

## 43rd Session of the Conference

### Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - English version

#### Item 15.1: Evaluation of the International Year of Plant Health 2020

Member Name	Comments
Colombia (Saturday, 10 June 2023 — 12.18)	<p>Colombia recognizes all the achievements made within the framework of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, all activities arising from the implementation of the IYPH were carried out through numerous events in 86 countries: the First International Plant Health Conference at the end of 2022, the appointment of an FAO Goodwill Ambassador and two IYPH Promoters to help FAO raise public awareness of the important contribution of plant health to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the adoption of International Plant Health Day on 12 May each year.</p> <p>Colombia also expresses its appreciation to the members of the International Steering Committee and its collaborators, for carrying out for the first time in history, and successfully, an international year focused mainly on activities in social networks and virtual media.</p> <p>Colombia emphasizes the importance of the legacies of the IYPH and plant health for the eradication of hunger, the reduction of poverty, the protection of the environment and the promotion of economic development, as well as for the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, it reaffirms that all these actions are complemented by FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31, aimed at shifting toward more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems to achieve better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind.</p>
United States of America (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 10.10)	<p>The United States of America endorses the report on the evaluation of the International Year of Plant Health 2020. The International Year of Plant Health 2020 was an important initiative to raise awareness of plant health worldwide annually.</p> <p>Invasive plant pests are a major agricultural, environmental and ecological threat. Every year, a significant portion of the global harvest is lost to plant pests.</p> <p>The establishment of the International Day of Plant Health 2020 has been an important step to address future pest risk challenges that may have serious impacts on food security, the environment, and the global trade system.</p> <p>The United States of America looks forward to continue collaborating with others to support international plant health activities.</p>

<p>Argentina (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 13.07)</p>	<p>Under the Written Correspondence Procedure established to address specific items on the agenda of the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference, the Permanent Representation of the Argentine Republic would like to share the following comments.</p> <p>Argentina recognizes the importance of plant health and its role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular food security, sustainable growth, environmental protection and poverty eradication, as well as the role of FAO and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in this area.</p> <p>Argentina therefore wishes to highlight that the International Day of Plant Health furthered the initiatives undertaken throughout the International Year of Plant Health (2020) to raise awareness among the public and policymakers of the fundamental role of plant health in addressing hunger, poverty, climate change, economic development and the security of international trade from a phytosanitary point of view.</p>
<p>Australia (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 18.02)</p>	<p>Australia recognises the importance and impacts of plant health in addressing issues of global importance, including hunger, poverty, food security and threats to the environment and economic development. Australia strongly supported the establishment of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020 and can endorse this report.</p> <p>Australia would like to take this opportunity to thank all Members for their active involvement in this initiative and recognises the contribution of FAO in supporting and coordinating activities of the International Year.</p> <p>Australia was actively engaged in activities supporting the IYPH, including a successful Australian launch event held on 6 February 2020 at Parliament House, in Canberra. A special video message from the Director-General of FAO, Dr QU Dongyu, was also broadcast. The launch was attended by over 100 delegates including representatives from diplomatic missions, industry, Commonwealth and state and territory governments, parliamentarians and media. Other activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The School Bee Habitat Project where a young student from Scotch Oakburn College in Launceston, Tasmania, set herself a task of replanting the wetlands of her school and building bee hotels to encourage more native bees into the area with the assistance of the IYPH coordinator.</li> <li>• The Lights!Canberra!Action! film festival with organisers of the Enlighten Festival Canberra, which dedicated its Film Festival to the IYPH with the festival theme of ‘Planted’.</li> <li>• The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries’ Hermitage Science Competition, which celebrated the centenary of the Hermitage Research Facility — the oldest agricultural research facility in Queensland.</li> <li>• The creation of the website “Everyday Plant Health Heroes”, which generated awareness of the people supporting Australia’s high plant health status.</li> <li>• Development of “Top Trumps” style playing cards themed around plant pests, which were used for promotion and education purposes.</li> <li>• Collaboration with several other agencies and stakeholders to support local programmes of work, promotion and celebration of the year.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, Australia hosted the International Symposium on Limiting the Spread of Contaminant Pests in Sydney from 3 to 4 March 2020. The Symposium brought together plant health and biosecurity experts as well as trade-related industry stakeholders to discuss cost effective solutions to prevent the spread of contaminating pests, and foster</p>

	<p>collaboration among governments and industry to improve container hygiene and pathway management at the global level. This Symposium also contributed to the finalisation of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)'s Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) recommendation on this topic, which was adopted in 2022. Australia would like to reiterate the importance of sustaining momentum beyond the International Year, an aspiration made even more possible through the ratification of the International Day of Plant Health each 12 May. Through this platform and others, we encourage all countries to take learnings from the international year forward to maintain institutional focus on the importance of plant health to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.</p>
<p>Switzerland (Tuesday, 13 June 2023 — 8.45)</p>	<p>Switzerland thanks FAO and the IPPC for the report and commends them on the efforts and activities carried out in the frame of the International Year on Plant Health 2020, despite the numerous challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The report highlights well FAO's activities during the IYPH. We would appreciate if the evaluation could also reflect and acknowledge the important contributions made by the different countries and their respective national plant protection agencies, which have been key to the success of the IYPH. Countries had reported back to the IPPC on their main activities and measures, which could have been reflected in the evaluation.</p> <p>With this remark, we can endorse the report.</p>
<p>European Union (Thursday, 15 June 2023 — 19.35)</p>	<p>I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States regarding the above-mentioned agenda item of the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference.</p> <p>The International Year of Plant Health 2020 has raised global awareness of how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment and boost economic development.</p> <p>It has emphasised the importance of plant health, which is becoming ever-more important, due to climate change and increased international travel and trade.</p> <p>Plants play a critical role in achieving sustainable and competitive agriculture and forestry sectors and in protecting biodiversity and ecosystems. Keeping plants healthy is, therefore, a priority and so is FAO's support to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Codex Alimentarius.</p> <p>The key legacy of the International Year of Plant Health 2020 is the International Day of Plant Health on 12 May. The Day calls on everyone to raise awareness and take action to keep our plants healthy in combatting plant pests by avoiding the introduction and spread of harmful organisms and the application of innovative and sustainable approaches and help protect the environment and biodiversity thereby too.</p> <p>With these remarks, the EU and its Member States endorse the evaluation report.</p>