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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
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Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON MICROORGANISM AND INVERTEBRATE GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

First Session

Rome, 25–27 September 2024

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

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I. INTRODUCTION

Background

1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), at its Nineteenth Regular Session, established an Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Microorganism and Invertebrate Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group). The FAO Council endorsed the establishment of the Working Group at its 174th Session.
2. The First Session of the Working Group will be held at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. The session will open on **25 September 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** and will end in the afternoon of **27 September 2024**.

The session will be held in the **Mexico Room** (2nd floor, Building D).

The provisional agenda is available on the Commission's website at:
<https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/meetings/detail/first-session-migr/en>

Pre-session documents will be published on the website, as they become available.

II. VENUE

Access to FAO premises and collection of the building pass

3. Enter FAO premises by the main entrance on Viale Aventino and continue to the Reception Pavilion (Visitor's entrance), where you must first undergo a security check. Then, proceed to the security registration desk in order to collect your building pass. Make sure to bring a valid identification document (passport or other type of official identity card with a photograph). The building pass is valid for the duration of the meeting and must be always worn in the building.

Admission to FAO premises always requires the presentation of your building pass.

4. The Reception Pavilion is open from 08:30 to 16:45 hours.

Lost building passes should be reported without delay to the FAO Security Office.

III. ACCOMODATION

5. Participants are invited to make their own accommodation arrangements. A list of hotels in the vicinity of FAO is provided in Annex A to this information note.

A tourist tax is due in Rome, in addition to the room rate. The tourist tax may range from €3.00 to €7.00 depending on the type of accommodation.

IV. FACILITIES AND ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Banking and currency exchange facilities

6. *Banca Intesa San Paolo* (ground floor, Building B) is open Monday-Friday from 08:30 to 16:30, and *Banca Popolare di Sondrio* (ground floor, Building D) is open Monday-Friday from 08:30 to 16:30.

Cash dispensers (ATMs) are located by the entrance of both banks and by the Post Office (ground floor, Building B).

Catering facilities and shops

7. The **Food Court** is located on the 8th floor of Building B, it is open Monday-Friday from 11:45 to 14:00. It offers a variety of organic and international dishes.
8. The **Restaurant Buffet** is located on the 8th floor of Building C, it is open Monday-Friday from 12:00 to 14:30. The Restaurant offers an open buffet (fixed price €12).

9. The *Eden Caffé* is located on the ground floor of Building D, it is open Monday-Friday from 07:30 to 17:00. It offers an assortment of sandwiches, pizza, fresh salads, hot dishes, beverages, fruits and pastries.

10. Snacks and hot beverages are also available at the coffee bars:

- Polish Bar (ground floor, Building A) open from 07:30 to 17:00
- Uzbekistan Lounge (8th floor, Building C) open from 08:00 to 17:00
- Fountain Bar (8th floor, Building B) open from 08:00 to 15:00

ATM and credit cards are accepted in all locations.

Vending machines with assorted refreshments are located at various points throughout the premises, including the Second Floor of Building A and the Ground Floor of Building B.

11. The *Food for Thought bookshop* is located on the ground floor of Building B. It offers a selection of books in English, French and Spanish, gifts, stationary, greeting cards and guidebooks. It is open Monday-Friday from 08:30 to 17:00.

12. Located on the ground floor of Building B, the **FAO Shop** offers a selection of branded merchandise. It is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 to 16:30.

Electricity

13. Italy operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz. Power plugs and sockets (outlets) are type F and L, all with round pins. Plug type F is the standard European plug, with holes for 2 round pins. Plug type L is rectangular with space for 3 round pins in a row.

Internet access, Wi-Fi, Skype

14. Computers with Internet facilities are available in the FAO David Lubin Library in room A012 (ground floor, Building A), from Monday to Friday from 8:30 to 17:00.

15. FAO provides a free Wireless Internet Service (Wi-Fi) for meeting attendees. This service is available in all meeting rooms, the atrium and catering areas. Participants with laptops, smartphones or tablets with Wireless Local Area Network (LAN) capabilities, conforming to the 802.11b or 802.11g standards, may use this service.

16. The Estonian Contact Centre for Skype connections is available on the ground floor of Building B (B016), next to the Flag Hall.

Medical services

17. A medical unit is on duty Monday-Friday, 08:30 to 17:00 (**Building B, 1st floor, near main marble staircase**). For medical emergencies, dial **30** from any telephone in the building. For general information call ext. 53577 from in-house telephones (+39 06 57053577 from outside FAO headquarters).

