

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR WORKSHOP ON TRANSPARENCY

Note by the Secretariat¹

1. The Secretariat of the World Trade Organization is organizing a special workshop on the transparency provisions of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on Monday, 15 October 2012 and in the morning of Tuesday, 16 October 2012. The workshop will be followed by informal and formal meetings of the SPS Committee, lasting until Friday, 19 October 2012. Representatives of Members, Observers and Observer Organizations are all invited to participate in the transparency workshop as well as the subsequent meeting of the Committee.
2. Document G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.2 contains detailed information on the workshop, the link to the application form as well as the requirements and the deadline for submission of applications. More than 130 applications were received by the deadline of 15 June 2012. The WTO, with the financial assistance of the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund (DDAGTF), will sponsor the participation of approximately 50 government officials from developing country Members and Observers. The Secretariat will select participants to be sponsored from applications received from capital-based officials holding direct responsibilities in the work of either the SPS enquiry point or the national notification authority. Exceptions will be made for candidates from WTO Members that have not yet designated their SPS enquiry point and/or the national notification authority, as well as for WTO Observers, on the basis of evidence that the candidate has, or will have, responsibilities related to SPS notifications.
3. The workshop is intended to be a highly interactive, "hands-on" training event focussing in particular on the use of the SPS Information Management System (SPS-IMS) and on the system for the on-line submission of SPS notifications (SPS-NSS).
4. The following is the proposed programme of the workshop. Delegations wishing to provide any specific comments regarding this programme should submit them to the WTO (email: javier.ocampo@wto.org) by 23 July 2012. For further enquiries about the workshop, please contact Mr. Javier Ocampo (tel: +41 22 739 5763; fax: +41 22 739-5760, e-mail: javier.ocampo@wto.org).

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 or obligations under the WTO.

**WORKSHOP ON TRANSPARENCY
DRAFT PROGRAMME**

Monday, 15 October 2012 (Council Room)

10.00 – 10.15 **Opening remarks by Maria Albarece, Chair of the SPS Committee**

10.15 – 10.45 **Session I: Introduction**

Speakers: Gretchen Stanton, Javier Ocampo, WTO Secretariat

- *Overview of transparency provisions in the SPS Agreement and of relevant Committee/Ministerial Decisions*
- *How does the SPS IMS work?(presentation)*

11.00 – 13.00 **Session II: Practical session on the use of the SPS IMS**

Participants will break into three groups (i) English speakers, (ii) French speakers and (iii) Spanish speakers.

- *Who could/should track incoming notifications?*
- *How could notifications of interest be identified and shared with stakeholders?*
- *How could comments on incoming notifications be collected and shared with notifying Member?*
- *The SPS IMS and resolving trade concerns*
- *How does the SPS IMS work?(presentation and exercise)*

13.00 – 15.00 Lunch break

15.00 – 17.00 **Session III: Codex, OIE and IPPC online tools**

15.00 – 15.30 TBC - (Codex)

15.30 – 16.00 TBC - (OIE)

16.00 – 16.30 TBC - (IPPC)

Speaker: Codex, OIE and IPPC representatives

16.30 – 17.00 Q&A

17.00 – 17.30 **Session IV: The integrated Trade Intelligence Portal (I-TIP)**

What is I-TIP and its relationship with the SPS IMS

Speaker: TBC, WTO Secretariat

17.30 – 18.00 **Wrap up session first day**

Tuesday, 16 October 2012 (Council Room)

10.00 – 10.15

Session V: Overview of the SPS NSS

- *Presentation of Members' level of implementation of transparency provisions and decisions (G/SPS/GEN/804/Rev.5)*
- *How does the on-line submission facility work?*

10.30 – 12.00

Session VI: Practical session on how to prepare notifications (SPS NSS)

Participants will break into three groups (i) English speakers, (ii) French speakers and (iii) Spanish speakers.

- *What should be notified and when?*
- *Who should notify?*
- *What format should be used?*
- *Who could be consulted with questions during preparations?*
- *To whom should notifications be sent?*
- *SPS NSS hands-on exercise*

12.00 – 12.30

Session VII: Sharing of national experiences in the use of WTO online tools

Speakers: TBC (one representative from Africa and one from Latin America)

12.30 – 12.45

Session VIII: Identification of follow-up actions and evaluation of workshop

Facilitators: Gretchen Stanton, Javier Ocampo, WTO Secretariat

12.45 – 13.00

Closing remarks by Maria Albarece, Chair of the SPS Committee
