



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**



**The International Treaty**  
**ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES**  
**FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD  
AND AGRICULTURE**

**SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

**Kigali, Rwanda, 30 October - 3 November 2017**

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## 1. VENUE

### **Date and place of the meeting**

1. The Seventh Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty) will be held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 28 October to 3 November 2017. The meeting will start on Monday 30 October 2017, at 10.00 a.m, and it will be preceded by two days of informal regional consultations, on Saturday 28 October and Sunday 29 October 2017.
2. The meeting place for the Regular Session is “**Kigali Convention Centre (KCC)**”, KG2, Kimihurura Roundabout, Kigali. The translucent dome modeled on a traditional King’s Palace, is located in the heart of the capital on a hilltop near Parliament. The Convention Centre’s multi-functional hall has a capacity of 2,600; the center also includes 18 meetings rooms and 292 accommodation rooms.



### **Communications with the Secretariat**

3. All correspondence related to the meeting should be addressed to the Secretary of the International Treaty at the following address:

Dr Kent Nnadozie  
Secretary a. i.  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
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Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1  
00153 Rome, Italy  
Tel: +39 06 5705 3441  
Fax: +39 06 5705 3057  
E-mail: [PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org](mailto:PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org)

4. Any queries or requests for information should also be addressed to the Secretariat of the International Treaty at the above address.

## 2. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE SESSION

5. The regular Session will be conducted in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian.

## 3. FORMALITIES FOR ENTRY INTO RWANDA: VISA REQUIREMENTS

6. Entry in Rwanda is subject to presentation of a passport or other travel document that certifies the identity of the traveller and is valid under the international agreements signed by Rwanda and not subject to specific prohibitions.

7. The obtention of visa is a responsibility of the traveller. The Directorate General of Immigration has provided summary information of the country's Visa Granting Policy:

- East African Community Partner States citizens are eligible for a renewable 6 month visitors pass at entry points with no fee.
- In accordance with the CEPGL agreement, Democratic Republic of the Congo nationals will be granted a visitor's visa for a stay not exceeding 90 days with no fee.
- Nationals of all other African countries traveling to or transiting through Rwanda can obtain an entry visa upon arrival for the fee of 30 US Dollars.
- Nationals of Singapore, Hong Kong, Mauritius and Philippines are exempted from entry visas for a stay of up to 90 days.
- Nationals of Australia, Germany, Israel, New Zealand, Republic of South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the United States of America, are eligible for visas upon arrival without prior application, for the standard fee of 30 US Dollars for a period of up to 30 days.

8. Nationals of countries not mentioned above must submit a visa application before traveling at Rwandan Diplomatic Missions (except the UN Mission in New York) or online: <https://www.migration.gov.rw/index.php?id=203>

## 4. KIGALI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

9. The main airport, Kigali International Airport (KIA), is located 10 km east of the city centre, and has been recently completed; the expanded airport can now handle 1.5 million passengers annually (from its previous capacity of 600,000 passengers).

10. The airport currently receives direct flights from Addis Ababa, Amsterdam, Brazzaville, Brussels, Bujumbura, Dar es Salaam, Doha, Douala, Dubai, Entebbe, Istanbul,, Gatwick, Johannesburg, Juba, Kilimanjaro, Lagos, Libreville, Lusaka, Mombasa, Mwanza, Nairobi, Cotonou, and Abidjan (from 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016).

11. A dedicated information counter will be operating at the main terminal during the Governing Body meeting to facilitate information and support to delegates. At the terminal there is also a foreign exchange office (Forex Bureau), and places where to buy sim cards, if needed.

12. As part of an environmental protection policy, **plastic bags are not allowed into Rwanda**. Passengers entering Kigali International Airport or any other border posts with plastic bags are required to discard them, and are supplied with an environmentally friendly alternative at a cost ranging between \$2-\$6.

## 5. TAXIS AND AIRPORT PICK UPS

13. Average travel times from the airport to Kigali Conference Centre range from 15-20 minutes (Taxicab), depending on traffic.

14. Hotels may arrange a shuttle pick up and drop off at the airport, provided that arrival and departure details are shared ahead of time.

15. In addition to hotels shuttles, ATAK, a taxi company will be operating at Kigali International. ATAK taxicab will arrange on average \$10-\$20 per trip and and \$60 for a full day rental. The company telephones are: 0788568860, 0782754574, 0782862540

16. Please ensure you arrange your own transport from the airport to the hotels. This can be arranged directly with hotels, or other rental transport companies at the airport.

17. In the eventuality that any delegate loses his luggage, a dedicated travel desk will be available at the KCC during the meeting to assist with the tracking.

## 6. HOTELS

18. There are several hotels situated at the near the KCC or well connected. The Secretariat has elaborated a list of hotels with the information provided by the Rwanda Convention Bureau. The list will be posted on the Website of the International Treaty with indication of the range of prices.

## 7. USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT RWANDA

### **Rwanda**

19. Rwanda is a landlocked country situated in Central Africa. Also known as the 'Land of a Thousand Hills'. The country has five volcanoes, twenty-three lakes and numerous rivers, some forming the source of the River Nile. The country lies 75 miles south of the equator in the Tropic of Capricorn, 880 miles 'as the crow flies' west of the Indian Ocean and 1,250 miles east of the Atlantic Ocean – literally in the heart of Africa.

20. Rwanda is bordered by Uganda to the north, Tanzania to the east, Burundi to the south and the Democratic Republic of Congo to the west. Rwanda is politically stable with well-functioning institutions, rule of law and zero tolerance for corruption. The World Bank's 2013/14 Global Competitive Index Report ranked Rwanda as the most competitive place to do business in East Africa and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Africa.

