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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Fourteenth Session
Rome, 1-5 April 2019
Proposed independent status for the Sea Containers Task Force - options for Sea Container Task Force
Agenda item 11.2
Prepared by the CPM Bureau
<i>English only</i>



On 28th and 29th March, and 1st April, 2019, the Bureau discussed CPM paper 2019/32, *Proposed Independent Status for the Sea Containers Task Force*. The Bureau recognized the importance of active industry participation in this work, but felt that in addressing the problems that have arisen as described in that paper, significant changes to existing governance, and the establishment of any problematic precedents, should be avoided. The Bureau also felt that the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) should retain their oversight role and responsibility relating to advancing the Complementary Action Plan, which currently forms the principle objective of the Sea Containers Task Force. With these objectives in mind, several additional options potentially to resolve this problem were considered by the Bureau.

However, on reviewing these options and the situation further, and taking into account FAO legal advice, it was felt appropriate to retain the existing Sea Container Task Force structure and reporting arrangements exactly in their current form. As the SCTF makes only recommendations to the CPM through the IC, the current structure of the group should not impact its operations. In this regard, the Bureau noted that the Expert Working Groups for the grains, seeds and plants for planting standards, which included industry participants as observers and reported to the Standards Committee, were not negatively impacted by this arrangement which also ensured that industry viewpoints were carefully considered as the standards were developed.

The only change that the Bureau recommends is to modify slightly the wording of the IC's Rules of Procedure's for IC sub-groups in relation to "decision-taking authority", to make it clear that the sub-groups do not in fact take decisions but instead develop recommendations to the IC and that the IC and CPM take any related decisions.

The CPM is invited to:

- Agree to this approach.
- Request the IC to modify its rule 7 on decision making of the IC Sub-group rules of procedure to make it clear that the IC Sub-groups develop recommendations to the IC.