Emergency telephone numbers in Rome

18. In case of an emergency outside FAO headquarters, **112** is the European emergency number you can dial free of charge from fixed and mobile phones anywhere in the E.U. It will get you through to the emergency services such as police, fire brigades and ambulances.

Alongside 112, the national emergency numbers still in use are:

- Medical Emergency/Ambulance: 118
- City Physician on Call (Medico di Guardia): +39 06 58201030

Security

19. FAO Security Office operates from 07:30 to 17:30. To contact the Security Guards at the Entrance Reception on the ground floor, building A, dial ext. 53145 (+39 06 57053145 from outside FAO headquarters). In case of an emergency, you can dial **35** from any telephone in the building.

Lost & Found

20. For lost and found property, please contact the FAO Security at the Entrance Reception on the ground floor, Building A.

Transportation

22. Public transportation in Rome is managed by the Azienda per i Trasporti Autoferrotranviari del Comune di Roma (ATAC). Tickets for public transport should be purchased in advance and are available from self-service machines and ticket offices in some underground stations, tobacco shops (Tabaccheria) and newspaper kiosks. Ticket costs are:

- BIT (*biglietto integrato a tempo*) one-way 100-minute integrated ticket for one metro ride and unlimited bus/tram from the time of validation **€1.50**
- MetroBus 24-hour: **€7.00**
- MetroBus 48-hours: **€12.50**
- MetroBus 72-hour: **€18.00**
- CIS (*carta integrata settimanale*) 7-days integrated ticket **€24.00**

23. If you have a contactless credit, debit or prepaid card (recognizable by the contactless symbol), you may use it as ticket by placing it near one of the readers with the Tap & Go ® logo on all Atac surface lines including Roma Tpl buses, on the turnstiles of all stations of lines A, B/B1, C and of the Roma-Lido, Roma-Viterbo and Termini-Centocelle railways, as well as on board of all vehicles of the Termini-Centocelle line. Tap & Go ® also works with digital cards on NFC-enabled devices such as smartphones and smartwatches.

24. There are three main underground metro lines in Rome: Line A, Line B/B1 and Line C. The stations are marked by a red and white “M” sign. Termini Station is the only hub of the Rome Metro where lines A and B intersect.

The Metro stop for FAO is “Circo Massimo” (Line B): three stops from Termini Station (direction Laurentina).

For a map of local train and subway lines see [Metro di Roma](#).

25. For further information on the routes and schedules of public transportation, please consult ATAC’s website <https://www.atac.roma.it/en/home>

Connections to/from Fiumicino Airport:

Rail

- **Leonardo Express** non-stop service to/from Termini (central station) with departures every 15 minutes and travel time of approximately 32 minutes. Daily departures from Termini from 05:20 through 22:35, and from Fiumicino Airport from 06:08 through 23:23. The cost of the ticket is €14 (one-way only).
- **FL1 train (Direction Fara S./Poggio M./Orte)** to/from other train stations in Rome, with departures from Fiumicino Airport every 15 minutes on weekdays and every 30 minutes on weekends and holidays, from 05:57 through 23:27. The cost of the ticket is € 8 (one-way). Travel time is about 30 minutes to reach Ostiense Station (close to FAO), from there use the underground tunnel to Piramide Station and take Metro Line B (direction Rebibbia), one stop to Circo Massimo.

Buses

- For further information on bus lines to/from Fiumicino International Airport and Rome, including to Stazione Ostiense, please visit: <http://www.adr.it/pax-fco-autobus>

Connections to/from Ciampino Airport:

- Various operators offer services from/to Ciampino Airport to/from Termini Railway Station. Tickets may be purchased online. For more information, visit: <https://www.adr.it/web/aeroporti-di-roma-en/pax-cia-bus>
- **Shuttle services** are available between Ciampino Airport and Termini Railway Station. From Termini Station take Metro Line B (direction Laurentina) three stops to Circo Massimo.

Taxis

26. Participants are advised to use licensed taxis with meters. Taxis from the City of Rome are white and can be recognized by the sign “TAXI” on the car top and must have an identifying licence number on the doors, the back and inside the car.

