



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

Rome, Italy, 5 – 9 October 2015

Reply requested by 19 June 2015

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has the honour to extend an invitation to attend the Sixth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Session will be held in Rome, Italy, from 5 to 9 October 2015 and will be preceded by two days of consultations and related events on 3 and 4 October 2015. The opening session will begin at 10.00 hours on Monday, 5 October 2015.

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 19 June 2015, and provide the name and full contact details of their representative.

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

... The Provisional Agenda is attached. Further documents and additional information may be downloaded as soon as they become available from the following website: <http://www.planttreaty.org/content/gb6>

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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 and other observers.

The Director-General would appreciate receiving, by 19 June 2015, 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. Online registration is accessible for FAO Members through the password-protected area of the FAO Members Gateway at: <http://www.fao.org/members-gateway/home/en/>. Instructions for online registration can be downloaded from the website. Please note that online registration requires the uploading of a recent passport-size digital photograph.

Observers, including international organizations, designated to attend the meeting are requested to forward their names, official titles and addresses by email to [PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org](mailto:PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org), together with a recent passport-size photograph.

Each Contracting Party is asked to kindly submit the credentials, as indicated below, 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 19 June 2015. The credentials for national delegations should indicate which member is the delegate, the alternate and adviser(s).

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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.

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 for 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 for Foreign Affairs, is herewith attached for your information.

Participants requiring visas must obtain these from the Italian Consulate or competent Diplomatic Mission in their country before leaving for Rome. Visa applications must be submitted well in advance of departure, as three weeks or more may be required for an Italian visa to be issued. Exclusively those participants traveling from a country where there is no Italian Consulate or other competent Diplomatic Mission may obtain a visa on arrival in Rome, provided that they advise the Secretariat of the meeting of their full name, date of birth, nationality, passport number, issue and expiry dates, flight number, date and hour of arrival and their full travel itinerary, which must not include any other Schengen country. This information must reach FAO at least three weeks before the arrival of participants to permit FAO to request that a visa be issued at Rome airport. Participants failing to comply with the above will not be allowed to enter Italy by the Italian authorities.