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15 January 2020

Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Second Meeting of the Group of National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture

Rome, Italy, 21 – 23 April 2020

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has the honour to extend an invitation to attend the Second Meeting of the Group of National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture which will be held at FAO headquarters in Rome from 21 to 23 April 2020.

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (The Commission), at its Seventeenth Regular Session, held from 18 to 22 February 2019, agreed that the report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*,¹ along with developments in other fora that also point to declines in biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture, calls for a timely and clear cross-sectoral follow-up.² The Commission requested the Secretariat to convene an open-ended meeting of the Group of National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture to review and, as appropriate, revise an updated version of the document "*Biodiversity for food and agriculture – revised draft needs and possible actions*" for consideration by the Commission at its forthcoming Eighteenth Session "with the motivation to have it adopted as a Global Plan of Action by the FAO Conference at its Forty-second Session." The First Meeting of the Group of National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, attended by three National Coordinators nominated by each region, was held in Rome in June 2018 during which a previous version of the document was reviewed and revised.

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

As previously mentioned, the Second Meeting will be "open ended" to ensure broad participation of Members and relevant stakeholders in the process. In addition to the National Focal Points nominated by the regions, the meeting will be open to delegations from all Commission Members and observers, including representatives from international organizations.

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¹ FAO. 2019. *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, J. Bélanger & D. Pilling (eds.). FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Assessments. Rome. 572 pp. (<http://www.fao.org/3/CA3129EN/CA3129EN.pdf>)

² CGRFA-17/19/Report.

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.

Limited funds are available to support the participation of delegates from developing countries, in particular least-developed countries, upon request. Requests for funding should be addressed to the Commission Secretariat (cgrfa@fao.org) by 15 February 2020 at the latest.

... The Provisional Agenda is attached. Other documents may be downloaded, as they become available, from the Commission's website:

<http://www.fao.org/cgrfa/meetings/nfpbfa/en/>

Members of the Commission and Members and Associate Members that are not members of the Commission are kindly invited to inform the Director-General, as early as possible, of the names, official titles and addresses, including telephone, fax numbers and e-mail addresses, of their representatives who will attend the meeting. Online registration is available through the password-protected FAO Members Gateway at:

<http://www.fao.org/members-gateway/en/>

Instructions for online registration can be downloaded from this site. Please note that online registration requires the uploading of a recent passport-size digital photograph.

Representatives from international organizations are requested to forward their names, official titles and addresses by email to cgrfa@fao.org, together with a recent passport-size digital photograph.

Before travelling, participants should check with the competent Italian Consulate if they need a visa to enter Italy. 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). Those participants who do not have an Italian Consulate in their countries, may apply at the corresponding 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 three months after the intended date of departure from the Schengen area. In these cases, upon entering Italy, border authorities may require the 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.