



Our Ref.: C/X/AGD-729(a)

7 December 2015

Invitation to the 11th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

Rome, Italy, 4-8 April 2016

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has the honour to refer to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and to extend an invitation to attend the 11th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures. The Session will be held at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 4 to 8 April 2016.

The Session is being convened under the provisions of Article XI of the International Plant Protection Convention (1997) and is open to Non-Contracting Parties to the Convention as observers.

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

The Provisional Agenda is enclosed and other working documents will be made available on the International Phytosanitary Portal: www.ippc.int.

The Director-General would appreciate receiving as soon as possible the name(s) of the observer(s) designated to participate in this Session. Online registration will be accessible 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.

Representatives from international organizations designated to attend the meeting as observers are requested to forward their names, official titles and addresses by email to IPPC@fao.org, together with a recent passport-size photograph.

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.

This invitation is sent to addressees of FAO Members who are Non-Contracting Parties to the International Plant Protection Convention, 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 invitation is also being sent to heads of selected international organizations and other observers.