



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

Tunis, Tunisia, 1 – 5 June 2009

Reply requested by 15 April 2009

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has the honour to extend an invitation to attend the Third Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Session will be held in Tunis (Tunisia) from 1 to 5 June 2009 and will be preceded by two days of consultations, on 30 and 31 May 2009. The opening session will begin at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 1 June 2009.

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. However, extra-budgetary funds have been made available to the Secretariat, for the purpose of supporting one representative of developing country Contracting Parties, if requested. Countries wishing to avail themselves of such support should inform the Secretariat before 15 April 2009, and provide the name and full contact details of the representative.

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

... The draft Provisional Agenda is attached. Further documents may be downloaded from the following website: http://www.planttreaty.org/meetings/gb3_en.htm, as soon as they become available.

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This communication is sent to addressees of selected 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 April 2009, 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 addresses. This information should be communicated to:

Mr Shakeel Bhatti
Secretary
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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 kindly asked to submit the credentials of its delegate(s), alternate(s) and expert(s) and adviser(s) designated to attend the meeting to the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, insofar as possible, not later than 15 May 2009.

Submission of credentials prior to the meeting would greatly facilitate the advance 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 attached for your information.

Participants are advised to enquire at the nearest Embassy or Consulate of Tunisia whether visas are required to enter Tunisia, at least 30 days before the date of the meeting.