**Inputs to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2025**
**Inputs from functional commissions of ECOSOC, other intergovernmental bodies and forums to the 2025 HLPF**
**Online submission via Forms: Inputs to the 2025 HLPF form**

***Entries to all questions required***

**1.Entity/ Intergovernmental body or forum**
**International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat.**
The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an intergovernmental treaty established in 1951 to protect the world's plants, agricultural products, and natural resources by securing common and effective action to prevent the introduction and spread of plants pests. Recognized by the World Trade Organization (WTO) under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement). The IPPC is the sole global standard-setting organization for plant health.

The IPPC is ratified by 185 contracting parties that collaborate to develop, adopt and promote the application of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). These standards are the main tool to safeguard global food security, facilitate safe trade and protect the environment.

The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) is the IPPC's main governing body responsible for promoting the achievement of the convention's objectives.

The inputs to the 2025 HLPF are based on the report of the CPM held in 2024.

**2.Contact person**
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**4.Your assessment of the impacts of the multiple and interconnected crises on the implementation of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17**
The multiple and interconnected crises—climate change, biodiversity loss, economic instability, geopolitical tensions, and health emergencies—are impacting the implementation of SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 14 (Life Below Water), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Good plant health is fundamental to providing nutrition and avoiding hunger, supporting economic activity and growth, societal function and wellbeing, and maintaining a healthy environment.

The introduction and spread or outbreak of plant pests and diseases has significantly affected food security and economic prosperity. Approximately 40% of global crop production is lost due to plant pests, impacting not only staple food production but also livestock feed supply, forestry productivity, and natural biodiversity. A vast range of plant pests threaten global food production (including the production of animal feed), the productivity and biodiversity of forests and the wild flora of the natural

environment. Although the impacts of pests range from negligible to extremely high, it is often difficult to fully assess these impacts ahead of time. However, at present there are active epidemics impacting low-income countries and developing regions especially, such as fusarium wilt of bananas. IPPC representatives from these regions recently reported on the societal impacts of this disease including hunger, migration, economic damage, and gender violence issues. These challenges are further compounded by ongoing global crises, which both intensify pest-related impacts and, in turn, are exacerbated by them. History records that profound international societal changes have arisen form plant diseases.

In line with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031, the IPPC published its Strategic framework 2020-2030 and identified eight development agenda to counter crises and challenges:

- Harmonization of electronic data exchange: improve traceability, transparency and efficiency of phytosanitary certification.
- Commodity- and pathway-specific ISPMs: reduce pest risks while ensuring science-based trade measures.
- Developing guidance on the use of third-party entities: strengthens phytosanitary capacity through partnerships with private sector actors.
- Management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways: addresses emerging pathways of pest introduction.
- Strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems: enhances national preparedness to detect and respond before pest outbreaks escalate into crises.
- Assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health: provides scientific guidance on how changing climates affect pest distribution and outbreaks.
- Global phytosanitary research coordination: accelerates development of science to support all regulatory phytosanitary activities.
- Diagnostic laboratory networking: strengthens capacity for rapid and accurate pest identification, critical for timely responses.

5.**Three key areas where sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2025, also bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.**

The IPPC plays a pivotal role in advancing food security, environmental protection and safe trade through innovative digitalization, early warning systems, and climate resilience initiatives. Three key areas where science-driven solutions are making a significant impact to economic, social and environmental sustainability include:

- Harmonization of electronic data exchange **(Supports SDG 17)**: consists in implementing a global and inclusive digital system for production and exchange of electronic phytosanitary certificate (ePhyto) for safer, cheaper and faster trade of plants and plant products. The IPPC ePhyto Solution has become an essential infrastructure for global agricultural trade with 92 countries exchanging 200,000 certificates monthly. This activity falls under the FAO Programme priority area “Transparent Markets and Trade”, contributing to SDG 17 as private sector stakeholders are heavily involved, in addition to the National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs).
- Strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems **(Supports SDG 3)**: a global pest alert and response system is implemented to communicate emerging pest risks, so countries can proactively adapt their phytosanitary systems to reduce the risk of introduction, and to

strengthen country and regional abilities to respond effectively to pest outbreaks including new incursions. This activity falls under the FAO Programme priority area "One Health", contributing to SDG 3, recognizing that plant pests can have cascading effects on food security, nutrition, and human health.

- Assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health **(Supports SDG 14)**: aims at initiating a work programme to assess and manage the impacts of climate change on plant health and international trade of plants and plant products. This activity falls under the FAO Programme priority area "Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Food and Agriculture", contributing to SDG 14.

By leveraging digital innovations, scientific assessments, and international collaboration, these initiatives support sustainable agricultural trade, food security, and environmental protection, ensuring no one is left behind in the global effort toward achieving the SDGs.

