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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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DECLARATION OF AREAS FREE FROM LARGE AVOCADO SEED WEEVILS (*HEILIPUS LAURI*), SMALL AVOCADO SEED WEEVILS (*CONOTRACHELUS AGUACATAE* AND *C. PERSEAE*) AND AVOCADO SEED MOTHS (*STENOMA CATENIFER*)

COMMUNICATION FROM MEXICO

The following communication, dated 8 May 2015, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mexico.

1. Pursuant to Article 7 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and paragraph 3(b) of Annex B thereto, Mexico hereby advises WTO Members of the publication in the Mexican Official Journal on 2 April 2015 of the Decision declaring the municipality of Leonardo Bravo and the "Puente de la Dama" agroecological zone in the municipality of General Heliodoro Castillo, State of Guerrero, to be areas free from the large avocado seed weevil (*Heilipus lauri*), the small avocado seed weevil (*Conotrachelus aguacatae* and *C. perseae*) and the avocado seed moth (*Stenoma catenifer*).

2. The notified Decision declares the municipality of Leonardo Bravo and the "Puente de la Dama" agroecological zone in the municipality of General Heliodoro Castillo, State of Guerrero, to be areas free from the large avocado seed weevil (*Heilipus lauri*), the small avocado seed weevil (*Conotrachelus aguacatae* and *C. perseae*) and the avocado seed moth (*Stenoma catenifer*). In accordance with the procedures set out in Mexican Official Standards NOM-066-FITO-2002 (Specifications for the phytosanitary management and movement of avocados) and NOM-069-FITO-1995 (Establishment and recognition of pest-free areas), phytosanitary measures were taken to determine the absence of avocado seed weevils, on the basis of phytosanitary status assessments carried out by the delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) in the State of Guerrero and the Directorate-General of Plant Health.

3. The Decision was published in order to declare that the above-mentioned municipalities comply with the phytosanitary provisions set forth in Mexican Official Standards NOM-069-FITO-1995 (Establishment and recognition of pest-free areas) and NOM-066-FITO-2002 (Specifications for the phytosanitary management and movement of avocados). The measures to be taken to maintain and protect areas free from avocado seed weevils are set out in points 4.4(c), (d) and (f) and 4.5.1 of NOM-069-FITO-1995 and in point 4, first paragraph, and points 4.4.4, 4.5.1, 4.5.2, 4.5.3, 4.8.1, 4.8.2, 4.8.3 and 4.8.4 of NOM-066-FITO-2002 and are intended to contribute to the objective of improving the phytosanitary status of avocado-growing areas in Mexico and to strengthen domestic and international avocado trade.

4. The Decision is available in Spanish at <http://www.dof.gob.mx> and http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5387663&fecha=02/04/2015 and from the National Enquiry Point (normasomc@economia.gob.mx).

5. Lastly, Mexico wishes to state that this communication is being made for the purposes of transparency, without prejudice to Mexico's rights and obligations under the SPS Agreement.
