

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

APPLICANTS FOR OBSERVER STATUS

Note by the Secretariat¹

Addendum

1. An application for observer status in the SPS Committee was received on 22 November 2009 from the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD). Information provided by the CEN-SAD is summarized below.

1. Membership (28)

Benin	Egypt	Liberia	Sao Tome and Principe
Burkina Faso	Eritrea	Libya	Senegal
Central African Republic	Gambia	Mali	Sierra Leone
Chad	Ghana	Mauritania	Somalia
Comoros	Guinea	Morocco	Sudan
Côte d'Ivoire	Guinea-Bissau	Niger	Togo
Djibouti	Kenya	Nigeria	Tunisia

2. Mandate, scope and area of work

2. The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) was established on 4 February 1998 in Tripoli, Libya. The CEN-SAD became a Regional Economic Community during the 36th Ordinary Session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held in Lome, Togo, from 4 to 12 July 2000.

3. The CEN-SAD has partnership agreements with many regional and international organizations with the aim of promoting common and shared action in political, cultural, economic and social fields. One of its objectives is the removal of all restrictions to the integration of its member States through the adoption of measures to ensure:

- Free trade and movement of goods, commodities and services from member States;
- free movement of persons, capital and interests of nationals of members States;
- right of establishment, ownership and exercise of economic activity.

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.

4. The CEN-SAD became an observer in the United Nations General Assembly in 2000 (Resolution A/RES/56/92). It does not have observer status in any WTO body or in the CODEX, OIE or IPPC.

3. Contribution to the work of the SPS Committee

5. In order to address the challenges of rural development, food security, and integration in terms of trade in agricultural products, in June 2007 the Community adopted a rural development and natural resource management strategy built on four cornerstones: (i) support for the development of sustainable, diversified and regionally integrated agriculture; (ii) promotion of integrated management of water resources; (iii) consolidation of desertification control actions; and (iv) establishment of a partnership and financing platform.

6. As regards the first cornerstone relating to food security and the alleviation of poverty, actions directed at building knowledge and fostering investment in agriculture have been identified and are currently being implemented. These include:

- The Regional Food Security Programme, involving 12 member States, which aims to increase food security among vulnerable populations and build up the capacity of the States concerned to effectively implement and promote sanitary and phytosanitary standards in order to protect human health and facilitate trade in food products;
- the Regional Programme for the control of transboundary animal diseases in the CEN-SAD area, which seeks to reduce the threats posed by the principal diseases, in order to improve livestock productivity, the safety of food products of animal origin and access for this subsector to intra- and extra-CEN-SAD and international agricultural markets;
- capacity building for member States to ensure effective participation in the promotion of sanitary and phytosanitary standards, which is being provided in collaboration with the Commission of the African Union (through the Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources and the Phytosanitary Council).

4. Reciprocity

7. The WTO Secretariat has not requested observer status in the CEN-SAD. The CEN-SAD General Secretariat is willing to provide the WTO with all records of relevant meetings and other SPS-related documents, upon request.
