



Invitation to the
Twelfth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Rome, Italy, 19 - 23 October 2009

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has the honour to extend an invitation to attend the Twelfth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture which will be held at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 19 to 23 October 2009. The opening meeting will begin at 10.00 hours on Monday 19 October 2009. The Session will be preceded by a day of regional consultations on 18 October 2009 and by a one-day Special Event on Policies and Arrangements for Access and Benefit-sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, on 17 October 2009.

The Session is being convened under the provisions of Article VI-1 of the FAO Constitution, and is open to all Members of the Commission and to observers. Membership of the Commission, which is open to all Members of the Organization, shall be composed of those Members which notify the Director-General in writing of their desire to become members. Membership of the Commission does not imply any financial burden on the Government. The Statutes of the Commission, and a list of its current membership, are attached. Expenses incurred in connection with attendance at the Session and travel of representatives and observers shall be borne by the Governments or organizations concerned. The Organization takes pleasure in inviting FAO Member Nations which are not Members of the Commission to apply for membership by returning the attached form duly completed and to consider this communication an invitation to attend the Session.

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

The Draft Provisional Agenda is attached. Other documents may be downloaded from the internet site: <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa> as they become available.

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This invitation is sent to addressees of invited FAO Members and Non-Members, 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.

The Director-General would appreciate receiving as soon as possible the names, official titles and addresses, including telephone, fax numbers and e-mail addresses of the representatives and observers designated to attend the meeting. In the designation of their delegation, Members may wish to take into consideration that, in line with the Multi-Year-Programme of Work agreed by the Commission at its last Session, the upcoming Session will focus on plant, animal, forest genetic resources and micro-organisms and invertebrates as well as on policies and arrangements for access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture. The information may be sent to the following address:

Secretariat
Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Natural Resources Management and Environment Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Via delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome
Italy
Tel: 39 06 5705 4981
Fax: 39 06 5705 5246
Email: cgrfa@fao.org

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 traveling 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.