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联合国  
粮食及  
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Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
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United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

### Fourth Session

Rome, 11-15 March 2002

### Directed Financial Assistance for Standard Setting (Sponsorship of Standards)

### Agenda Item 6.3 of the Provisional Agenda

1. The Third Session of the ICPM asked that the Informal Working Group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance develop rules for directed financial assistance for standard setting (sponsoring of standards) which would guarantee transparency of the process and the participation of developing countries in drafting of the standards (Report of the Third Session of the ICPM, Paragraph 69/7).
2. Concern has been expressed by a number of Members that if funds are provided to assist with the development of a specific standard, then the standard might be afforded preferential treatment in the list of priorities. Members have also noted that if funds are offered to assist with standard development, then, because of the severe under-funding of the work programme of the ICPM, every opportunity should be taken to make use of such monies. Therefore, to allow the use of funds when they are offered to assist with the development of a specified standard, it was decided that rules should be developed to ensure that no special treatment was given to the development of standards that are provided with such financial assistance.
3. The Informal Working Group considered the issues involved, also considering the criteria used for priority setting as found in the Report of the First ICPM, Paragraph 13 and the Report of the Third ICPM Paragraph 5/3. The Informal Working Group recommended that the provision of external resources for standard setting should:
  - be applied only for standards that are approved as priorities by the ICPM
  - not create an undue resource drain on the work programme of the Secretariat
  - not displace core programme priorities
  - follow the normal procedures, policies and practice of standard-setting with no modifications according to the preferences of the funding entity.
4. The Informal Working Group noted that the last point in the list of criteria for the establishment of priorities reported in the Report of the First ICPM, Paragraph 13 concerned the "availability of external resources to support preparation of a standard." In the light of the discussions of the Informal Working Group, this was no longer considered to be a criterion for priority setting.

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5. The ICPM is invited to:
  1. *Adopt* the rules for directed financial assistance for standard-setting proposed by the Informal Working Group
  2. *Amend* the criteria for the establishment of priorities for standard-setting as noted in the Report of the First Session of the ICPM. (Paragraph 13) by removing the last criterion: "availability of external resources to support preparation of a standard".