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Seed Potatoes

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Item 4(a) of the Provisional Agenda

PROPOSAL FOR A PARAGRAPH ON IPPC FOR THE INTRODUCTION

Submitted by France

Note by the secretariat: The delegation of France presents in this document a draft paragraph on IPPC for inclusion in the introduction of the standard.

INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION

The **International Plant Protection Convention** (IPPC) is an international treaty whose purpose is to secure a common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control.

The Convention extends to the protection of natural flora and plant products. It also includes both direct and indirect damage by pests, thus including weeds. The provisions extend to cover conveyances, containers, storage places, soil and other objects or material capable of harbouring plant pests.

National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) and Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) work together to help **contracting parties** meet their IPPC obligations. Legal texts are available (1952, 1979, & 1997).

This treaty is managed by the IPPC secretariat in the FAO Plant Protection Service. IPPC does not have a certification scheme. But because of the lack of harmonisation of existing regulations throughout the world, IPPC is often used as a framework for international trade.

In total, 117 governments are party to the IPPC.

IPPC is recognised by the WTO as having a leading role in trade, especially for sanitary measures (SPS agreement).

It is in this context that phytosanitary certificates are defined. The official national plant protection organisation of each country ensures that their application is respected.

The varietal aspect is not taken in to consideration but is covered by the Official Certification Service of the production country.