



**APEC INITIATIVE ON PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY THROUGH THE IMPROVEMENT OF
INFORMATION SUBMITTED IN SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY NOTIFICATIONS**

COMMUNICATION FROM PERU

The following communication, received on 18 June 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Peru.

1. Peru wishes to inform WTO Members of the outcomes achieved under the APEC initiative on Promoting Transparency through the Improvement of Information Submitted in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Notifications by APEC economies. This topic is of major importance to this Committee, as transparency is a fundamental principle of the WTO preventing the creation of unnecessary barriers to trade.
2. It should be noted that any initiatives, guidelines or recommendations etc. adopted by APEC are voluntary and non-binding on APEC economies.
3. The following activities have been carried out under this initiative:
 - a. Study of APEC Economies' Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Notifications on Quality and Completeness of Information, published on 17 August 2019.
 - b. APEC Public-Private Dialogue on Promoting Transparency through the Improvement of Information Submitted in Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Notifications, held on 22 and 23 August 2019.
 - c. APEC Recommendations on WTO SPS Notifications, adopted on 7 December 2019.
4. The Study of APEC Economies' Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Notifications on Quality and Completeness of Information identified, through the analysis of APEC economies' SPS notifications and a survey of the private sector in the Asia-Pacific region, that improving the information submitted in sections 3 (Products covered) and 6 (Description of content) of both regular and emergency notifications would have a significant impact, in the short term, on the understanding of measures notified to the WTO SPS Committee.
5. The findings of the Study were later presented and validated at the APEC Public-Private Dialogue on Promoting Transparency through the Improvement of Information Submitted in Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Notifications. During the Dialogue, other points that would improve understanding of APEC notifications were identified, such as ensuring that web links worked; describing the exact changes from previous measures in the description of the notified measures; and identifying enquiry points.
6. Based on the outcomes of the Study and the Public-Private Dialogue, the APEC Recommendations on WTO SPS Notifications were adopted. These recommendations include the timely notification of draft sanitary and phytosanitary measures and emergency measures, and encouraging economies to take public and private sector comments on notified measures into consideration.
7. The documents related to this initiative can be found on the links provided below (and are available in English only):

- a. Study of APEC Economies' Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Notifications on Quality and Completeness of Information

Available at: <https://www.apec.org/Publications/2019/08/Study-of-APEC-Economies-SPS-Notifications>

- b. APEC Public–Private Dialogue on Promoting Transparency through the Improvement of Information Submitted in Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Notifications

Summary available at: <https://apec.org/Publications/2019/11/CTI-Public-Private-Dialogue-on-Promoting-Transparency>

- c. APEC Recommendations on WTO SPS Notifications
Appendix 10 to the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) 2019 Annual Report, available at: <https://www.apec.org/Publications/2019/12/2019-CTI-Annual-Report-to-Ministers>

8. Peru hopes that these documents can foster future discussions in this Committee.
