



**INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT ON AGRICULTURAL APPLICATIONS OF PRECISION
BIOTECHNOLOGY ([G/SPS/GEN/1658/REV.4](#))**

SUBMISSION BY THE UNITED STATES

The following document, received on 26 June 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United States.

1.1. The United States welcomes the Philippines as a co-sponsor to the International Statement on Agricultural Applications of Precision Biotechnology ([G/SPS/GEN/1658/Rev.4](#)).

1.2. This action by the Philippines is timely for the Committee as many Members are considering policies that can support innovation through the development and commercialization of products of precision biotechnology.

1.3. We again would like to emphasize that agricultural applications of precision biotechnologies, such as genome editing, hold significant promise for both farmers and consumers around the world. These tools carry the potential to play a critical role in addressing many of the production challenges faced by farmers, as well as in improving nutritional and quality food characteristics for consumers.

1.4. In this Committee, Members have discussed concerns such as the rise in anti-microbial resistance, the spread of animal diseases, and the increase in pest pressures as well as the nexus between animal health and welfare. As previously noted, on all of these issues, the tools of precision biotechnology hold great promise to mitigate such concerns.

1.5. These new biotechnology tools carry the potential to reduce significantly the costs and timelines to bring new products to market – thereby enabling public researchers and small technology companies to provide new tools to support local needs and challenges, particularly in developing countries.

1.6. However, the approaches to oversight taken by countries to the products produced through the application of these technologies will determine the extent to which our farmers and consumers will be able to realize these potential benefits.

1.7. We encourage Members to choose science and risk-based approaches towards products of genome editing that will allow for farmers and consumers to benefit from these new technologies while also protecting human, animal, and plant health.

1.8. We also welcome cooperation between Members to explore opportunities to align policy approaches to these products.
