



منظمة الأغذية
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et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación



CONFERENCE

Twenty-eighth Session

Rome, 20 October - 2 November 1995

UPDATING THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION

1. The FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) at its Thirteenth Session in March 1995, recommended that the matter of the amendment of the International Protection Convention (IPPC) be discussed at the present session of the Conference with the aim of bringing the Convention into line with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures concluded within the framework of the Uruguay Round and recent developments in establishing standard setting machinery under the IPPC.
2. The matter was further discussed by the FAO Council at its Hundred and Eighth Session in June 1995. The Council agreed that the IPPC should be updated in accordance with the recommendations of the COAG. It requested that a progress report, including estimated costs, possible sources of funding and time schedule, be made to the Conference through the Hundred and Ninth Session of the Council.
3. In line with this request, in July 1995 the IPPC Secretariat notified the national plant protection services of FAO Members of the likely review of the IPPC and requested their proposals as to what should be included in this review. Suggestions received by the Secretariat before the end of August 1995 will be collated and submitted to the Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) scheduled to be held in Nouméa from 4 to 8 September 1995. The matters proposed for inclusion in the review will be noted in a separate paper to be prepared after the Technical Consultation.
4. It is envisaged that, subject to the approval of the Conference, a small Working Group of Experts, composed of ten to 15 experts to be designated by the Director-General in consultation with FAO Members, will be convened to begin the review by considering the matters proposed for consideration by FAO Members and commencing the redrafting process. Consultants will be used as necessary to assist with specific sections of the redraft. This would be followed by written consultations with FAO Members and other contracting parties to the IPPC. If necessary, a further round of redrafting by the Working Group of Experts and written consultations, could be scheduled. The process would culminate in a Government Consultation to finalize the draft before it is

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submitted to the Conference. It is expected that FAO Members would designate experts in plant quarantine and protection to attend the Government Consultation and that this consultation would perform the functions of the advisory committee of specialists provided for in Article XIII of the IPPC.¹ It is recognized that there are a number of issues that may be difficult to resolve, so the above scenario could need to be extended.

5. It is proposed that the costs of the review of the IPPC be absorbed in the 1996-97 biennium by reducing technical assistance associated with strengthening the capability of Members to meet export requirements in relation to phytosanitary measures and to protect their plant health, and the programme element aimed at strengthening plant protection infrastructures. The following items have been included in the budget:

- Meeting of Working Group of Experts convened by FAO - February 1996;
- Consultancy services to assist with specific sections of the review;
- Consultation with FAO Members and other contracting parties to the IPPC (Mail services);
- Government Consultation to negotiate final text - January 1997;
- Submission of draft to COAG, Council and Conference for their consideration and decision;
- A total of US\$250 000 has been budgeted for this process during the 1996-97 biennium.

6. It is hoped that the Government Consultation could be held in January 1997 and a revised Convention could be ready for adoption by the Twenty-ninth FAO Conference in 1997.

DRAFT DECISION

7. The Conference, having noted the observations of the Hundred and Ninth Session of the Council, approves the programme for the review of the International Plant Protection Convention.

¹ Article XIII of the IPPC provides as follows:

"Amendment

- 1. Any proposal by a contracting party for the amendment of this Convention shall be communicated to the Director-General of FAO.*
- 2. Any proposed amendment of this Convention received by the Director-General of FAO from a contracting party shall be presented to a regular or special session of the Conference of FAO for approval and, if the amendment involves important technical changes or imposes additional obligations on the contracting parties, it shall be considered by an advisory committee of specialists convened by FAO prior to the Conference.*
- 3. Notice of any proposed amendment of this Convention shall be transmitted to the contracting parties by the Director-General of FAO not later than the time when the agenda of the session of the Conference at which the matter is to be considered is dispatched.*
- 4. Any such proposed amendment of this Convention shall require the approval of the Conference of FAO and shall come into force as from the thirtieth day after acceptance by two-thirds of the contracting parties. Amendments involving new obligations for contracting parties, however, shall come into force in respect of each contracting party only on acceptance by it and as from the thirtieth day after such acceptance.*
- 5. The instruments of acceptance of amendments involving new obligations shall be deposited with the Director-General of FAO, who shall inform all contracting parties of the receipt of acceptance and the entry into force of amendments."*