



Our Ref.: C/X/NSP-729

## Invitation to the 17th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

Rome, Italy, 27-31 March 2023

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has the honour to refer to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and to extend an invitation to attend the 17th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures. The Session will be held at FAO headquarters in Rome from 27 to 31 March 2023.

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 held in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

The Provisional Agenda is enclosed and other working documents will be made available on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP): <https://www.ippc.int/>

It is intended to hold the Session in-person at FAO headquarters. However, should the conditions prevailing from the COVID-19 pandemic at the time of the Session prohibit physical meetings, the Session will be held virtually on the same dates. Participants are advised to take the aforementioned into account when making their travel arrangements. They will be informed by no later than 13 March 2023 if the meeting has to be held virtually.

The Director-General would appreciate being informed as soon as possible of the name(s), official titles, addresses and email accounts of the representative(s) designated to attend the Session. Online registration will be accessible through the password-protected area of the FAO Members Gateway at <http://www.fao.org/members-gateway/home/en/>. Instructions for online registration can be downloaded from the website. Online registration requires the uploading of a recent passport-size digital photograph.

./.

Credentials of the representative(s), as well as the names of alternate representatives and advisers attending the Session should be submitted to the IPPC Secretariat at the following email address: [IPPC@fao.org](mailto:IPPC@fao.org). Please note that credentials of Members and Associate Members of the Organization shall be valid if they:

- i. bear the signature of, or are signed on behalf of, one of the following authorities: Head of State, Head of Government, Minister for Foreign Affairs or Minister for the Department concerned;
- ii. are letters signed by an Ambassador, Chief of Mission or Chargé d'affaires, which contain a phrase confirming that they are acting upon instruction from their governments;
- iii. are "Ordres de Mission" if specific mention is made to the 17th Session of the CPM, and if they are signed by the Minister concerned;
- iv. are Notes Verbale; and
- v. are scanned copies of the original credentials.

... An example of credentials is attached for your information.

Before travelling, participants should check visa requirements with the competent Italian Consulate. Kindly note that visas can be requested in the country of origin (country in which the participant holds citizenship) or in the country of residence (country in which the participant resides at the time of visa application). Participants who do not have an Italian Consulate in their country may apply at the correspondent Italian Consulate in a neighbouring country, or at any other Consulate, which belongs to a Schengen or European country. Visa applications should be submitted to the Italian Consulate one month before arrival in Italy. It is the responsibility of participants to request their visa applications personally, arrange for an appointment and present all the necessary documentation to the Italian Consulate. Participants who do not need an entry visa to enter Italy should ensure that their passports are valid for at least six months after the intended date of departure from the Schengen area. In these cases, upon entering Italy, border authorities may require participants to show evidence for the reason and the duration of their stay in Italy. Participants with non-direct flights to Rome should check whether a transit visa is necessary to enter the transit area of international airports.