|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy | Fax: +39 0657053152 | Tel: +39 0657051 | www.fao.org |

Our Ref.: C/X/AGP-729 20 December 2013

Invitation to the Ninth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

Rome, Italy, 31 March - 4 April 2014

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 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 Ninth Session
of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures. The Session will be held at FAO Headquarters in Rome from
31 March to 4 April 2014. The opening meeting will begin at 14.00 hours on Monday 31 March 2014.

 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. Other working documents will be made available on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) at: 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 Ninth 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.

 The credentials of the representative(s) as well as the names of alternate representatives and advisers should be submitted to the IPPC Secretariat:

 Secretariat of the IPPC

 Plant Production and Protection Division (AGPM)

 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla

 00153 Rome, Italy

 Tel: (+39 06) 5705 4812

 Fax: (+39 06) 5705 4819

 e-mail: IPPC@fao.org

 ./.

 The credentials should be issued either by the Head of State or Government, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, 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 by email or by fax, the original should be submitted upon registration.

 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. Only 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 IPPC Secretariat 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 the Rome airport. Participants failing to comply with the above will not be allowed to enter Italy by the Italian authorities.