



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**WORKSHOP ON TRANSPARENCY AND COORDINATION
MONDAY, 15 JULY – WEDNESDAY, 17 JULY 2019
WTO, CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD, GENEVA**

PROGRAMME

Note by the Secretariat¹

1. The SPS Committee decided that the July SPS thematic workshop would focus on transparency and coordination. This first draft of the programme is circulated for discussion at the 2019 March SPS Committee meetings. Members are invited to submit comments on this draft programme and suggested speakers by 3 May 2019. The Secretariat will circulate a revised version of the programme after taking into consideration comments received.

¹ This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 15 JULY 2019**Opening remarks by the Chairperson of the SPS Committee**

Overview of the workshop and its objectives

Session 1: Introduction to the Legal Framework**Speaker(s):** WTO Secretariat

- *Overview of the transparency provisions in the SPS Agreement and of relevant Committee/Ministerial Decisions*

Session 2: SPS/TBT Provisions

- *Report on discussions at the June TBT Committee Thematic Session on Transparency*

Speaker(s): WTO Secretariat**Session 3: Implementation of the transparency provisions: Members' experience with SPS/TBT notifications****Speaker(s):** WTO Secretariat**13:00–15:00 Lunch break****Session 4: WTO tools and sources of SPS information****Speaker(s):** WTO Secretariat*Documents Online; ePing; SPS IMS; updated Practical Manual for SPS NNAs and NEPs***Session 5: State of Play of the new IT project on SPS/TBT STCs online submission****Speaker(s):** WTO Secretariat**Session 6: Sharing of Members' experiences: Transparency-related coordination**

- *Domestic coordination to ensure notification of all SPS regulations*
- *Experiences in using established SPS information exchange mechanisms (ePing and/or other similar systems)*

Speaker(s): TBC

TUESDAY, 16 JULY 2019**Opening remarks****SHARING OF NATIONAL EXPERIENCES WITH COORDINATION****Session 7: Establishing national SPS coordination mechanisms: Lessons learnt****Speaker(s):** TBC**Session 8: National SPS coordination mechanisms: What role for the private sector?****Speaker(s):** TBC**Session 9: Role of national SPS coordination mechanisms in communication/advocacy at the national level****Speaker(s):** TBC**Session 10: The procedures for developing national SPS strategies and positions in regional and international organizations****Speaker(s):** TBC**13:00–15:00****Lunch break****SHARING OF REGIONAL INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT NATIONAL COORDINATION****Session 11: Regional/International initiatives to support national coordination****Speaker(s):** TBC (African Union, OIRSA, ECOWAS, IICA, others)**WEDNESDAY, 17 JULY 2019****Session 12: Briefing on the Informal Meeting of the SPS Committee****Speaker(s):** WTO Secretariat**INFORMAL MEETING OF THE SPS COMMITTEE****13:30–15:00****Lunch break****Session 13: Practical session on the use of the SPS online tools****Speaker(s):** WTO Secretariat**Target group: transparency experts**