



11 June 2021

(21-4821)

Page: 1/1

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

WTO SPS COMMITTEE - MONITORING OF INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION

COMMUNICATION FROM NEW ZEALAND

The following document, received on 10 June 2021, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of New Zealand.

New Zealand appreciates the comments and feedback on its ideas and proposals for strengthening the process of monitoring of international harmonization. We have reviewed these comments and would offer the following response:

1 THEMATIC SESSION

1.1. There appears to be broad interest and support for convening a thematic session on Article 3.5 and 12.4 later in 2021 as a first step to consideration of actions to improve the monitoring of international harmonization. Such a thematic session would provide an ideal forum for a focussed discussion of the topic and possible initiatives to improve the current process. The thematic session could consider the following:

- Review progress with implementation of the provisions of the SPS Agreement in relation to monitoring of international harmonization;
- Review the actions and initiatives of the international standard setting bodies to monitor the uptake and use of their standards, guidelines, and recommendations;
- Invite Member perspectives and approaches to application of international standards as a basis for domestic regulation and trade.

1.2. It would be useful to develop the programme for the thematic session in close consultation with Members and the International standard setting bodies.

2 OTHER PROPOSALS

2.1. New Zealand has noted the comments and feedback on the other proposals set out in our paper and can agree with the suggestion that these will need further analysis and consideration, possibly in the light of the outcomes of the thematic session. We also agree with the suggestion that any proposals for strengthening the monitoring of international harmonization should be done in close collaboration with the relevant international standard setting bodies to promote alignment of interests and avoid duplication.
