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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**INDIA'S REQUIREMENT FOR CERTIFICATE FOR NON-GM ORIGIN  
AND GM-FREE STATUS – [SPECIFIC TRADE CONCERN 501](#)**

SUBMISSION BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The following submission, received on 20 July 2021, is the statement made by the United States of America at the 14-16 July 2021 WTO SPS Committee, and is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the United States of America.

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1. The United States again raises its concerns with India's measure mandating "non-GM (genetically modified) origin and GM free certificates" for certain agricultural imports into India, notified on 2 September 2020, as [G/TBT/N/IND/168](#).
  2. The United States raised this issue at the November 2020 and March 2021 SPS Committee meetings and our concerns are documented in [G/SPS/GEN/1865](#) and [G/SPS/GEN/1901](#), and in the Committee's summary reports of the previous meetings.
  3. Per previous interventions on this issue, we again request that India provide the scientific justification and the risk assessment for the measure, or otherwise indicate the relevant international standards or guidelines on which this measure is based. In the absence of this information, the United States again urges India to withdraw its measure.
  4. The measure has disrupted US apple exports. Trade stoppages risk future product shortages and could lead to price increases for Indian consumers and further disruptions to Indian supply chains.
  5. We request that India consider alternative approaches that can be implemented in a non-discriminatory manner, and in a way that is not more trade-restrictive than necessary.
  6. In January 2021, the United States proposed technical cooperation with India to develop alternatives to the non-GM origin and GM-free certificate. We look forward to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's (FSSAI) response to this proposed technical cooperation opportunity as a means by which we can develop a mutually agreeable approach to this issue.
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