



Our Ref.: C/X/FO-701(a)

13 April 2018

Invitation to the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry  
and the 6<sup>th</sup> World Forest Week

Rome, Italy, 16-20 July 2018

Reply requested by 14 June 2018

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has the honour to extend an invitation to attend the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO), which will be held at FAO headquarters in Rome from 16 to 20 July 2018. The meeting will open on Monday, 16 July at 10.00 hours. Registration of participants will take place from 14.00 hours on Sunday, 15 July and from 08.00 hours on Monday, 16 July at External Registration Centre (FAO Visitors' Entrance Pavilion).

The 24<sup>th</sup> Session of COFO will be the main event of the 6<sup>th</sup> World Forest Week (WFW6), which will focus on the contributions of forests to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and features, in addition to COFO, a number of events sponsored by FAO Members and partners.

The Session is being convened under the provisions of Article V-6 of the FAO Constitution and is open to members of the Committee and to observers. Expenses incurred in connection with attendance at the Session and travel of representatives and observers shall be borne by the governments or organizations concerned.

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

... The Provisional Agenda is enclosed. Further documents, including the Provisional Timetable and additional information, may be downloaded at:

<http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofo/>

Membership of the Committee, which is open to all Members of the Organization shall be composed of those Members which notify the Director-General in writing of their desire to become members of the Committee and of their intention to participate in its work. Such notification may be made at any time, but not later than 10 days before the opening date of a session. Membership acquired on the basis thereof shall be considered valid unless the Member has not been represented at two consecutive sessions of the Committee, or has notified its withdrawal from it. A Notification of Membership form is attached. The deadline for submission of Notifications for the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of COFO is 6 July 2018.

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This invitation is sent to addressees of invited FAO Members, not members of COFO, 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.

The Director-General would appreciate being informed by 14 June 2018 of the representatives designated to attend the 24<sup>th</sup> Session. Online registration for countries is available through the password-protected FAO Members Gateway: <http://www.fao.org/members-gateway/en/> Instructions for online registration can be downloaded from the Gateway. Please note that online registration requires the uploading of a recent passport-size digital photograph.

Before travelling, participants should check with the competent Italian Consulate if they need a visa to enter Italy. Kindly note that visas can be requested in the country of origin (country in which the participant holds citizenship) or in the country of residence (country in which the participant resides at the time of visa application). Those participants who do not have an Italian Consulate in their countries, may apply at the correspondent Italian Consulate in a neighbouring country, or at any other Consulate which belongs to a Schengen or European country. Visa applications should be submitted to the Italian Consulate one month before arrival in Italy. It is the responsibility of participants to request their visa applications personally, arrange for an appointment and present all the necessary documentation to the Italian Consulate. Participants who do not need an entry visa to Italy should ensure that their passports are valid for at least three months after the intended date of departure from the Schengen area. In these cases, upon entering Italy, border authorities may require the participants to show evidence for the reason and the duration of their stay in Italy. Participants with non-direct flights to Rome should check whether a transit visa is necessary to enter the transit area of international airports.