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FOOD AND
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Y LA ALIMENTACION

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19 December 2006

Invitation to the Second Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)

Rome, Italy, 26 – 30 March 2007

Reply requested by 26 February 2007

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 has the honour to extend an invitation to attend the Second Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures. The Session will be held at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 26 to 30 March 2007. The opening meeting will begin at 10.00 hours on Monday 26 March 2007.

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 and Spanish.

... The Provisional Agenda is enclosed. Working documents will be available on the International Phytosanitary Portal: www.ippc.int. Should hard copies be required please contact the IPPC Secretariat at: IPPC@fao.org.

The Director-General would appreciate receiving by 26 February 2007 the name(s) of a representative or representatives 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 representative(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
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Tel: (+39 06) 5705 4812
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The credentials of the representative(s) as well as the names of alternate representatives and advisers should be submitted to the Secretariat, if possible, not later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the meeting. The credentials should be issued either by the Head of State or Government, the Minister of Foreign Affairs or Minister of Agriculture or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization. If credentials are submitted in copy or by fax, the original should be submitted upon registration. An example of ... credentials, issued by a Minister of Foreign Affairs, is attached for your information. Please note that submission of credentials prior to the meeting would greatly facilitate the advance clearing process by the Secretariat.

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.

FAO is a smoke-free area. Smoking is not permitted inside any of the FAO buildings.