



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**WORKSHOP ON TRANSPARENCY
MONDAY, 30 OCTOBER – TUESDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2017**

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Note by the Secretariat¹

Revision

1. The Secretariat of the World Trade Organization is organizing a 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 30-31 October 2017. The workshop will be followed by informal and formal meetings of the SPS Committee, lasting until Friday, 3 November 2017. Representatives of Members, Observers and Observer Organizations are all invited to participate in the transparency workshop as well as the subsequent meetings of the SPS Committee.
2. Document G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.7 provides information on the workshop. The WTO, with the financial assistance of the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund (DDAGTF), will sponsor the participation of approximately 40 government officials from developing country Members and Observers to the workshop. The Secretariat has selected participants to be sponsored among applications from government officials in charge of the implementation of the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement.
3. The workshop is intended to be a highly interactive, hands-on event, including training on the use of the improved SPS Information Management System (SPS IMS) and on-line submission system of SPS notifications (SPS NSS), as well as on the ePing SPS/TBT notification alert system. Delegates planning to attend the hands-on training sessions are invited to bring their laptops.
4. The workshop will also provide a forum for discussion and experience sharing on developments, challenges and practices in the area of SPS transparency. In addition, it will be an occasion to continue the discussions on transparency started as part of the Fourth Review of the implementation of the SPS Agreement.
5. This revised version of the draft programme takes into account Members' comments received after the July 2017 Committee meeting.

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.

MONDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2017**10:00–10:15****Opening remarks**

Overview of the workshop and its objectives

10:15–10:45**Session 1: Introduction**

Speaker: WTO Secretariat

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

10:45–11:15**Session 2: WTO sources of SPS information**

Speaker: WTO Secretariat

- *Documents Online; ePing SPS/TBT notification alert system; I-TIP*
- *SPS gateway + presentation of the improved version of the SPS IMS*

11:30–13:30

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

Session 3: Practical session on the use of the improved SPS IMS

- *SPS IMS hands-on exercise*

Session 4: Practical session on the use of ePing

- *ePing hands-on exercise*

13:30–15:00**Lunch break****15:00–15:30****Session 5: New trade facilitation obligations in the SPS area**

Speaker: Swedish National Board of Trade, Sweden

15:30–16:00**Session 6: Implementation of the transparency provisions**

Speaker: WTO Secretariat

Presentation of Members' level of implementation of transparency provisions and decisions (G/SPS/GEN/804/Rev.10)

16:00–16:20**Session 7: Overview of the improved SPS NSS**

Speaker: WTO Secretariat

- *How does the on-line submission facility work?*
- *Presentation of the improved SPS NSS platform: what has changed?*

16:30–18:00**Session 8: Practical session on the use of the improved SPS NSS**

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

- *Intro: How to use the improved SPS NSS and how to fill in a notification form*
- *SPS NSS hands-on exercise*

TUESDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2017

10:00–10:15

Opening remarks

10:15–13:00

Session 9: Sharing of national experiences and best practices in public consultations

Part 1: Models and mechanisms for public consultation in SPS rulemaking

In this session, relevant international work will be presented in the area of public consultation in the regulatory development process.

Speakers: TBC

- OECD: TBC
- World Bank: TBC
- APEC: TBC

Part 2: Domestic experiences in public consultation

In a round table setting, speakers in this session will share their experiences in conducting public consultations when developing SPS regulations.

Speakers: TBC

Part 3: Private sector views (TBC)

In this session, private sector representatives will share their experiences in participating in public consultations and/or government speakers in interacting with the private sector.

Speakers: TBC

13:00–14:30

Lunch break

14:30–16:15 (14:30-15:00 plenary, 15:00-16:15 groups)

Session 10: What actions could improve the implementation and benefits of SPS transparency provisions?

A brief introduction of the topics below will be presented in plenary. Participants will then break into groups to further discuss one or several of these topics:

Speaker: TBC

- *Decision criteria: what to notify and when*

Speaker: TBC

- *Identifying and targeting interested stakeholders*

Speaker: TBC

- *How to manage the volume of notifications on which to comment*

Approximately 1 hour will be allocated for group discussions.

16:30–17:30 - Reporting to the plenary

*Rapporteurs of each group will report back to the plenary (**5 minutes each**). The floor will then be opened for questions and comments.*

17:45–18:00

Session 11: Conclusion
