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5.5.2021

Invitation to the 10th Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on
Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

22-24 June 2021

Reply requested by 15 May 2021

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has the honour to announce that the 10th Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) will be held virtually from 22 to 24 June 2021. The meeting will begin at 10.00 hours (Central European Summer Time (CEST), UTC+2) on Tuesday, 22 June 2021.

The Session is being convened under the Regular Programme of the Organization. It will take place as a virtual meeting and will be conducted in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Procedures applicable to this virtual meeting of the Working Group will be made available in due time.

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

<http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/seeds-pgr/itwg/10th/en/>

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture established the Working Group at its 7th Session in May 1997. The Statutes of the Working Group are available on the Commission's website at:

<http://www.fao.org/cgrfa/overview/subsidiary-bodies/sectoral-working-groups/en/>

The Members of the Working Group and their Alternates, as elected by the 17th Regular Session of the Commission in February 2019, are as follows:

Africa: Algeria, Cameroon, Eritrea, Senegal, Zambia

First Alternate: Malawi

Second Alternate: Morocco

Asia: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand

First Alternate: Malaysia

Second Alternate: Bhutan

Europe: France, Georgia, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Switzerland

First Alternate: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Second Alternate: Sweden

Latin America and the Caribbean: Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Jamaica, Peru

First Alternate: Costa Rica

Second Alternate: Cuba

Near East: Egypt, Kuwait, Sudan, Yemen

First Alternate: Saudi Arabia

Second Alternate: United Arab Emirates

North America: Canada, United States of America

Southwest Pacific: Cook Islands, Samoa

First Alternate: Tonga

Second Alternate: Fiji

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, one of the elected Alternates from the same region shall replace the Member in a timely manner. Where 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.

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

The Commission, at its 17th Regular Session, requested the Working Group to meet before the next regular Session of the Commission (<http://www.fao.org/3/mz618en/mz618en.pdf>). The Working Group will review (i) progress in the implementation of the *Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2624e/i2624e00.htm>); (ii) the status and trends of seed policies; (iii) the preparation of the *Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*; and (iv) cross-sectoral issues relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources, including access and benefit-sharing, “digital sequence information”, the role of genetic resources in mitigating of and adaptation to climate change and biotechnologies, as they are relevant to the plant sector. The Working Group will also discuss options for the re-organization of the Commission’s future intersessional work.

Members of the Working Group and Members of the Commission that are not Members of the Working Group are kindly invited to inform the Director-General by 15 May 2021 of the names, official titles and addresses and *email accounts* of the representatives designated to participate in the Tenth Session. Online registration for FAO Members 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. Online registration requires the insertion of respective contact information and email account in the form for accreditation. It is necessary to provide a unique email address for each member of the delegation. Upon receipt of the above information, representatives will automatically be registered for the Zoom virtual meeting by the Secretariat. Individualized links for representatives to access to the virtual meeting platform will be sent to the email addresses provided during the online registration in due time prior to the meeting.

Representatives from international organizations designated to attend the meeting as observers are requested to forward their organizational and personal names, official titles, addresses and *email accounts* by email to: ITWG-PGRFA@fao.org. A unique email address should be provided for each representative. Upon receipt of the official nomination, representatives will automatically be registered for the Zoom virtual meeting by the Secretariat. Individualized links for representatives from international organizations to access the virtual meeting platform will be sent to the email addresses provided during the online registration in due time prior to the meeting.