

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL SPS COMMITTEE

Statement by Madagascar at the Meeting Held on 17-18 March 2010

The following communication, received on 17 March 2010, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Madagascar.

1. In the context of the Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-setting Organizations (PANSPSO) project, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is seeking to facilitate the participation of all member States in all activities carried out by the organizations concerned with SPS measures. In December 2009, it brought together several Members in Zambia and invited them to set up national SPS committees.

2. In order to implement the decision made at the meeting, a national workshop was organized on 12 March 2010 in Madagascar with a view to establishing the committee. The workshop was attended by the representatives of the Ministries responsible for SPS matters, namely the technical Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock, Human Health and Fisheries, as well as the other stakeholders such as the representative of the Ministry of Trade, the Chairperson of the National Codex Alimentarius Committee, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) focal point, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) focal point, research centres, the university, analytical laboratories, the representatives of exporters of agricultural products and processed meat products, honey producers, and farmers' organizations.

3. It was decided that each stakeholder would be represented on the Committee and that its officers would comprise the representatives of the technical Ministries, the Ministry of Trade, the Ministry of Finance (Customs) and the consortium of laboratories. An action plan is to be drawn up, validated by all members and submitted for approval by the competent authorities to formalize the Committee by means of an interministerial order.

Area of low prevalence

4. The presence of the bee disease Varroasis in Madagascar has been officially declared to the OIE by the Directorate of Veterinary Services. The disease has been detected and identified in one of the highland regions, measures have been taken and surveys are being carried out in the other honey-producing regions.
