



**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

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

PROGRAMME

*Note by the Secretariat<sup>1</sup>*

*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), is sponsoring the participation of approximately 40 government officials from developing country Members and Observers in 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 by Mr Marcial Espínola Ramirez, Chairman of the SPS Committee**

Overview of the workshop and its objectives

**10:15–10:45****Session 1: Introduction****Speaker: Mr Rolando Alcalá**, 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****Speakers:**

- **Mr Tim Corrigan**, WTO Secretariat  
*Documents Online; ePing; I-TIP; improved version of the SPS IMS*
- **Ms Serra Ayrál**, WTO Secretariat  
*ePing SPS/TBT notification alert system*

**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: Ms Sun Hydén Biney**, Senior Trade Policy Adviser for SPS issues at the Swedish National Board of Trade, Sweden

**15:30–16:00****Session 6: Implementation of the transparency provisions****Speaker: Mr Rolando Alcalá**, WTO Secretariat

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

**16:00–16:20****Session 7: Overview of the improved SPS NSS****Speaker: Mr Tim Corrigan**, WTO Secretariat

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

**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.

- 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**

This session will focus on relevant international work in the area of public consultation in the regulatory development process.

**Speakers:**

- OECD: **Ms Mariana Karttunen**, Policy Analyst, Regulatory Policy Division, Public Governance Directorate, OECD  
*Stakeholder Engagement in Regulatory Policy*
- World Bank: **Mr Alfredo Gonzalez Briseno**, Regulatory Governance Specialist, Regulatory Policy and Management, Governance Global Practice, World Bank  
*Online Public Consultation: From Concept to Implementation with Results that Matter*
- Malaysia (APEC): **Ms Roziana Othman**, Senior Manager, Smart Regulation, Malaysia Productivity Corporation  
*Malaysia's experiences in establishing a mechanism for public consultation in the rule-making process*

**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:**

- **Ms Zhang Rong**, Senior Agronomist, Research Center for International Inspection and Quarantine Standard and Technical Regulation, General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) acting as WTO/SPS National Notification and Enquiry Center, China
- **Mr Edgar Osmar Gomez Garavito**, Negotiating Advisor on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Ministry of Economy, Guatemala
- **Ms Tugba Adiguzel Kargin**, European Union Expert, General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock, Turkey
- **Dr Nurten Aksu**, Engineer, General Directorate of Food and Control, Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock, Turkey
- **Ms Kristen Hendricks**, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), US Department of Agriculture, United States
- **Mr Jay Mitchell**, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), US Department of Agriculture, United States

**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:*

**Speakers:**

- **Ms Sally Jennings**, Senior Policy Analyst, Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand

*Decision criteria: what to notify and when*

- **Ms Roxana Inés Vera Muñoz**, Sub-departmental Chief, International Agreements, Department of International Negotiations, Division of International Affairs, Agricultural and Livestock Service, Chile

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

- **Ms Kristina Hartling**, Deputy Director, Trade Agreements Division, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Canada

*Consultations with government and non-government stakeholders on foreign SPS notifications*

*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**