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منظمة
الغذية
والزراعة
للأمم
المتحدة

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,
00100 Rome, Italy

Cables:
FOODAGRI ROME

Telex: 625852 FAO I
610181 FAO I

Facsimile: +39 0657053152

Telephone: +39 0657051

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

Invitation to the First Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

Rome, Italy, 3 – 7 April 2006

Reply requested by 24 February 2006

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, new revised version), which came into force on 2 October 2005 and has the honour to extend an invitation to observers to attend the First Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM). The Session will be held at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 3 to 7 April 2006. The opening meeting will begin at 10.00 hours on Monday 3 April 2006.

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 and Spanish.

... The Provisional Agenda is enclosed. Working documents will be mailed under separate cover and will be available on the International Phytosanitary Portal: www.ippc.int.

The Director-General would appreciate receiving by 24 February 2006 the name(s) of the observers designated to participate in this Session. The name(s), official title(s) and address(es), including telephone and facsimile numbers and e-mail address(es), of the observer(s) designated to attend should be communicated to the Secretariat at the following address:

Secretariat of the IPPC
Plant Protection Service (AGPP)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome, Italy
Tel: (+39 06) 5705 4812
Fax: (+39 06) 5705 4819
e-mail: IPPC@fao.org

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Attention is drawn to the strict provisions in force regarding entry into Italy, including the refusal of entry to persons not having the required visas. Participants requiring entry visas must obtain these from the Italian Consulate or Diplomatic Mission in their country before leaving for Rome. It should be noted that, since Italy's adherence to the Schengen Agreement, the issuance of an Italian entry visa may require up to three weeks. Those participants travelling from a country where there is no Italian Consulate or Diplomatic Mission may obtain a visa on arrival in Rome provided that they advise the FAO Protocol Branch, Rome, by fax of their arrival. Participants must provide their full name, date and place of birth, nationality, passport number, flight number, date of arrival and their travel itinerary. This information must reach FAO at least three weeks before the arrival of participants to permit the Protocol Branch to request the issue of an entry visa at Rome airport or other point of entry into Italy. Participants failing to comply with the above will not be allowed by the Italian authorities to enter Italy.

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