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y la
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CONFERENCE

Twenty-eighth Session

Rome, 20 October - 2 November 1995

UPDATING THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION

1. A number of Plant Protection Authorities of FAO Members have replied to FAO's request that they review the Convention and forward their comments to the IPPC Secretariat. Comments received were presented by the Secretariat to the Seventh Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations, held in Noumea, New Caledonia, 4-8 September 1995, for discussion.

2. As noted in C 95/22 Sup.2 para. 3, the matters proposed for inclusion in the review of the IPPC would be presented to Conference through the Hundred and Ninth Session of Council. The following are the comments made by the Technical Consultation which are now presented for decision by the Conference:

The Consultation supported the amendment of the IPPC. The purpose of the amendment should be, in particular to:

- ensure that the Convention provide for the functions of the IPPC Secretariat as foreseen in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement;
- consider how far the revised Convention should include new elements of phytosanitary practice introduced in the SPS Agreement;
- ensure that the Convention provide for the establishment of standard-setting procedures;
- examine the "Principles of Plant Quarantine as related to International Trade" to determine which and to what extent these should be included in the Convention;
- examine the scope of the Convention relating to wild flora, forestry and the environment;
- examine the scope of the Convention relating to plant protection and/or quarantine. The Consultation agreed that the Convention should be wider than plant quarantine only;
- update definitions of the terms used in the Convention;
- question whether injurious pests are to be covered by the Convention, particularly in the phytosanitary certificate;
- clarify the role of RPPOs, cooperation among RPPOs and cooperation of RPPOs with FAO;
- examine the necessity for Article III of the IPPC and whether the creation of supplementary agreements carry with them the obligations of the IPPC;

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- examine phytosanitary certification in reference to third party accreditation including clarification of the scope of "under the authority of" and the conditions under which it could be used;
- examine the use of additional declarations with reference to the frequency and technical justification;
- examine and clarify the intent of the Convention regarding weeds (the Consultation strongly supported the inclusion of weeds);
- examine and review the mechanism of revision of the Convention in relation to non-contracting parties and contracting parties which are not members of FAO (the Consultation requested the Secretariat to ensure that all contracting parties participate in the revision);
- consider the desirability/feasibility of making provision for a body representing governments within the Convention.

DRAFT DECISION

3. 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.