

January 2001

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منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
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Organisation  
des  
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pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

### Third Session

2-6 April 2001

### Election of the Bureau: Election/Nomination Procedures (Note from the Chairperson)

### Agenda Item 13 of the Provisional Agenda

1. The Secretariat and Chair have received numerous inquiries from Members regarding the election of the Bureau. These inquiries are primarily regarding nomination procedures (there are none), the possibility for reelection of the present Bureau (this is allowed), and election procedures to be followed (based on the Rules of Procedure of the ICPM and FAO's General Rules). The purpose of this message is to convey to Members the understanding I have gained from consulting the Secretariat and FAO Legal Office in this regard. I trust these comments will be useful to Members.
2. The Rules of Procedure of the ICPM state that the Interim Commission elects a Bureau at the end of a regular session and Officers of the Bureau hold office for two years. In the case of the present Bureau, the term of office was extended six months to accommodate an adjustment in the timing of the annual meeting of the ICPM from October/November to April.
3. The agenda of the Third ICPM includes election of the Bureau which is specified in the Rules of Procedure, will take place at the end of the meeting. The conduct of elections is governed by paragraphs one and two in Rule II and by Rule VI of the ICPM Rules of Procedure. The ICPM has no procedures regarding nominations.
4. FAO prescribes no formal procedures for nominations except those referred to in the Secretariat paper ICPM 01/18, but certain unofficial procedures have been followed by FAO Members to facilitate elections in various FAO bodies. The nominations and elections for the ICPM Bureau election in 1997 were based on an arrangement that has been used by FAO members for the selection of the Chair for previous IPPC meetings and in other FAO bodies. This arrangement alternates the Chair between a delegate from an OECD country and a delegate from a G77 country. The Vice-chairpersons were selected from the group that did not provide the Chairperson; in this nomination/election procedure regional representation was also considered (vice-chairs from different geographic regions).

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5. It is important to note that this is an informal arrangement that has been found helpful for facilitating a decision. At the time of the election of the first Chairperson of the ICPM, it was the turn of the OECD countries to provide the Chairperson. The OECD countries met, discussed two nominations and finally decided on myself as the nomination to go to the ICPM. The G77 countries provided the two vice chairpersons.

6. For the election in 2001, if the above system is followed, it would be the turn of the G77 countries to provide the Chair, and the OECD to provide the two vice-chairpersons. However, it must be emphasized that the process the ICPM undertakes for the nomination of candidates for the Bureau is completely open to be decided by its Members. This point was confirmed with the FAO Legal Counsel in discussions on this subject. I gained the impression that the nomination of officers in the international groupings operating within the ambit of FAO have a range of systems, most of which seem to be highly informal, unwritten, and, in most cases, involving last minute, high pressure negotiations. In some cases, the FAO regions are used as the sources of nominations, others come to informal 'arrangements' during the meeting, others have compromise negotiations involving the recognition of the positions of responsibility being shared on a geographic basis – etc, etc.

7. I believe the ICPM would prefer to have a system that was transparent, consistent and which allowed all Members an equal opportunity to participate. There may be interest in forming a group to propose nomination procedures that could be adopted later by the ICPM. I suggest that Members may wish to discuss this issue in the G77 or OECD groups, or in regional groups, or leave it for informal discussions at the meeting in April. In any case, Members should give careful consideration to potential candidates who might have the experience and resources to accept the duties of an Officer of the Bureau. Likewise, governments need to be conscious of the commitment required by countries to ensure that an Officer of the Bureau has proper support to be effective in carrying out his or her duties.