

## INTER-AMERICAN COORDINATING GROUP IN PLANT PROTECTION

### AMENDMENT N° 1 TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAW OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COORDINATING GROUP IN PLANT PROTECTION - GICSV

The Inter-American Coordinating Group in Plant Protection (hereinafter referred to as "GICSV") is a coordination and cooperation group in the field of plant protection, constituted and formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the representatives of the Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO) of the Americas on March 23, 1998.

The GICSV, in a meeting of November 18, 2022, accepted the incorporation of CAFHSA and approved the modification of its Constitution. As such the new conformation of the group and its Bylaws is as follows:

#### BY-LAWS

##### ARTICLE I: OBJECTIVE AND FUNCTIONS

The objective of GICSV is to facilitate hemispheric dialogue and cooperation aimed at preventing the introduction and spread of pests of plants and plant products of significance to the Americas by promoting the use of harmonized measures and science-based approaches.

The GICSV shall carry out the following functions:

1. Serve as a forum for consultation, coordination and exchange of information and experiences in plant protection matters of strategic importance.
2. Identify and analyze important plant protection challenges and propose strategies to strengthen plant protection in the Americas.
3. Promote the implementation of international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs).
4. Support trade opportunities through the promotion of the principles and objectives of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO-SPS Agreement) and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).
5. Identify possible areas of technical cooperation among the RPPOs that form the GICSV and promote their coordination and implementation.

##### ARTICLE II: OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The official languages of the GICSV shall be Spanish and English.

##### ARTICLE III: COMPOSITION

1. The GICSV shall be composed of the Regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) of the Americas: CAHFRSA, CAN, COSAVE, NAPPO and OIRSA.



2. The GICSV will be open to accepting other RPPOs from the Americas that request it and that embrace the GICSV objectives. Such a request shall be approved by consensus by the GICSV Steering Committee.

#### **ARTICLE IV: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

##### **1. Steering Committee (SC)**

The Steering Committee shall be composed of one representative from each member RPPO. The coordination of the Steering Committee will be the responsibility of one of its members RPPOs for a two-year term, on a rotational basis.

##### **2. Working Groups (WGs)**

- a. Working Groups shall be created by the SC as appropriate and will include a representative plus his/her alternate representative designated by each RPPO. A working group coordinator shall be selected by its members.
- b. The WG coordinator shall be reconfirmed by his/her RPPO at the beginning of each year.
- c. The creation or dissolution of a WG suggested by an RPPO shall be determined by the SG, through a consensus decision.

##### **3. Technical Secretariat (TS)**

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) shall serve as the Technical Secretariat for the GICSV.

#### **ARTICLE V: FUNCTIONS**

##### **1. Steering Committee (SC)**

The main functions of the SC will be to:

- a. Propose strategies and work plans for the GICSV and encourage the participation of RPPO members to achieve the objectives of the GICSV.
- b. Ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the GICSV.
- c. Facilitate harmonization and exchange of regional standards and phytosanitary approaches and support the implementation of international standards for phytosanitary measures.
- d. Schedule and convene recurring and special meetings.
- e. Ensure that a records management system is established and maintained.

## 2. Coordinating RPPO for the Steering Committee

The main functions of the coordinating RPPO for the SC will be to:

- a. Chair and moderate the SC meetings.
- b. Represent the GICSV in appropriate fora.
- c. Maintain contact with the TS on all matters concerning the activities and deliverables of the GICSV.
- d. Serve as a contact point for other regional and international organizations.
- e. Expedite and channel all correspondence resulting from WG meetings and ensure follow-up on agreed actions.
- f. Promote the awareness of GICSV activities and products.

## 3. Working Groups (WG)

The main functions of WG will be to:

- a. Propose the WG two-year workplan to the SC and provide workplan updates as appropriate.
- b. Implement and advance the approved WG workplan.
- c. Examine scientific and technical issues and develop proposals to strengthen plant health in the Americas
- d. When appropriate, develop proposals for new topics for possible regional or international standards and for IPPC implementation materials and other resources.

The main functions of WG coordinator will be to:

- a. Work in a coordinated manner with the SC coordinator and the TS.
- b. Promote and propose meetings and their scheduling.
- c. Prepare agenda topics for the meetings.
- d. Lead WG technical discussions and coordinate their work.
- e. Follow-up on active WG agenda items and on advancements towards agreed deliverables.
- f. Promote awareness of the WG activities.
- g. Support the work of the TS to complete meeting minutes, agendas, and other documents.

#### 4. Technical Secretariat (TS)

The main functions of the TS will be to:

- a. Assist with timely record-keeping including agendas, meeting minutes, papers, meeting participants and recommendations resulting from WG and SC meetings.
- b. Assist the Coordinating RPPO, the SC and the WGs in defining, developing, and discussing institutional and technical issues.
- c. Organize meetings in consultation with the Coordinating RPPO, SC and WGs and confirm their modality, dates, agendas, documents, and logistic arrangements.
- d. Assist with drafting, editing, publication, and distribution of WG and SC meeting reports.

#### ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

1. The Steering Committee will meet at least twice per year. It may also meet on other occasions, as appropriate.
2. The Working Groups will meet at least twice per year as dictated by their work program and expected deliverables.
3. The National plant protection organizations (NPPOs) of the RPPOs that integrate the GICSV may be observers to SC and WG meetings, with rights to participate in discussions. Their participation shall be in special cases and by direct invitation of the SG Coordinating RPPO or the WG, through the TS.
4. Any organization or individual may be invited as an observer to any GICSV meeting when the SC considers it appropriate.

#### ARTICLE VII: DECISION-MAKING

1. Decisions will be made by consensus by SC and WG members and will be documented in the meeting minutes.
2. When SC decisions are taken without all GICSV RPPOs being present, the absent RPPOs will have 15 days after receiving the meeting minutes to express their disagreement with a particular decision. If the TS does not receive comments within that time, the decision shall be considered approved by consensus.

#### ARTICLE VIII: WORK PLANS

The Steering Committee with input from the Working Groups will develop a two-year GICSV workplan that will be reviewed and updated each year.



Handwritten signatures and initials: CP, SB, and other illegible marks.

**ARTICLE IX: FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Each member RPPO will be responsible for covering expenses for their representative(s) when attending SC or WG meetings or performing activities required to carry out the workplan.

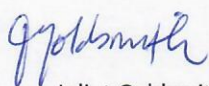
**ARTICLE X: AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

Amendments of the GICSV Constitution and By-Laws shall be made by consensus by the SC, according to the provisions of Article VII.

**ARTICLE XI: WITHDRAWAL FROM THE GICSV**

An RPPO member may withdraw from the GICSV by means of a written notice delivered to the Steering Committee six months prior to the date of withdrawal, that includes a short explanation for its reason(s) for withdrawal.

For the record, this document is signed by the representatives of the RPPO members of the GICSV,



Juliet Goldsmith  
 Plant Health Specialist  
 RPPO Executive Secretary

Caribbean Agricultural Health  
 and Food Safety Agency  
 CAHFSA



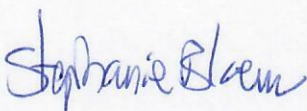
Jorge Hernando Pedraza  
 Secretario General

Comunidad Andina  
 CAN



Diego Quiroga  
 Chair

Comité Regional de Sanidad  
 Vegetal  
 COSAVE



Stephanie Bloem  
 Executive Director

North American Plant Protection  
 Organization  
 NAPPO



Raúl Antonio Rodas Suazo  
 Director Ejecutivo

Organismo Internacional  
 Regional de Sanidad  
 Agropecuaria  
 OIRSA

