



Our Ref.: C/OCB-806(Sp1)

04.10.2021

Invitation to the First Special Session of the Governing Body of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

7 and 8 December 2021

Reply requested by 5 November 2021

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has the honour to extend an invitation to attend the First Special Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Session will be held on 7 and 8 December 2021. The meeting will begin at 12.00 hours (Central European Time, CET, UTC+1) on Tuesday, 7 December 2021.

The Governing Body is convened under the provisions of Article 19 of the International Treaty and is open to all Contracting Parties to the International Treaty and to observers. The Special Session will be held virtually, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Bureau of the Ninth Session of the Governing Body.

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

... The Provisional Agenda is enclosed, and other working documents will be made available on the International Treaty Website: <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/1397828/>

The Director-General would appreciate being informed, as early as possible, of the names, official titles, addresses and *email accounts* of representatives designated to participate in the Session. Online registration for countries is available through the password-protected FAO Members Gateway: <http://www.fao.org/members-gateway/en/>. Instructions for online registration can be downloaded from the Gateway. Online registration requires the insertion of an email account in the form for accreditation. The link to access the virtual meeting will be made available upon receipt of the above information and the same email address will have to be inserted in the Zoom registration form to grant representatives access to the virtual meeting platform.

Observers, including international organizations, designated to attend the meeting are requested to forward their names, official titles and addresses by e-mail to: [PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org](mailto:PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org)

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Each Contracting Party is asked to kindly submit the credentials of delegate(s), alternate(s) and expert(s) and adviser(s) designated to attend the Session to the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, insofar as possible, not later than 5 November 2021. The credentials for national delegations should indicate which member is the delegate, the alternate and adviser(s) and should be submitted to the International Treaty Secretariat by e-mail to the following address:

**Mr Kent Nnadozie**

Secretary

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla

00153 Rome Italy

E-mail: [PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org](mailto:PGRFA-Treaty@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 of the current session and if they are signed by the Minister concerned;
- iv. are Notes Verbales; and
- v. are scanned copies of the original credentials.

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

According to Article 27, the International Treaty is opened for accession by all Members of FAO and any States that are not Members of FAO but are Members of the United Nations, or any of its specialized agencies or the ... International Atomic Energy. A model instrument of accession is attached.

Any queries or requests for information should also be addressed to the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at the above e-mail address.