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	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Seventh Session
Rome, 19-23 March 2012
Recommendations on Joint Works by WTO-SPS Agreement Standards Setting Bodies
Agenda Item 12.5 of the Provisional Agenda

1. During its meeting of 19-20 October 2011, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Committee agreed on recommendations to further the use of harmonized sanitary and phytosanitary measures between Members on the basis of international standards, guidelines and recommendations developed by the three SPS standard setting organizations of the SPS Agreement (G/SPS/58) (the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)).

2. In discussion, the SPS Committee acknowledged the good work undertaken by the three international standard setting organizations, but believed increased collaboration and cooperation could be possible and is desirable.

3. This decision, transmitted to the IPPC Secretariat on 1 December 2011, is included below:

“The Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (“the Committee”),  
*Desiring* to further the use of harmonized sanitary and phytosanitary measures between Members, on the basis of international standards, guidelines and recommendations developed by the relevant international organizations (the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE));

*Recognizing* the differences in mandates amongst the three relevant international organizations;

*Seeking* to promote the use of international standards, guidelines and recommendations;

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*Recognizing* the importance of full participation by Members, within the limits of their resources, in standard-setting procedures, especially by developing country Members;

*Agrees* as follows:

The Committee encourages joint work by two or all three of the relevant international organizations on cross-cutting issues such as, inter alia, certification, inspection, approval procedures and/or risk analysis.”

In this context, the CPM may recall the decisions made at ICPM-7 (2005)<sup>1</sup> and ICPM 7 (2005)<sup>2</sup> regarding cooperation with the three SPS standard setting organizations included below:

Report: ICPM 7 (2005), paragraph 150

The ICPM:

1. Considered the recommendations of the SPTA on a closer collaboration with OIE and Codex Alimentarius.
2. Adjusted and adopted the following three steps for initiating contacts with the OIE and Codex Alimentarius:
  - a) ICPM Bureau initiates contacts with the OIE and Codex Alimentarius
  - b) Meetings as necessary between IPPC, Codex Alimentarius and OIE to identify potential topics and priorities and develop draft procedures for cooperation.
  - c) Adoption by ICPM of the potential topics, priorities and draft procedures.
3. Requested a report on the progress of this matter at ICPM-8.
4. The IPPC Secretariat would like to draw attention to the following ongoing activities with Codex and OIE:
  - 1) Codex and OIE were invited to participate in the review of the IPPC standard setting process in July 2011;
  - 2) Codex and OIE have expressed interest in examining more closely the new on-line comment system (OCS) developed by the Secretariat to obtain country comments on draft ISPMs;
  - 3) Codex, OIE and the IPPC now undertake in-depth consultations on Standard Trade and Development Facility (STDF) activities to understand each other’s positions and coordinate activities and responses;
  - 4) There is ongoing cooperation between the “three sisters” on SPS-related capacity development projects, if and when appropriate;
  - 5) The Secretariat has initiated coordination meetings between the “three sisters” to improve coordination and collaboration in SPS Committee meetings;
  - 6) Ad-hoc consultations are undertaken as and when subjects arise that are of mutual interest; and
  - 7) The Secretariat updates the CPM on these activities through the annual Secretariat report.
5. The IPPC Secretariat believes such activities are consistent with the decision of ICPM-7 (2005), and these activities have substantially increased in 2011. The Secretariat will continue to explore new areas for possible collaboration and coordination on SPS-related issues.

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<sup>1</sup> ICPM 2005/17

<sup>2</sup> Report ICPM 7(2005), Section 12.2

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6. The CPM is invited to:
- 1) *welcome* the recommendations of the WTO SPS Committee;
  - 2) *consider* these recommendations by the SPS Committee in the context of the overall work programme, priorities and available resources;
  - 3) *agree* these activities are already ongoing in the work programme as agreed by ICPM-7 (2005);
  - 4) *request* the IPPC Secretariat to provide updates on its activities with Codex and OIE in the IPPC Secretariat report to the SPS Committee and actively to exchange information with Codex and OIE on matters of mutual interests; and,
  - 5) *note* that any additional work arising from these activities that are added to the CPM work programme will need to be accompanied by associated additional resources.