**6.Three examples of measures to accelerate progress towards SDGs through well-coordinated actions in key transitions to bring progress to scale (food security, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution), building on interlinkages between SDGs to ensure cohesive progress.**

Strengthening the alignment and integration of initiatives across existing agendas and actions within relevant multilateral platforms: the IPPC actively fosters collaboration by aligning its efforts with existing global initiatives and creating synergies across relevant multilateral platforms. Key examples include:

- The importance of plant health to One Health and integration efforts: providing the keynote speech and a dedicated plant health session at the 8th World One health Congress in South Africa in September 2024, conducting surveys on potential antimicrobial resistance in plant protection settings, partnering with the FAO One Health Working Group to highlight the role of plant health, including organizing a dedicated COAG side event in October 2024 and engaging with the Group of 77 and China, celebrating the International Day on Plant Health focused on One Health and establishing a dedicated IPPC focus group on One Health.
- Food Safety and Phytosanitary Capacity Development: collaborating with the FAO Food Systems and Food Safety Division (ESF) to implement an EU-funded project assessing food safety and phytosanitary capacities in 12 African countries, contributing to the One Health approach and to the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement Policy Framework for Africa.
- Climate Change and Biodiversity Coordination: engaging with the Biodiversity Liaison Group and FAO's Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Environment (OCB) to address climate-related phytosanitary challenges, in particular through the IPPC Focus Group, which met in Brazil in 2024.
- Private Sector Partnerships: working with the Global Alliance to expand the adoption of the IPPC ePhyto Solution in Africa, strengthening digital trade facilitation. This also includes collaborating with the Comité de Liaison Entreprenariat, Agriculture, Développement (COLEAD) to set the IPPC Plant Health Campus, with the support of the FAO eLearning Academy.

Enhancement of digitalization of plant health programmes: Beyond the IPPC ePhyto Solution, which serves as the flagship digital initiative for plant health, the IPPC developed several innovative digital tools to enhance efficiency and accessibility. These include:

- Digital pest distribution mapping, utilizing field data collection via tablets under the African Phytosanitary Programme and in general through pest outbreak alert and response systems.

- The IPPC Plant Health Campus, an open-access e-learning platform offering freely accessible and structured learning paths for plant health professionals.
- Metaverse-based training in regions, enabling learning experiences such as piloting drones for pest surveillance and management, or getting ready for a pest outbreak.

Collection of and access to data, analysis and evidence to inform decisions and learning mechanisms: As a key pillar of global plant health governance, the IPPC Observatory plays a crucial role in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data to support informed decision-making and continuous learning. In alignment with its "Three Sisters" counterparts—the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and the *Codex Alimentarius*—the IPPC Observatory monitors the implementation of the IPPC, International ISPMs, and CPM Recommendations. By conducting surveys and studies on diverse phytosanitary topics, the IPPC Observatory provides National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) with essential insights, helping them strengthen compliance, be abreast of emerging risks and enhance global coordination in plant health.

7.**Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

Advancing the 2030 Agenda through standards and capacity development
To advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the CPM will continue its work on adopting new ISPMs that support safe trade and prevent the spread of plant pests, with particular emphasis on commodity standards. Additionally, the IPPC Observatory will launch a general survey in 2025 to assess the implementation of the IPPC, ISPMs, and CPM recommendations. This will identify gaps and propose solutions, ensuring that the IPPC's work remains aligned with the global sustainable development agenda and can respond to emerging challenges effectively. In addition, the IPPC Plant Health Campus will be launched, providing free digital education for plant health professionals, with a focus on youth and women, thereby building capacities across regions.

Strengthening advocacy and science integration
The CPM will organize a science session during its next meeting to enhance advocacy efforts and integrate plant health into broader sustainability goals. This session will highlight the importance of plant health in the One Health framework, aiming to bring together the Quadripartite organizations (FAO, WHO, WOAH, UNEP) and the Three Sisters (IPPC, WOAH, *Codex Alimentarius*) to discuss better ways to integrate plant health into global health strategies. The International Day of Plant Health will also be leveraged to advocate for plant health, featuring digital learning tools and simulation exercises of plant pest outbreaks implemented in Central America, demonstrating how technology can enhance preparedness and response.

Ensuring sustainable financing and strengthening partnerships
To support long-term success, the IPPC will focus on securing sustainable funding for the IPPC ePhyto Solution with multiple stakeholders, ensuring it continues to facilitate safe global trade.
Enhanced support will be provided to the IPPC Community to obtain funding to implement phytosanitary priorities at the country level and liaise with donors.

Further efforts will be pursued for an enhanced integration of the IPPC with relevant FAO divisions and decentralized offices, Regional Plant Protection Organizations as well as with the WTO and the Three Sisters, possibly leading to joint financing solutions.

**8.Recommendations and key messages to be considered for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF.**

- Reinforce the importance of plants and plant health in the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Acknowledge plants as fundamental to global trade, food security and ecosystems stability.
- Highlight the contributions of the three SPS standard-setting organizations, such as the IPPC for plant health, WOAH for animal health, and *Codex Alimentarius* for food safety, in setting global standards that ensure safe trade, science based and harmonized trade.
- Stress the importance of thorough implementation of plant health standards, strengthening national institutions, and scaling up the IPPC ePhyto Solution for safer, cheaper, and faster trade of plants and plant products.
- Ensure national ownership and commitment, focusing on inclusivity, with special attention to empowering youth and women in plant health and related sectors.
- Enhance the collection of data, analysis, and evidence to inform decision-making and learning mechanisms.
- Foster innovation in plant health and trade by investing in initiatives that drives a more efficient and sustainable agrifood system transformation, including:
    - IPPC ePhyto Solution
    - the IPPC Plant Health Campus for capacity-building and knowledge-sharing.
    - Advanced technologies used for Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems.
- Strengthen policy convergence and collaboration among intergovernmental bodies and agreements to align actions and maximize impact across sectors, with intensive advocacy on the essential importance of plant health to One Health and a focus on fully integrating plant health within the One Health framework, supported by adequate funding.
- Increase financing and direct investments toward agrifood systems transformation, prioritizing plant health as the foundation of all health and production.