

RESOLUTION No. 341

**PROTOCOL GOVERNING THE ELECTION OF THE
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INSTITUTE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twentieth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The document entitled "Draft Special Rules to Govern the Presentation of Candidates for the Position of Director General,"

CONSIDERING:

That the election of the Director General of the Institute ought to proceed with transparency and equity to strengthen the Institution;

That Article 105 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) provides that the Member States "shall normally submit nominations for the post of Director General 45 days before the date of the election";

That Article 30 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate provides that no Director General seeking re-election, nor any employee of the Institute that may have been nominated to the position of Director General may make direct or indirect use of their positions to further their candidacies;

That Article 27 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate states that the acceptance by a staff member of nomination to elective public office of a political nature shall imply resignation from the Institute;

That Staff Rule 3.08 authorizes the Director General to "grant leave without pay, upon request, to a staff member who is seeking the nomination or has been nominated by his government to the position of Director General";

That Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate prohibits any staff member from engaging in any activity that may be incompatible with his/her position as an employee of an international organization and which the Director General considers undesirable from the standpoint of the effective performance of the staff member's duties or of the good name of the Institute;

That the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues ("Special Advisory Commission"), at the request of the Director General, reviewed and commented on the document entitled "Draft Special Rules to Govern the Presentation of Candidates for the Position of Director General";

That the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues recommended that this issue be referred to the Executive Committee; suggested that no change be made in the present timetable for nominations; noted the need for several editorial corrections, and further recommended that the Regulations not enter into force until after the next election, except for Article IV, which contains special provisions for the Institute's staff members who are also candidates;

That pursuant to Article 3(h) of its Rules of Procedure, the Executive Committee may modify the Staff Rules, provided such modifications are consistent with the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), of the Executive Committee, and of the General Directorate, and provided they do not require a change of the budget resolution in force;

That pursuant to its authority under Article 3(o) of its Rules of Procedure, the Executive Committee has authority to provisionally amend its own Rules of Procedure and those of the General Directorate, and to put those provisional modifications into force, *ad referendum* of the Board,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the Special Draft Rules to Govern the Presentation of Candidates for the Position of Director General attached as Annex A.
2. To amend Staff Rule 3.8 by replacing the current text of that Rule with the text of Article IV of the Special Draft Rules to Govern the Presentation of Candidates for the Position of Director General.
3. To amend Article 30 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee by adding to the items on the Committee's Agenda an item "i", which states: "i. Presentations of the candidates for the position of Director General in the year of election."
4. To recommend to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) that it modify Article 105 of its Rules of Procedure at its next regular meeting to state:

Article 105. The Member States shall submit nominations in accordance with the Rules of Procedure to Govern the Presentation of Candidates for the Position of Director General approved by the Executive Committee. The nominations shall be submitted by means of a communication addressed to the Director General, who shall immediately forward them to all the Member States as it receives them.

ANNEX A

SPECIAL RULES TO GOVERN THE PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL

ARTICLE I CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS

- 1.1 Candidates for the Office of Director General ("Candidate") must be nationals of an IICA Member State.
- 1.2 A former Director General may be nominated as a Candidate; however, a Director General currently serving in his first term of Office may only be reelected once consecutively, and a Director General, having been so reelected, shall not be a candidate for the immediately following term.
- 1.3 A Candidate for Director General, other than the incumbent, cannot be of the same nationality of the current Director General.
- 1.4 Candidates shall possess the high level of demonstrated competence, efficiency, and integrity required for carrying out the duties of the Director General as specified under Article 20 of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and the Rules of Procedure of the Institute.

ARTICLE II PRESENTATION OF NOMINATIONS

- 2.1 No person may be a candidate unless nominated in writing by an IICA Member State. The nomination must be endorsed by the duly authorized entity or official of the Member State.
- 2.2 The period for presenting candidates shall begin six months prior to the date of the election, and it shall end 45 calendar days before that date, unless otherwise permitted by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture during the election. For the purposes of these rules, the term "election" means the voting process described in Article 106 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture ("IABA Rules").
- 2.3 The forgoing Section 2.2 shall not apply, however, when:
 - (i) an election is required under Article 104 of the IABA Rules because the position of Director General becomes vacant before the completion of a term of office; and
 - (ii) after two rounds of voting under Article 106 of the IABA Rules, no Candidate has received the required majority vote of the Member States.
- 2.4 The requirement for a written nomination shall not apply to nominations made by a duly accredited representative of a Member State under the circumstances described in Section 2.3(ii) above.

ARTICLE III THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 3.1 In the year of the election, the Director General shall include in the Agenda of the Executive Committee the item "Presentations by the Candidates for the Position of Director General." Under that item, each Candidate shall be allowed no more than 15 minutes to make an oral presentation to the Executive Committee and may distribute written materials relating to his or her candidacy to the Committee.

- 3.2 No later than thirty days prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee in the year of the election, the Director General shall invite all Candidates nominated in accordance with Section 2.1 above to make the corresponding presentations at that meeting.
- 3.3 The forgoing provisions of this Article shall not apply if a vacancy in the position of Director General arises prior to expiration of the term of office, but after the meeting of the Executive Committee in the year an election is to take place, in accordance with Article 104 of the IABA Rules.

**ARTICLE IV
CANDIDATES WHO ARE INSTITUTE
STAFF MEMBERS**

- 4.1 For purposes of this Article, a Director General seeking reelection, staff members of the Institute, and any other person in an employment relationship with the Institute that has been nominated for or who is otherwise seeking the nomination for the position of Director General shall be included under the term "Internal Candidates."
- 4.2 As established under Article 30 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate ("General Directorate Rules"), no Internal Candidates may make direct or indirect use of their positions to further their candidacies.
- 4.3 In pursuing their candidacy, no Internal Candidates shall communicate restricted, confidential, or otherwise privileged information to anyone or use that information to their private advantage.
- 4.4 Internal Candidates for Director General shall either resign or take leave from the Institute once they begin to campaign openly for nomination to the position of Director General or once they are nominated as a Candidate under these Rules, whichever happens first. The period of leave shall last until the election or until such time as the Internal Candidate withdraws his or her candidacy. The Internal Candidate may take that leave without pay, or at his or her option, may exhaust any accumulated annual leave with pay credited to his or her account before going on leave without pay. A candidate who opts to take leave and whose contract does not expire during the period on such leave shall have the right to return to a post in the Institute at a level equal to the grade held previously to taking such leave if the candidacy is not successful.
- 4.5 The forgoing Section 4.4 shall not apply to the Director General in office. Nonetheless, the Director General shall strictly conform to the requirements of Sections 4.2 and 4.3 of these Rules, as well as Articles 24 and 30 of the General Directorate Rules, for the entire period preceding the election.
- 4.6 For the purpose of conserving the independence and impartiality inherent to their status as personnel of a public international organization, and to assure that a level playing field is maintained in the election of the Director General, the Institute's personnel, as defined under Article 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate, shall not engage in campaign activities for or otherwise support any candidate for the position of Director General.
- 4.7 Persons defined under Article 13 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate ("Consultants") shall not engage in campaign activities for or otherwise support any candidate for the position of the Director General. Failure of a Consultant to observe this provision shall constitute a breach of the Consultant's contract and grounds for termination for cause.
- 4.8 Failure to observe the provisions established in this Article constitutes serious misconduct and shall result in disciplinary action, which may include summary dismissal, under the applicable Staff Rules.

ARTICLE V
TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

- 5.1 Except for Articles III, IV and V, these Rules shall not apply to the year 2001 election of the Director General; however, they shall apply to all such elections thereafter.