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24 January 2018

Invitation to the 13th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

Rome, Italy, 16-20 April 2018

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 13th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures. The Session will be held at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 16 to 20 April 2018.

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: <https://www.ippc.int/>

The Director-General would appreciate being informed as soon as possible of the name(s) of the representative(s) designated to attend the 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.

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 neighboring 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 enter 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.

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.