



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**WORKSHOP ON TRANSPARENCY AND COORDINATION
MONDAY, 15 JULY – TUESDAY, 16 JULY 2019
WTO, CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD, GENEVA**

PROGRAMME

Note by the Secretariat¹

Revision

1. The SPS Committee decided that the July SPS thematic workshop would focus on transparency and coordination. The first draft of the programme was discussed at the 2019 March SPS Committee meetings. Members were invited to submit comments on the draft programme and suggest speakers by 3 May 2019. The Secretariat is circulating this revised version of the programme after taking into consideration comments received. A final version will be circulated in advance of the workshop, taking into account inputs received. Members are invited to submit additional comments and suggest speakers by 17 June 2019.

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.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 15 JULY 2019 (10:00–18:00)**Opening remarks by the Chairperson of the SPS Committee**

Overview of the workshop and its objectives

Session 1: Introduction

- *Overview of the transparency provisions in the SPS Agreement and of relevant Committee/Ministerial Decisions*
- *Overview of SPS/TBT coverage*
- *Examples of notification of SPS and TBT measures*
- *Report on discussions at the June TBT Committee Thematic Session on Transparency²*

This session will briefly present the key SPS transparency provisions and recommendations. It will give an overview of the difference in scope between the SPS and TBT Agreements, review of transparency provisions and procedures applicable to regulations that might contain relevant elements under both the SPS and TBT Agreements. The session will end with a report on the TBT Committee Thematic Session on Transparency to be held on 18-19 June.

Speaker(s): WTO Secretariat

Session 2: Implementation of the transparency provisions: Members' experience with SPS/TBT notifications³**Speaker(s):**

- **Brazil:**
 - *Brazilian experience with incoming notifications/trade implications*, Mr. Rafael D'Aquino Mafra, Director of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply; and
 - *Brazilian experience in submitting notifications*, Mr. Diogo Penha Soares, Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency
- **Japan:** *Japan's implementation and handling of SPS and TBT notifications*, speaker TBC
- **Chinese Taipei:** TBC

13:00–15:00**Lunch break****Session 3: Tools and sources of SPS/TBT information**

- *Documents Online; SPS IMS; updated Practical Manual for SPS NNAs and NEPs (2018 edition)*
- *SPS & TBT notification alert system ePing*

Speaker(s):

- WTO Secretariat
- Other TBC

² See current draft programme in G/TBT/GEN/264.

³ See G/SPS/W/312.

Session 4: Sharing of Members' experiences: Transparency-related coordination

Domestic coordination to ensure notification of all SPS regulations

Speaker(s):

- **China:** *Domestic coordination of SPS transparency in China*, Mr DENG Jie, China Nanjing Customs
- Other TBC

Experiences in using established SPS information exchange mechanisms (ePing and/or other similar systems)

Speaker(s):

- **Australia:** (TBC)
- **Uganda:** (TBC)
- Other TBC

TUESDAY, 16 JULY 2019 (10:00-18:00)**Opening remarks****Session 5: Guidelines and available tools for coordination****Speaker(s):**

- WTO Secretariat (Trade Facilitation)
- UNCTAD
- STDF

Session 6: Sharing national coordination experiences

This session could explore the use of national coordination mechanisms for purposes other than transparency-related coordination, discussed in session 4. These other purposes include developing national SPS strategies to prevent and resolve trade concerns, developing national positions and establishing priorities. Possible topics for discussion include:⁴

- *Establishing national SPS coordination mechanisms: Lessons learnt*
- *National SPS coordination mechanisms: What role for the private sector?*
- *Role of national SPS coordination mechanisms in communication/advocacy at the national level*
- *The procedures for developing national SPS strategies and positions in regional and international organizations*

Speaker(s):

- **Canada:** TBC
- **United States:** TBC
- Other TBC

Taking advantage of the expertise in the room, participants will have the opportunity to share experiences and lessons learnt.

13:00–15:00**Lunch break**

⁴ See G/SPS/W/297.

Session 7: Regional/International initiatives to support national coordination

Speaker(s):

- **African Union:** TBC
- **APEC:** TBC
- **Chile:** *Action Plan for Strengthening the National Notification Authorities of the Pacific Alliance in the area of SPS*, Ms Roxana Inés Vera Muñoz, Sub-departmental Chief, International Agreements, Department of International Negotiations, Division of International Affairs, Agricultural and Livestock Service
- **ECOWAS:** Dr Benoit Gnonlonfin, Senior SPS standards adviser
- **IICA:** TBC
- Other TBC

Closing remarks by the Chairperson of the SPS Committee