21. Rwanda is an attractive market of over 11 million people with a rapidly growing middle class and its location as part of the East African Community (EAC) provides access to the burgeoning East African market of over 140 million people.

### **Climate**

22. Rwanda can be visited and enjoyed any time of the year. The climate is temperate to subtropical, with two rainy seasons and two dry seasons each year. Temperatures average around 24°C (75°F), except for in the higher mountain areas where it ranges from 10°C to 15°C (50°F to 60°F)

The dry season which lasts from mid-May to mid-October, is the best time to track, hike and mountain climb, however, it is not as “green” as the wet season, which spans the other half of the year. The wet Season is from mid-October to mid-May.

The Northeast has a lot more rain due to the volcanoes being covered in rainforest. Karisimbi (the highest peak in Rwanda at 2,507 meters) is usually covered with snow.

### **Language**

23. The principal language is Kinyarwanda, spoken by most Rwandans, with English and French serving as official languages.

### **Customs**

24. Rwanda has a rich culture that includes captivating music and dance, a growing contemporary art industry and wonderful crafts including pottery, basketry, painting, jewelry, woodcarving and metalwork. A window into Rwanda’s history is provided by the many memorial sites and museums preserved around the country. A number of Community Based Tourism experiences offer travelers the opportunity to experience the destination’s rich cultural life.

### **Yellow Fever Notice**

25. Due to the recent outbreak of Yellow Fever in the region, the Rwandan Ministry of Health requires all travelers coming from countries endemic to Yellow Fever to produce proof of vaccination at border posts for passengers. Delegates that fail to produce proof of vaccination will be immunized on site, at the airport clinic for the cost of 40 US Dollars.

For more information, please visit:

[http://moh.gov.rw/fileadmin/Yellow\\_Fever/Yellow-Fever-Prevention-Measures17-04-2016.pdf](http://moh.gov.rw/fileadmin/Yellow_Fever/Yellow-Fever-Prevention-Measures17-04-2016.pdf)

<http://www.moh.gov.rw/index.php?id=222>

### **Currency**

26. The unit of currency is the Rwandan Franc (RWF). Exchange rates are subject to fluctuation. Currently, 1 USD is approximately equivalent to 840 RWF. Foreign exchange facilities are available at the airport and in all parts of Kigali city.

27. It is best to arrive in Rwanda with US dollars or Euros in cash, which can be exchanged either at the airport or at any FOREX bureau or bank. The most useful bank branch would be the Banque de Kigali, which offers cash advances on credit cards and also accepts travelers’ cheques, which is not possible outside of Kigali.

28. There are ATMs throughout Kigali that are accessible to visitors. Credit cards are accepted in some supermarkets, restaurants and hotels, but it is best to confirm prior to ordering.

### **Banking Services**

29. Banking hours are from 08:00 to 18:00 on weekdays and from 08:00 to 15:00 on Saturdays. Banking amenities are available at all commercial banks; local and regional banks hold agreements with a variety of credit card networks:

- VISA – Bank of Kigali, Ecobank, Equity bank, I & M bank, Kenya Commercial bank, ACCESS Bank, Banque populaire du Rwanda and Urwego Opportunity bank
- MasterCard – ACCESS Bank and Equity bank
- China Union Pay - ACCESS Bank, Equity bank and Bank of Kigali
- Japan Credit Bureau - Equity bank
- American Express - Equity bank and Bank of Kigali
- Diners Club - Equity bank and Bank of Kigali

30. Most internationally recognized currencies and travellers' cheques can be exchanged at commercial banks, hotels and the airport. Major credit cards are accepted in most hotels, restaurants and shops.

### **Tipping**

31. It is customary to tip for service in restaurants and bars. A tip of 5% is very acceptable and a tip of 20% is very generous. It is also customary to tip your driver/guide at the end of a safari or hike, as well as the cook and/or porter that may accompany to you.

### **Time**

32. The time in Rwanda is GMT+2.

### **Electricity Supply**

33. The electricity supply in Rwanda is 220/240V AC. It is advisable to bring your own round, two-prong adapter and transformer for 110V AC.

### **Telephone Services**

34. **Telephone Country Code** +250 (telecommunications among the best in Africa).

35. The following Rwandan mobile telecommunication service providers are available:

- MTN
- Tigo
- Airtel

36. Mobile telephone service providers also provide gateway to Internet using GPRS, 3G and 4G. Cell phone SIM cards are widely available. Every SIM card user/buyer in Rwanda is expected by law to be registered prior to activation.

### **Emergency Services**

37. In case of emergency, please refer to telephone numbers listed below.

- **Fire Brigade (Toll Free):** 111 or +250 788 311 224
- **Ambulance (Toll Free):** 912 or + 250 788 300 116.
- **General Assistance:** 997

**Internet Services**

38. Wi-Fi will be provided for free at the Convention Center. Wi-fi is available in most hotels, free of charge. It is quite easy to find cafés in Kigali with wi-fi, but it is best to check beforehand if you are planning on using internet. The lodges in the countryside are also equipped with wi-fi, however, cafés and restaurants outside of Kigali may not have it on offer.

**Health Services**

39. First aid and emergency services will be available at the Kigali Convention Center. For more extensive medical services, delegates are advised to seek treatment at one of the following hospitals:

- King Faysal Hospital: +250 788307561
- Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Kigali/CHUK: +250 788868240
- Kanombe Military Hospital: +250 788305703

**Business and shopping hours**

40. Public Offices open from 07:00 to 17:00 while businesses open from 8:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday. Weekend business hours range between 09:00 to 22:00.

For more practical information on Rwanda, please visit: <http://www.rwandatourism.com/practical-info>