



Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Invitation to the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on
Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

1 – 3 June 2021

Reply requested by 15 April 2021

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has the honour to announce that the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) will be held virtually from 1 to 3 June 2021.

The Session is being convened under the Regular Programme of the Organization.

The Working Group was established by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) at its Fifteenth Regular Session in January 2015. The Statutes of the Working Group are available on the Commission's website at: <http://www.fao.org/3/I8945EN/i8945en.pdf>. The Members and Alternates of the Working Group, as elected by the Seventeenth Regular Session of the Commission, are as follows:

- Africa: Burkina Faso, Chad, Morocco, South Africa, Uganda
First Alternate: Angola
Second Alternate: Mauritania
- Asia: India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines
First Alternate: Thailand
Second Alternate: Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Europe: Bosnia Herzegovina, Czechia, France, Germany, Norway
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Panama, Peru,
First Alternate: Jamaica
Second Alternate: Paraguay
- Near East: Egypt, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic
First Alternate: Kuwait
Second Alternate: Iraq
- North America: Canada, United States of America
- Southwest Pacific: Palau, Solomon Islands
First Alternate: Tonga
Second Alternate: Marshall Islands

The Third Session will take place as a virtual meeting and will be conducted in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Procedures applicable to the virtual meeting of the Working Group will be made available in due time.

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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. 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.

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.

The Seventeenth Regular Session of the Commission requested FAO to finalize, launch and widely distribute the report on *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and its in-brief version in 2019. The Commission also requested FAO to prepare a draft Global Plan of Action for Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for consideration by the Working Group at its Third Session. The Commission further requested the Working Group to consider cross-sectoral issues, including access to aquatic genetic resources and the sharing of benefits derived from their utilization, “digital sequence information” on aquatic genetic resources, and the role of aquatic genetic resources in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, as they are relevant to the subsector. Finally, the Commission requested the Working Group to consider a paper on options for the organization of the Commission's future intersessional work.

The Provisional Agenda is attached. All meeting and background documents may be downloaded, as they become available, from the Working Group's dedicated website:

<http://www.fao.org/aquatic-genetic-resources/activities/itwg/en/>

The Director-General would appreciate receiving, by 15 April 2021, the names, official titles, addresses and email accounts of representatives designated to participate in the Third 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 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 are requested to forward their names, official titles, addresses and email accounts by email to ITWG-AQGR@fao.org. For each representative a unique email address should be provided. 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 address provided to the Secretariat in due time prior to the meeting.