



Our Ref.: C/X/NSA-712

Invitation to the 12th Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group
on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Rome, Italy, 18 – 20 January 2023

Reply requested by 15 December 2022

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has the honour to extend an invitation to attend the 12th Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) which will be held at FAO headquarters in Rome from 18 to 20 January 2023. The meeting will open on Wednesday 18 January 2023 at 10:00 hours.

The Session is being convened under the Regular Programme of the Organization. It will be held in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

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 15 December 2022 if the meeting has to be held virtually.

The Working Group was established by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) at its 7th Session in May 1997. The Statutes of the Working Group are available on the Commission's website at: <https://www.fao.org/3/I8944EN/i8944en.pdf>

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The Members of the Working Group and their Alternates, as elected by the 18th Regular Session of the Commission in October 2021, are as follows:

- Africa: Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Tunisia
First Alternate: Uganda
Second Alternate: Cameroon
- Asia: China, India, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea
First Alternate: Bangladesh
Second Alternate: Thailand
- Europe: Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Switzerland
First Alternate: France
Second Alternate: Slovenia
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Peru, Uruguay
First Alternate: Chile
Second Alternate: Colombia
- Near East: Iraq, Jordan, Sudan, Yemen
First Alternate: Saudi Arabia
Second Alternate: Syrian Arab Republic
- North America: Canada, United States of America
- Southwest Pacific: Fiji, Tonga
First Alternate: Vanuatu
Second Alternate: Samoa

According to the Statutes of the Working Group, Alternates replace, in the order in which they appear on the above list, any Member who has resigned and informed the Secretariat accordingly. Members are requested to confirm to the Secretariat in writing their participation or non-participation in the Working Group meeting. If a Member of the Working Group is not able to attend the meeting, and informs the Secretariat accordingly, the Member shall be replaced in a timely manner by one of the elected Alternates from the same region. In case a Member of the Working Group does not attend the meeting without having informed the Secretariat prior to the meeting, the Working Group, in consultation with the region, may replace this Member, on an ad hoc basis, by a Member of the Commission from the same region that is present at the meeting.

Members of the Commission that are not Members of the Working Group may participate, upon request to the Commission Secretariat, in the work of the Working Group in an observer capacity. The Working Group, or the Bureau on behalf of the Working Group, may invite experts, as well as representatives of specialized international organizations, to attend its meetings as observers.

In October 2021, the Commission decided that the Working Group should meet prior to the next Regular Session of the Commission to review progress made in the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* (<https://www.fao.org/3/a1404e/a1404e.pdf>). The Commission also requested the Working Group to explore cross-sectoral issues, such as access and benefit-sharing and “digital sequence information”, and the role of genetic resources in mitigating of and adaptation to climate change; micro-organisms relevant to ruminant digestion as well as to review the Commission’s Strategic Plan.

The Provisional Agenda is attached. All other meeting and background documents may be downloaded, as they become available, from the website of the Working Group Secretariat: <https://www.fao.org/animal-genetics/events/events-detail/en/c/1603813/>

Members of the Commission and Members and Associate Members that are not Members of the Commission are kindly invited to inform the Director-General, by 15 December 2022, of the names, official titles, addresses and *email accounts* of representatives designated to participate in the 12th Session. Online registration for participation in person, at FAO headquarters, requires the uploading of a recent passport-size digital photograph. Online registration for countries is available through the password-protected FAO Members Gateway at: <http://www.fao.org/members-gateway/en/>.

Representatives from international organizations designated to attend the meeting as observers are requested to forward their names, official titles and addresses by email to: ITWG-AnGR@fao.org, together with a recent passport-size digital photograph.

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.