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INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Fourth Session

Rome, 11-15 March 2002

Establishment of a Standards Committee

Agenda Item 6.1 of the Provisional Agenda

1. The Third Session of the ICPM adopted provisions for the establishment of a Standards Committee including Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure. This committee is to replace the Interim Standards Committee that has been functioning since the First Session the ICPM and which was formerly known as the Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures (CEPM) before 1998.

2. The ICPM agreed that the Standards Committee (SC) is to be composed of 20 government-designated experts: three experts selected from the countries of each of the seven FAO regions except that only two experts are selected from North America. A group of seven experts chosen from within the SC is to form a Working Group that would undertake the detailed technical examinations of the draft specifications and ISPMs.

3. The ICPM also agreed that nominations for the Standards Committee would be submitted to the IPPC Secretariat before 01 December 2001. In a letter to all IPPC contact points dated 5 November 2001, the Secretariat reminded Members to submit the names and curricula vitae of experts nominated to serve on the Standards Committee. Responses to this letter indicated that certain regions experienced difficulty with appropriate mechanisms for consulting and deciding on nominations before 01 December 2001.

4. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, therefore decided to extend the nomination period to 11 March 2002 (the opening day of the ICPM). In addition, the Secretariat has made provision in the course of the Fourth Session of the ICPM for Members to meet in regional groups with the aim of consulting and confirming their nominations.

5. Members are reminded that experts for the Standards Committee should be senior officials designated by their governments. They should have proficiency in English and qualifications in a scientific biological discipline (or equivalent) in plant protection with experience and skills in the:

- practical operation of a national or international phytosanitary system
- administration of a national or international phytosanitary system and

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- application of phytosanitary measures related to international trade.

(See Rules of Procedure, Appendix X of the Report of the Third Session of the ICPM.)

6. Members should note that the nomination of an expert implies that the nominating government is willing to make adequate provision for the expert to perform the tasks associated with the position, including ample time and resources to attend meetings as well as the possibility to work outside meetings. Several weeks each year are required for this purpose. To the extent possible, provision for travel is also needed.

- 7. The ICPM is invited to:
 - 1. Confirm the experts for the SC as provided at the Fourth Session of the ICPM.