

No. 3500

**BELGIUM, FRANCE, PORTUGAL,
FEDERATION OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND,
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
and UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

**Phyto-Sanitary Convention for Africa South of the Sahara.
Signed at London, on 29 July 1954**

Official texts: English and French.

*Registered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on
29 August 1956.*

**BELGIQUE, FRANCE, PORTUGAL,
FÉDÉRATION DE LA RHODÉSIE
ET DU NYASSALAND,
UNION SUD-AFRICAINE
et ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE
ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD**

**Convention phytosanitaire pour l'Afrique au sud du Sahara.
Signée à Londres, le 29 juillet 1954**

Textes officiels anglais et français.

*Enregistrée par le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord le
29 août 1956.*

No. 3500. PHYTO-SANITARY CONVENTION¹ FOR AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM, THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC, THE FEDERATION OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND, THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND. SIGNED AT LONDON, ON 29 JULY 1954

The Governments of the Kingdom of Belgium, the French Republic, the Republic of Portugal, the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, the Union of South Africa and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland :

Considering that all possible steps should be taken :

- (a) to prevent the introduction of diseases, insect pests and other enemies of plants into any part of Africa south of the Sahara;
- (b) to eradicate or control them in so far as they are present in the area;
- (c) and to prevent their spread;

Having regard to the need for full co-operation to this end with the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara;

Recognising the usefulness of the co-operation provided for in the International Plant Protection Convention signed at Rome on December 6, 1951² and the need for the co-ordination of activities in this field;

Have agreed as follows :

Article 1

The present Convention shall apply to any metropolitan territories of the Governments party to the present Convention (hereinafter referred to as "Participating Governments") which are situated in Africa to the south of the Sahara

¹ In accordance with article 12, the Convention came into force on 15 June 1956, the date of deposit of the fourth instrument of ratification in respect of the following signatory states on behalf of which the instruments of ratification were deposited with the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the dates indicated :

Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland	27 July	1955
France	15 June	1956
Union of South Africa	3 November	1955
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	14 December	1954

The Convention came subsequently into force, in respect of Belgium, on 16 July 1956, the date of deposit of the instrument of ratification.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 150, p. 67; Vol. 161, p. 372; Vol. 172, p. 391; Vol. 173, p. 411; Vol. 175, p. 370; Vol. 186, p. 346; Vol. 193, p. 360; Vol. 196, p. 354; Vol. 199, p. 348; Vol. 201, p. 379; Vol. 202, p. 338; Vol. 203, p. 337; Vol. 204, p. 390; Vol. 207, p. 356; Vol. 209, p. 347; Vol. 211, p. 419; Vol. 214, p. 374; Vol. 220, p. 384; Vol. 241, p. 492; Vol. 247, p. 400, and Vol. 248, p. 370.

and to the other territories within that area for whose international relations any of the Participating Governments are responsible.

PERMANENT COMMISSION

Article 2

(a) There shall be set up a permanent commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission"), to be known as the Inter-African Phyto-Sanitary Commission on which each of the Participating Governments shall be represented and shall exercise one vote.

(b) The Commission shall determine its own procedure by a majority vote.

(c) The Commission shall seek such information and shall recommend such action as will lead to the fulfilment of the objects of the present Convention.

(d) The Commission shall meet at least once a year and at other times when requested so to do by any two of the Participating Governments.

(e) Any proposal supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the Participating Governments shall be deemed to be carried. Such votes shall be given at a meeting of the Commission or shall be communicated in writing when a proposal has been submitted to the Participating Governments other than at a meeting.

Article 3

The Commission shall appoint a Scientific Secretary whose duties shall be as follows :

- (a) To ensure liaison between the Commission, the Participating Governments, and the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara;
- (b) To prepare an annual report on the work of the Commission, and on his scientific, administrative and financial activities; to submit this report to the Commission for its approval; and to send copies of the approved report to Participating Governments, and the Secretariat of the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara;
- (c) To transmit to the Commission any observations received on the annual report;
- (d) To represent the Commission on the Permanent Committee of Information established under Article 9 of the present Convention and at any international meetings at which the Commission deems his presence desirable.

MEASURES OF PROTECTION

Article 4

Each Participating Government shall undertake to exercise at least such control of plant imports as the Commission shall consider to be necessary, and shall take such legislative or administrative measures as may be required for this purpose.

Article 5

Each Participating Government shall take such measures of quarantine, certification or inspection, or such other measures as may be considered necessary by the Commission in respect of any plants, plant material, seed or packing material (including containers) the importation of which has been considered by the Commission to constitute a threat to agriculture in any part of the area defined in Article 1 of the present Convention.

Article 6

Each Participating Government shall prohibit, for such period of time as the Commission may propose, the importation of any plant, plant material, seed or packing material (including containers) which the Commission has considered shall be refused admittance into the area defined in Article 1 of the present Convention.

Article 7

Each Participating Government shall take such action as may be desirable to deal effectively with diseases, insect pests and other enemies of plants which the Commission considers have become, or are likely to become, a serious danger in territories within the area defined in Article 1 of the present Convention.

Article 8

Nothing in the foregoing Articles of the present Convention shall prevent any Participating Governments from importing into the area defined in Article 1 of the present Convention, under adequate safeguards and for scientific purposes, small quantities of plants, plant material or seeds without prior reference to the other Participating Governments. Participating Governments shall however inform the Commission of each importation of otherwise prohibited plants, plant material or seeds which is made, and the Commission shall so inform all other Participating Governments.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF INFORMATION

Article 9

(a) There shall be established in London a Permanent Committee of Information which shall consist of the Directors of the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology and the Commonwealth Mycological Institute and of the Scientific Secretary of the Commission appointed under Article 3 of the present Convention, who shall also act as Secretary of the Committee.

(b) The Permanent Committee of Information shall act as an intermediary between the Institutes referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article and the Commission for the transmission of relevant information regarding the type, nature