



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 all Contracting Parties to the Convention.

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

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

The Director-General would appreciate being informed by 20 January 2012 of the name(s) of the representative(s) designated to attend the Sixth Session. The name(s), official title(s) and address(es), including telephone, facsimile numbers and e-mail address(es) of the representative(s) designated to attend together with a recent passport-size digital photograph, should be forwarded to: IPPC@fao.org.

The credentials of the representative(s) as well as the names of alternate representatives and advisers should be submitted to the IPPC Secretariat. The credentials should be issued either by the Head of State or Government, the Minister for Foreign Affairs or Minister for Agriculture or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization. An example of credentials, issued by a Minister for Foreign Affairs, is attached for your information. If credentials are submitted in copy or by fax, the original should be submitted upon registration.

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The Honourable
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Singapore

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.