITEM 6.1

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

- [1] This paper follows up on the draft decision presented during the session ([CPM 2026/44](#)) and reflects the discussion on enhancing the clarity and usability of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, while preserving their technical and scientific integrity.
- [2] INF papers on the subject were submitted by New Zealand ([CPM 2026/INF/05](#); [CPM 2026/INF/36](#)), Standards Committee ([CPM 2026/INF/24](#)), European Commission ([CPM 2026/INF/29](#)), Implementation and Capacity Development Committee ([CPM 2026/INF/33](#)) and COSAVE ([CPM 2026/INF/34](#)).
- [3] Discussions highlighted broad support for improving how standards are written, particularly through the early integration of plain-language principles in the development of new ISPMs, rather than retroactively revising existing ones.
- [4] The discussion also highlighted the potential value of involving a plain-language specialist to support Expert Working Groups, on a pilot basis, in assessing how clarity and usability of ISPMs could be improved without compromising technical accuracy.
- [5] The following are the draft recommendations from CPM to IPPC Secretariat compiled following the discussion:

Recommendations

The CPM:

- (1) *agreed* to invite a plain English specialist to observe the EWGs for the draft ISPM on Safe provision of humanitarian aid in the phytosanitary context (2021-020) Revision of the draft reorganized pest risk analysis standard (2023-037)] and provide a report to the SPG on their observations and suggestions for improvements;
- (2) *requested* that the secretariat and the CPM Bureau appoint the plain English specialist, referred to in the decision above, setting out expectations, and that the secretariat then open a call to engage the expert;
- (3) *requested* that, following the SPG, the secretariat work with the IC to structure the observatory survey based on the SPG recommendation and the papers submitted by the SC and the IC to CPM-20 (2026) to understand the needs of Contracting Parties, and then launch the survey in early 2027.