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Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
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para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

Agenda Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda

INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Rome, 03-06 November 1998

STATUS OF THE IPPC (Agenda Item 8)

I. ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEW REVISED TEXT

1. The amendments to the IPPC were unanimously approved by the Conference in November 1997 and have now been officially transmitted to governments for acceptance or adherence. The IPPC currently has 107 Contracting Parties. Two-thirds of these (72) must accept the amendments before they come into force. Governments that are party to the existing Convention are asked to deposit their instrument of acceptance with the Director General. Governments that are not party to the existing Convention are asked to deposit an instrument of adherence. Model documents for these instruments have been provided to governments and are also available from the FAO Legal Office or the Secretariat.

2. The Secretariat is hopeful that the process of acceptance will be completed quickly so as to bring the amendments into force as soon as possible. A target date of 2001, the fiftieth Anniversary of the IPPC is suggested as a desirable goal.

3. The Secretariat will provide the Interim Commission with an update on the status of acceptance and adherence. Members of the Interim Commission are invited to comment concerning the status of the process in their countries.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERIM MEASURES

4. Resolution 12/97 of the Conference resulted in the approval of the amendments to the IPPC and provided interim measures until the amendments come into force. The establishment of the Interim Commission is one of these measures. Others include the designation of official contact points, the voluntary use of the amended phytosanitary certificate, and the development of standards for regulated non-quarantine pests.

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5. The Secretariat will report on the status of work toward establishing standards for regulated non-quarantine pests. The Secretariat will also summarize current available information concerning official contact points and countries that are using the amended phytosanitary certificate.
6. The Interim Commission is invited to consider and comment on interim measures. Wherever possible, delegations are requested by the Secretariat to identify their official contact points and indicate whether or when they adopt the new phytosanitary certificate.

III. PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

7. The Interim Commission is asked to recall the interpretations as agreed by the Committee on Agriculture at its fourteenth session (in ICPM-98/INF/1) concerning the interim nature of the certifying statement for the phytosanitary certificate. It was agreed that the statement would be reviewed following the approval of the amendments to the Convention. In particular, references to “considered to be practically free from the quarantine pests” and “deemed to be practically free from other pests” were identified as requiring further review.
8. The Interim Commission is invited to discuss this issue with a view toward agreeing upon a certification statement.