



Our Ref.: NCP GB-Sp1 Invitation

5 October 2021

NOTIFICATION

First Special Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

7 – 8 December 2021

Dear Sir/Dear Madam,

I have the honour to inform you that the First Special Session of the Governing Body will be held on 7 and 8 December 2021 and will be preceded by virtual regional and inter-regional consultations. The meeting will begin at 12.00 hours (Central European Time (CET), UTC+1) on Tuesday, 7 December 2021.

Due to the extraordinary circumstances arising from the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, originally scheduled for December 2021, has been postponed to May 2022. Consequently, the Bureau of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body considered that a Special Session would be necessary to adopt an *interim* budget for 2022, to enable continued functioning of the Treaty and its Secretariat, until the Governing Body adopts the regular budget for the 2022–2023 biennium.

The First Special Session of the Governing Body is convened under the provisions of Article 19 of the International Treaty and is open to all Contracting Parties to the International Treaty and to observers. In accordance with Rule 4.3 of the *Rules of Procedure of the Governing Body*, the Session is convened by the Chairperson of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, in agreement with the Bureau, and in consultation with the Director-General of the FAO and the Secretary.

The Session will be conducted in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, and be held virtually, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Bureau of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body. The Provisional Agenda is available at <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/1397828/>.

The Secretariat would appreciate being informed, as early as possible, of the names, official titles, addresses and *email accounts* of representatives designated to participate in the 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. Online registration requires the insertion of an email account in the form for accreditation. The link to access the virtual meeting will be made available upon receipt of the above information and the same email address will have to be inserted in the Zoom registration form to grant representatives access to the virtual meeting platform.

Observers, including international organizations, designated to attend the meeting are requested to forward their names, official titles and addresses by e-mail to: PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org



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 **5 November 2021**. The credentials for national delegations should indicate which member is the delegate, the alternate and adviser(s) and should be submitted to the International Treaty Secretariat by e-mail to the following address:

Mr Kent Nnadozie
Secretary
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome Italy
E-mail: PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org

Please note that credentials of Members and Associate Members of the Organization shall be valid if they:

- i. bear the signature of, or are signed on behalf of, one of the following authorities: Head of State, Head of Government, Minister for Foreign Affairs or Minister for the Department concerned;
- ii. are letters signed by an Ambassador, Chief of Mission or Chargé d'Affaires, which contain a phrase confirming that they are acting upon instruction from their governments;
- iii. are "Ordres de Mission" if specific mention is made of the current session and if they are signed by the Minister concerned;
- iv. are Notes Verbales; and
- v. are scanned copies of the original credentials.

... An example of credentials is attached for your information.

... According to Article 27, the International Treaty is open for accession by all Members of FAO and any States that are not Members of FAO but are Members of the United Nations, or any of its specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency. A model instrument of accession is attached.

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 e-mail address.

The Secretariat of the International Treaty will publish additional information on logistics as it becomes available at: <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/1397828/>

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.



Kent Nnadozie
Secretary
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture

CREDENTIALS
(Sample)

[Name of Ministry]

THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF [STATE]

Considering that it is desirable that the Government of [State] will be represented at the First Special Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, to be convened virtually from 7 to 8 December 2021,

HAS DECIDED

To appoint a delegation which shall be entitled to take part in the above-mentioned meeting and to designate as:

Delegate

[Name] – [Position]

Alternate

[Name] – [Position]

Adviser(s)/ expert(s)

[Name] – [Position]

[Name] – [Position]

Signed and sealed at [place and date]

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS



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

MODEL INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION

The Government of [**name of country**] has the honour to refer to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which was approved by the FAO Conference at its Thirty-first Session in November 2001, and to inform the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that [**name of country**] hereby accedes to the aforesaid Treaty pursuant to its Article 27 and undertakes to abide by its provisions.

[Date]

[Signature by **one** of the following
national authorities]

- Head of State **or**
- Head of Government **or**
- Minister of Foreign Affairs **or**
- Minister of Department concerned

[SEAL]