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Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

### Third Session

Rome, 2-6 April 2001

### Strategic Planning Trust Funds

### Agenda Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda

1. The Regular Programme of FAO is financed by all Member Nations, who contribute according to levels set by the FAO Conference. The Regular Programme should be consistent with the strategic orientations and substantive priorities laid out by FAO Governing Bodies. As a vast complex of activities, the Regular Programme may be perceived to cover information dissemination and analytical work, policy advice to governments, the provision of a neutral forum for international cooperation, and technical support to countries. In document ICPM 01/Inf 6 the contribution of the Regular Programme to the implementation of the IPPC is explained in more detail.
2. Under Financial Regulation 6.7, the Director General may accept voluntary contributions provided that the purposes are consistent with the policies, aims and activities of the Organization. Member Nations, multilateral organizations, and other donors may therefore fund specific activities to implement the IPPC that exceed the funding available through the Regular Programme of FAO. These may be for the extension of existing Regular Programme activities or the execution of technical assistance projects on behalf of the donor and the recipient government.
3. Additional contributions to the implementation of the IPPC may in particular be dedicated to implementing Article XX of the Convention, which states:
 

*The contracting parties agree to promote the provision of technical assistance to contracting parties, especially those that are developing contracting parties, either bilaterally or through the appropriate international organizations, with the objective of facilitating the implementation of this Convention.*
4. Other objectives for additional funding may include:
  - accelerate and expand standard setting;
  - develop and implement IPPC procedures;
  - improve the operation of RPPOs;
  - enhance information exchange systems;

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- assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to participate in the development and implementation of the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs);
- specific initiatives of the ICPM.

5. There are several methods to provide contributions to supplement the Regular Programme contributions of FAO for the implementation of the IPPC. The following paragraphs describe various funding mechanisms that the ICPM may consider to implement Article XX and other activities to achieve objectives identified above. It must be stressed that voluntary or "extra-budgetary" contributions to FAO are subject to specific financial regulations in the Organization's Basic Texts, including, as appropriate, compensation for the additional costs incurred in handling these contributions and in providing the required high quality technical support.

#### *Direct and in-kind contributions*

6. Countries and other entities may provide contributions in-kind, e.g. the provision of expertise to the Secretariat and to countries that may require such. They may also directly fund activities like meetings, workshops, working groups, etc. This has been the primary means for supplementing the work programme of the Secretariat to date.

7. Bilateral and multilateral donors may directly assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to strengthen their phytosanitary infrastructure. They may also assist in the establishment or strengthening of regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs). Such projects may be executed through multilateral agencies (FAO, IICA, etc.).

#### *Projects*

8. Individual countries, multilateral agencies or non-government entities may wish to fund specific activities of the Secretariat in relation to the objectives indicated above. They may do so through the establishment of a project with the Organization. Such projects have a starting and an ending date and specific outputs to be achieved during implementation. A project may have a single donor or may be supported by several donors. For small contributions, a Letter of Agreement between the parties may suffice. Larger contributions require a detailed project document. Several countries have used this option to assist the Secretariat to accelerate the standard-setting procedures through financial contributions for meetings, workshops, and training activities.

9. Contributions by non-government entities are welcomed but they must comply, as appropriate, with the applicable *Principles and guidelines for FAO cooperation with the private sector*, in order to avoid, *inter alia*, conflicts of interest, embarrassment to the Organization and interference with the Organization's actual or perceived impartiality.

#### *Voluntary contributions to a central trust fund*

10. The ICPM may adopt an additional annual budget that would identify outputs and the costs of the activities that go beyond the contribution of FAO through the Regular Programme. The Secretariat would then request all countries to make contributions to the central trust fund to execute these additional activities.

11. An example of such a central trust fund is the funding of the joint UNEP/FAO Interim Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention where annual requests for funding are made based on the budget adopted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee that supervises the implementation of the Convention until the Convention comes into force. In the case of the Rotterdam Convention, the trust fund is held by UNEP on behalf of the Joint Secretariat. In the case of the IPPC, such a trust fund may be administered by FAO. The ICPM may also consider whether, and if so which, multilateral agencies and non-governmental entities may be approached for contributions to the trust fund.

*Assessed voluntary contributions to a central trust fund*

12. The ICPM may also consider assessed voluntary contributions to realize a number of outputs beyond the contribution of the Regular Programme of FAO. This involves establishing a financial mechanism that would describe the basis for the assessment and the budgetary process, including the procedure to adopt the budget. Examples of such funding can be found in most of the multilateral environmental agreements that were concluded over the latest decade.

*Assessed contributions to a central trust fund*

13. Funding to supplement the Regular Programme may also be based on assessed contributions with sanctions on non-payment of the contribution. This would however, require a financial mechanism and an underlying, binding agreement. Some RPPOs currently use this method.

14. The ICPM is invited to provide guidance to the Secretariat on the method or methods which it considers to be most appropriate to pursue.