27. Surcharge fares may apply for baggage, night runs and on Sundays and holidays.

Fixed fares, including all supplements, are set for journeys to/from the major airports in Rome:

- to/from Fiumicino Airport and Rome City Center: € 50.00
- to/from Fiumicino Airport and Ciampino Airport: € 52.00
- to/from Fiumicino Airport and Tiburtina Station: € 57.00
- to/from Fiumicino Airport and Ostiense Station: € 47.00
- to/from Ciampino Airport and Rome City Center: €31.00
- to/from Ciampino Airport and Tiburtina Station: € 36.00
- to/fFrom Ciampino Airport and Ostiense Station: € 31.00

There are several taxi companies in Rome: Radiotaxi: +39 06-3570, La Capitale Raio Taxi 06-4994, Samarcanda 06-5551, Pronto Taxi 06-6645.

The FAO Security desk at the entrance reception (ground floor, Building A) can assist in requesting a taxi.

Telephone

28. The FAO switchboard operator is +39 06 57051. All extensions can be reached by dialling 06 570 followed by the 5-digit extension required. For in-house calls you may dial the extension only. To reach a number in Rome, first dial 0 and then digit 06.

Contact information: Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Email: cgrfa@fao.org
Telephone: +39 06 570-54740

Weather

29. July is a summer month in Rome, with high temperatures and low rainfall. Temperatures may exceed 30°C (86°F) during the day.

FAO is a smoke-free area.

Smoking is not permitted inside any of the FAO buildings.

Annex A

HOTELS NEAR FAO

<p>HOTEL S. PRISCA Largo Manlio Gelsomini, 25 00153 Rome Tel. +39 06 5741917 E-mail: hsprisca@hotelsantaprisca.it www.hotelsantaprisca.it</p>	<p>HOTEL SOURIRE Via delle Terme Deciane, 3 00153 Rome Tel. +39 06 5750958 E-mail: info@sourirehotel.it booking@sourirehotel.it www.sourirehotel.it</p>
<p>HOTEL VILLA SAN PIO Via Santa Melania, 19 00153 Rome Tel. +39 06 570057 E-mail: info@aventinohotels.com www.aventinohotels.com</p>	<p>HOTEL SAN ANSELMO Piazza Sant'Anselmo, 2 00153 Rome Tel. +39 06 570057 E-mail: info@aventinohotels.com www.aventinohotels.com</p>
<p>HOTEL AVENTINO Via San Domenico, 10 00153 Rome Tel. +39 06 570057 E-mail: info@aventinohotels.com www.aventinohotels.com</p>	<p>HOTEL MERCURE ROMA DELTA COLOSSEO Via Labicana, 144 00184 Rome Tel. +39 06 770021 E-mail: H2909@accor.com www.accorhotels.com</p>
<p>HOTEL LANCELOT Via Capo d'Africa, 47 00184 Rome Tel. +39 06 70450615 Whatsapp: +39 3938871743 E-mail: info@lancelothotel.com www.lancelothotel.com</p>	<p>AVENTINO GUEST HOUSE Viale Aventino, 98 00153 Rome Tel. +39 331 4675450 E-mail: info@aventinoguesthouse.com www.aventinoguesthouse.com</p>
<p>RELAIS CIRCO MASSIMO Via dell'Ara di Conso, 4 00153 Rome Tel. +39 32000819862 E-mail: info@relaiscircomassimo.it www.relaiscircomassimo.it</p>	<p>CIRCUS MAXIMUS B&B Viale Aventino, 61 00153 Rome Tel. +39 328 8965367 E-mail: info@bbcircusmaximus.it www.bbcircusmaximus.it</p>
<p>B&B SAN SABA Via di San Saba, 22 00153 Rome Tel. +39 3755417904 E-mail: info@beplace.eu www.beplace.eu</p>	<p>THE CORNER TOWNHOUSE Viale Aventino, 121 00153 Rome Tel. +39 06 87811930 E-mail: info@thecorner-roma.com www.thecorner-roma.com</p>
<p>HOTEL MAJOR AVENTINUS Via di Sant'Anselmo, 10 00153 Rome Tel. +39 06 5743550 E-mail: info@hotelmajoraventinus.com www.hotelmajoraventinus.com</p>	<p>VECCHIA ROMA RESORT Via della Fonte di Fauno, 4 00153 Rome Tel. +39 3356058350 E-mail: info@vecchiaromaresort.it www.vecchiaromaresort.it</p>
<p>VILLA ROSA CONVENT B&B (Dominican Sisters) Via delle Terme Deciane, 5 00153 Rome Tel. +39 06 5717091 E-mail: VillaRosaRome@gmail.com http://dominicansisters.wixsite.com/villarosaconventrome</p>	<p>HOTEL ABITART Via Pellegrino Matteucci 10/20 00154 Rome Tel. +39 064549191 E-mail: info@abitarthotel.com https://www.abitarthotel.com/</p>