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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

**REQUEST FROM THE UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION (UNIDO) ([G/SPS/GEN/121/ADD.18](#))**

COMMUNICATION FROM BELIZE

The following communication, received on 13 October 2020, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Belize.

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1. The delegation of Belize supports the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) request for Observer Status in the SPS Committee.
 2. We believe that document [G/SPS/GEN/121/Add.18](#), clearly outlines their relevance to the work of this Committee and in the interest of developing countries like ours, we place special emphasis on their contributions to making small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) more competitive in the global arena.
 3. This agency's intervention in matters related to SPS is quite diverse and includes capacity building efforts in the development of SPS measures. Additionally, they have strategies that support compliance with the provisions of the SPS Agreement.
 4. One of the two pilot projects approved by the STDF on "Piloting the use of Third-Party Assurance Programme to Improve Food Safety Outcomes for Public Health and Trade" will be implemented by UNIDO in West Africa. The other pilot project will be implemented by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Central America (Belize and Honduras). Considering the fact that these two pilot projects are targeting SMEs and have a major emphasis on enhancing food safety outcomes, UNIDO's contribution will be extremely valuable for their successful execution.
 5. Given the aforementioned, UNIDO's participation as an Observer in the SPS Committee could only be of benefit to Members, in particular least developing and developing countries.
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