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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Eighth Session
Rome, 8 - 12 April 2013
The Review of Article XIV Bodies
Agenda item 9.4
Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

I. Background

1. During its Hundred and Forty-eight Session which took place from 18 to 22 March 2013, the FAO Finance Committee examined document FC 148/21 on the “*Review of Article XIV Statutory Bodies with a view to allowing them to exercise greater financial and administrative authority while remaining within the framework of FAO*”¹. During its deliberations, the Finance Committee took into account the status and situation of each Article XIV body, as presented in the aforementioned document, and the views of the Ninety-Fifth Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, which took place from 8 to 11 October 2012.
2. The Finance Committee made a number of recommendations on the matter. An extract of the report is attached in the Annex hereto.

II. Suggested Action by the CPM

3. The CPM is invited to:
 - 1) *take note* of the recent developments regarding the FAO review of Article XIV bodies.

¹ Available on IPP (https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=cpm&no_cache=1&L=0), as well as on the FAO website at: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/bodies/Fin_Comm/Documents_FC_148/en/FC148-21.pdf

Annex**Excerpt from Report of the 148th Session of the FAO Finance Committee**

(18 - 22 March 2013)

(available in English only)

Review of Article XIV Statutory Bodies with a view to allowing them to exercise greater financial and administrative authority while remaining within the framework of FAO

49. The Committee welcomed document FC 148/21 - *Review of Article XIV Statutory Bodies* with a view to allowing them to exercise greater financial and administrative authority while remaining within the framework of FAO, including its appendixes containing a detailed matrix on the main characteristics of existing bodies established by treaty under Article XIV of the Constitution (Appendix I to FC 148/21) and an extract of the report of the Ninety-fourth Session of the CCLM of October 2012 describing facilities that could be granted to these bodies (Appendix II to FC 148/21). In general, the Committee observed that the long-standing issue of the degree of autonomy and operational facilities to be recognized to these bodies was complex in view of their differentiated nature.

50. The Committee:

- a) concurred with the criteria for increased delegations of authority proposed in document FC 148/21 and reiterated the need for a differentiated approach to the matter given the specific characteristics of Article XIV bodies;
- b) noted that Management was in the process of implementing the recommendations contained in Appendix II to document FC 148/21, and generally reflected in paragraph 27 of that document, which were within Management's authority, and requested a report on the matter at a future session of the Committee, possibly as part of the IPA follow-up report by the Secretariat; and
- c) acknowledged, in view of FAO's general accountability for the operation of Article XIV bodies, the need for Management to follow a flexible but prudent approach, by recognizing the functional requirements of these bodies, while ensuring as far as appropriate observance of FAO's policies and procedures.