



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

6 December 2011

Invitation to the Seventh Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

Rome, Italy, 19 - 23 March 2012

Reply requested by 20 January 2012

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 Seventh Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures. The Session will be held at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 19 to 23 March 2012.

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 working documents will be available on the International Phytosanitary Portal: www.ippc.int. As part of the IPPC 60th Anniversary of the entry into force celebrations, a symposium will be held on Thursday 22 March 2012 – details will also be available on the IPP.

The Director-General would appreciate being informed by 20 January 2012 of the name(s) of the observer(s) designated to participate in the Seventh Session. Online registration is accessible through the password-protected FAO Permanent Representative Website (PRWS) at: <http://permrep.fao.org>. Instructions for online registration can be downloaded from the PRWS. Please note that online registration requires the uploading of a recent passport-size digital 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 up to three weeks may be required for an Italian visa to be issued. Exclusively those participants travelling 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 the Protocol Branch 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.