

Statement of the IPPC Secretariat

I have the pleasure and honour to deliver this message on behalf of the IPPC Secretariat. We would like to congratulate the Committee on World Food Security in delivering, as promised, the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition: this important policy product is the latest addition to a series of highly effective documents that the CFS and the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) have delivered over the years. Our gratitude goes to H.E. Hans Hoogeveen, as well as the previous chairs, Mr Khaled El-Taweel and Ms Liliana Ortega, all the CFS Members and Secretariat for their availability and hard work in receiving written contributions from the IPPC community.

Plants constitute the basis for life on the planet and agricultural trade forms an essential part of food systems and international supply chains. Mr Chair, the inclusion of the IPPC and its International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) as a possible reference for harmonised application seems a very appropriate solution to some of the concerns expressed by some CFS Members in the past days. In fact, Mr Chair, ISPMs facilitate trade while making it safe, preventing the introduction of plant pest and diseases in new areas of the world, usually with devastating effects. We take this occasion to promote additional cooperation, especially in view of the coming fifteenth session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, where the IPPC Commodity Standard is going to be discussed and potentially adopted. The Commodity Standard will mark an important milestone for the IPPC community, and we look forward to increased collaborations on such topics with the CFS in the future.

In conclusion, we would like to note with appreciation that plants and their health are included in several paragraphs of the Voluntary Guidelines, particularly in relation to Anti-Microbial resistance and to the One Health Approach as well as in building resilience against climate change, amongst others. Excellencies, as it was expressed previously, 2020 was also the International Year of Plant Health and we at the IPPC Secretariat are glad to see some of its key messages reflected in this historic CFS product, which we are sure will find broad application globally, regionally, nationally and locally.

We thank you, Mr Chair, and congratulations to you all for this excellent dream coming true.