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INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Sixth Session

Rome, 29 March – 2 April 2004

Role and Function of Regional Plant Protection Organizations

Agenda Item 8.11 of the Provisional Agenda

1. Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) are recognized under the IPPC (Article IX). Article IX also specifies that RPPOs shall cooperate with the Secretary and the Commission in order to achieve the aims of the Convention. However, despite discussion in a number of *fora*, a clear role for RPPOs in achieving the aims of the IPPC has never been developed. The 14th Technical Consultation among RPPOs in Marrakech discussed possible roles and functions of the technical consultations and how it could contribute to the work programme of the ICPM. ICPM-5 welcomed the paper by the 14th Technical Consultation among RPPOs on its role and functions. In order to advance this matter, the ICPM Bureau asked the Informal Working Group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance (SPTA) to consider possible roles and functions of RPPOs.

2. The SPTA discussed the role that the RPPOs could play particularly in regard to the implementation of ISPMs. It considered that RPPOs should play a significant role as appropriate in regional workshops on draft ISPMs within their regions.

3. The SPTA recommended that:

1. During 2004, a small group with six to seven members should be convened, of which two would be appointed representatives of the Technical Consultation of RPPOs and the rest individuals from ICPM members. The RPPOs would be responsible for choosing their representatives.
2. This group would analyse the possible roles and functions of the RPPOs with regard to the Convention and consider which of the strategic goals and directions RPPOs could provide support for.
3. An analysis of the current functions and capacities of RPPOs be provided as an input to the group.

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4. The report of this group would be sent to the 16th Technical Consultation among RPPOs (October 2004) and would be submitted for discussion at the ICPM, after being seen by the SPTA.

4. The ICPM is *invited* to endorse the recommendations of the SPTA on developing a defined role for RPPOs within the IPPC.