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des
Nations
Unies
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l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Fifth Session

Rome, 7-11 April 2003

Election of the Bureau

Agenda Item 14 of the Provisional Agenda

1. This note provides information on the election of officers for the Interim Commission of Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM).

2. The ICPM is reminded that Rule II of the Rules of Procedure adopted by the ICPM at its First Session, states:

1. The Interim Commission shall elect a Chairperson and not more than two Vice-Chairpersons (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the Bureau"), and a rapporteur, from among the representatives, alternates, experts and advisers (hereinafter referred to as "delegates") of the Members of the Interim Commission; it being understood that no delegate shall be eligible without the concurrence of the head of the delegate's delegation.

2. The Bureau shall be elected at the end of a regular session and shall hold office for a term of two years.

3. The Chairperson, or in the absence of the Chairperson another member of the Bureau, shall preside at all meetings of the Interim Commission and shall exercise such other functions as may be required to facilitate the work of the Interim Commission. A Vice-Chairperson acting as Chairperson shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairperson.

3. The ICPM will recall that Mr Canale (Uruguay) was elected as Chairperson and Messrs. Hedley (New Zealand) and Lopian (Finland) as Vice Chairpersons at the end of its Third Session in 2001. Mr Kurzweil (Austria) was elected rapporteur.

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4. The election of officers of the Bureau consists of two components — nominating and voting. Voting is addressed in Rule VI of the ICPM Rules of Procedure as follows:

1. Subject to the provisions of Article II.10 of the Constitution of the Organization, each Member of the Interim Commission shall have one vote.

2. The Interim Commission shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters by consensus. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement has been reached, the decision shall, as the last resort be taken by a two-thirds majority of the Members of the Interim Commission present and voting.

3. For the purpose of these Rules, the phrase "Members present and voting" means Members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members who abstain from voting or cast a defective ballot are considered as not voting.

4. Upon the request of any Member of the Interim Commission, voting shall be by roll-call vote, in which case the vote of each member shall be recorded.

5. When the Interim Commission so decides, voting shall be by secret ballot.

6. The provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization shall apply mutatis mutandis to all matters not specifically dealt with under this Rule.

5. Although offering some guidance on applicable procedures (e.g. setting a two-thirds required majority for decisions), this rule provides that "the provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization (FAO) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to all matters not specifically dealt with under this Rule." As such, the exact procedures regarding voting for officers, including the Chairperson, may be found in Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO). These procedures also apply to electing Vice Chairpersons. The ICPM Rules of Procedure and Rule XII of the GRO are silent on issues concerning re-election of officers and on geographical distribution of officers.

6. Regarding nomination procedures, paragraph five of Rule XII of the GRO provides that the nomination of any candidate shall be made by the government of a Member nation or by its delegate or representative and that the appointing body shall determine the nomination procedures to be used. As the ICPM Rules of Procedure do not include nomination procedures, the ICPM is provided the opportunity to determine its own nomination procedures.

7. The ICPM is invited to:

1. *Propose* nominations for Bureau officers.
2. *Elect* its Bureau for 2003-2004.
3. *Consider* the need to develop its own nomination procedures for the Bureau.