



Invitation to the Fifth Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Muscat, Oman, 24 – 28 September 2013

Reply requested by 15 July 2013

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has the honour to extend an invitation to attend the Fifth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Session will be held in Muscat, Oman, from 24 to 28 September 2013 and will be preceded by two days of consultations, on 22 and 23 September 2013. The opening session will begin at 10.00 hours on Tuesday 24 September 2013.

The Governing Body is convened under the provisions of Article 19 of the Treaty and is open to all Contracting Parties to the International Treaty and to observers. Expenses incurred by representatives of Contracting Parties, when attending sessions of the Governing Body, or subsidiary bodies, as well as the expenses incurred by observers at sessions, shall be borne by their respective governments or organizations. Extra-budgetary funds have however been made available to the Secretariat for the purpose of supporting one representative of developing country Contracting Parties, if they so request. Countries wishing to avail themselves of such support should inform the Secretariat before 15 July 2013, and provide the name and full contact details of their representative. Pre-registration must be completed online at: <http://www.planttreaty.org/en/civcrm/event/info?reset=1&id=7>.

The session will be conducted in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

... The Provisional Agenda is attached. Further documents may be downloaded as soon as they become available from the following website: <http://www.planttreaty.org/content/gb5>.

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This communication is sent to addressees of FAO Members as prescribed in the official channels of communication of FAO, as follows:

For ACTION/INFORMATION, as appropriate:

- Main Addressees (Ministers for Foreign Affairs or Agriculture or other addressees selected by the Government);
- Permanent Representatives to FAO/Embassies.

This communication is also being sent to heads of selected international organizations.

The Director-General would appreciate receiving by 15 July 2013, the name(s) of the delegate, alternate, expert(s) and adviser(s) of each Contracting Party or, in the case of Non-Parties, the name(s) of the observer(s), designated to participate in the Session with their addresses, including telephone, fax number and e-mail. This information should be communicated, preferably by email to:

Mr Shakeel Bhatti
Secretary
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
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Italy
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E-mail: PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org

Any queries or requests for information should also be addressed to the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at the above address.

Each Contracting Party is asked to kindly submit the credentials of delegate(s), alternate(s) and expert(s) and adviser(s) designated to attend the Session to the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, insofar as possible, not later than 15 July 2013.

Submission of credentials prior to the meeting would greatly facilitate the clearing process by the Secretariat. The credentials should be issued by, or on behalf of, the Head of State or Government, the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the Minister concerned or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization. If credentials are submitted in copy or by fax, the original should be submitted upon registration at the Session. An example of credentials, issued by a Minister of Foreign Affairs, is herewith attached for your information.

Participants are advised to verify with the nearest Embassy or Consulate of Oman whether visas are required to enter Oman, before 15 July 2013. The Secretariat will communicate to the Host Government on 20 July a list of delegates requiring assistant to obtain visas. More information can be obtained from the Treaty's Website at: <http://www.planttreaty.org/content/gb5-meeting-room>.