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**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 Secretariat<sup>1</sup>*

*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 that first draft programme and subsequent revision, and suggest speakers. The Secretariat is circulating this final version of the programme after taking into consideration comments and suggestions received.

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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.

## PROGRAMME

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

Overview of the workshop and its objectives

**10:15 – 11:15****Session 1: Introduction**

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, including examples. It will also review the relevant transparency provisions and procedures. The session will end with a report on the TBT Committee Thematic Session on Transparency held on 18-19 June 2019.<sup>2</sup>

**Speakers:** Mr Rolando Alcala and Ms Serra Ayrál, WTO Secretariat

**11:15 – 13:00****Session 2: Implementation of the transparency provisions: Members' experience with SPS/TBT notifications<sup>3</sup>****Speakers:**

- **Brazil:**
  - *Submitting notifications: the Brazilian experience*, Mr Diogo Penha Soares, Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency; and
  - *Incoming notifications: the Brazilian experience*, Ms Naiana Campos Gil Ferreira Santiago, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply
- **Japan:** *Implementation and handling of SPS and TBT notifications: Japan's experience*, Mr Minoru Iijima, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Chinese Taipei:** *Coordination mechanism of SPS/TBT notifications*, Mr Hung-Jen Liao, Section Chief of International Affairs, Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine, Council of Agriculture
- **Canada:** *Regulations containing elements under both the WTO SPS and TBT Agreements: Canada's experiences*, Ms Emma Pagotto, Analyst, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- **Uganda:** *Notifying draft measures which contain both SPS and TBT provisions: Ugandan experience*, Mr George Opiyo, TBT National Enquiry Point, Uganda National Bureau of Standards

**13:00–15:00****Lunch break**

<sup>2</sup> See programme in G/TBT/GEN/264/Rev.1.

<sup>3</sup> See G/SPS/W/312.

**15:00 – 16:00****Session 3: Tools and sources of SPS/TBT information**

- *Overview of WTO tools (Documents Online; SPS IMS; updated Practical Manual for SPS NNAs and NEPs (2018 edition); and*
- *Update on ePing: SPS & TBT notification alert system and coordination forum, Mr Rolando Alcala, WTO Secretariat*
- *The Non-Tariff Measures Initiative: Enhancing transparency in SPS and TBT, Mr Christian Knebel, UNCTAD*
- *Global Trade Helpdesk: Single entry point for trade-related information, Mr Mathieu Loridan, ITC*

**16:00 – 17:45****Session 4: Sharing of Members' experiences: Transparency-related coordination**

This session will cover transparency-related coordination mechanisms including tools such as the use of ePing and other systems. It will also cover Members' experiences in using these systems to ensure the notification of all SPS/TBT regulations and to exchange information.

**Speakers:**

- **Uganda:** *Transition from using email to disseminate SPS and TBT notifications to adoption and implementation of ePing notification alert system in Uganda, Mr George Opiyo, TBT National Enquiry Point, Uganda National Bureau of Standards*
- **China:** *Domestic coordination of SPS transparency in China, Mr DENG Jie, China Nanjing Custom*
- **Australia:** *Using ePing and engaging the private sector, Mr John Heaslip, Senior Policy Officer, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*
- **New Zealand:** *How training contributes to better transparency, coordination and delivery, Ms Sally Jennings, Coordinator, SPS New Zealand*

**17:45 – 18:00****Closing remarks and wrap-up of day 1**

**TUESDAY, 16 JULY 2019 (10:00-17:30)****10:00 – 10:15****Opening remarks****10:15 – 11:15****Session 5: Guidelines and available tools for domestic coordination**

This session will broaden the perspective, covering coordination tools and experiences beyond the scope of the SPS Agreement. It will include coordination experiences from the trade facilitation area, from use of the STDF's "Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access" (P-IMA) tool.

**Roundtable:**

- **WTO Secretariat:** Ms Sheri Rosenow, Trade Facilitation
- **UNCTAD:** Ms Pamela Ugaz, Trade Facilitation Section
- **STDF:** Ms Roshan Khan, Standards and Trade Development Facility
- **Belize:** Ms Delilah Cabb Ayala, Coordinator Sanitary and Phytosanitary Enquiry Point, Belize Agricultural Health Authority Central Farm

**11:15 – 13:00****Session 6: Sharing domestic coordination experiences<sup>4</sup>**

This session will explore the use of domestic coordination mechanisms for purposes broader than transparency-related coordination, including developing strategies to prevent and resolve SPS trade concerns and establishing Members' positions and priorities:

**Speakers:**

- **Canada:** *Canada's national coordination mechanisms*, Ms Annie Bourque, Deputy Director, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- **Peru:** *National coordination on SPS issues: Peru's experience*, Mr Marcelo Valverde, Coordinator of SPS Measures, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism
- **Kenya:** *SPS coordination in Kenya, and efforts towards better national and regional coordination*, Mr Philip Njoroge, Coordinator, Trade and Standards, Chairman, WTO/SPS Committee Kenya, Kenya Plant Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS)
- **United States:** *National coordination procedures, transparency and WTO notifications: The US experience*, Ms Mara Burr, International Food Safety Policy Manager (Public Health and Trade), US Food and Drug Administration
- **Senegal:** *Coordination mechanism of the national SPS committee activities*, Mr Abdoulaye Ndiaye, Head of Phytosanitary Legislation and Plant Quarantine Division, Plant Protection Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Infrastructure

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**

<sup>4</sup> See G/SPS/W/297.

**15:00 – 17:00**

**Session 7: Regional/International initiatives to support domestic coordination**

**Speakers:**

- **African Union:** *Initiatives of the African Union to support national and regional coordination on SPS issues*, Mr John Oppong-Otoo, Food Safety Officer InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources, African Union Commission and Ms Diana Ogwal Akullo Oyena, Policy Officer, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission
- **ECOWAS:** *Regional coordination and status on application of the transparency provision of the WTO SPS Agreement: ECOWAS' experience*, Dr Benoit Gnonlonfin, Senior SPS standards adviser
- **IICA:** *Lessons learnt from domestic coordination: Best practices*, Mr Erick Bolaños, Agricultural Health and Food Safety Specialist
- **Chile:** *Action plan for strengthening the National Notification Authorities of the Pacific Alliance (Chile, Colombia, Peru, Mexico) in the area of SPS*, Ms Roxana Inés Vera Muñoz, Head International Agreements Sub-departmental, Agricultural and Livestock Service (SAG)
- **APEC:** *Encouraging transparency in food safety regulatory systems in the APEC Region*, Ms Megan Crowe, Senior International Economist, US Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, and Administrator of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN)

**17:00 – 17:30**

**Closing remarks by Ms Noncedo Vutula, Chairperson of the SPS Committee**