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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR THEMATIC SESSION ON PROCEDURE TO
MONITOR THE PROCESS OF INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION**

**TUESDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 2021
WTO, CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD, GENEVA**

COMMUNICATION FROM NEW ZEALAND

Revision

The following document, received on 6 October 2021, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of New Zealand.

PROPOSED PROGRAMME

The thematic session will provide an opportunity for WTO Members to exchange views and review progress with international harmonization. The WTO SPS Agreement encourages Members to harmonize their measures, to the maximum extent possible, with the standards, guidelines and recommendations established by the relevant international standard-setting bodies. Relevant international standard-setting bodies are interested in understanding the extent to which their standards and related texts are used. The SPS Committee has a role in monitoring the process of international harmonization in close collaboration with the relevant international standard-setting bodies.

This thematic session will focus on three broad areas:

1. Relevant provisions of the SPS Agreement and actions taken thus far to monitor the process of international harmonization;
2. The actions and initiatives that Codex, OIE and the IPPC have taken to monitor the use of their standards, guidelines and recommendations, and consideration of opportunities for coordination between these standard-setting bodies and the SPS Committee; and
3. Members' approaches, experiences and challenges with the use of international standards at the national and regional levels, and consideration of actions and initiatives to support uptake and use of international standards.

1 RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE SPS AGREEMENT, WORK OF THE SPS COMMITTEE AND RELEVANT DISPUTE SETTLEMENT REPORTS

Speaker: WTO Secretariat

Followed by Q&A session and discussion

2 INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND MONITORING HARMONIZATION

International standard-setting bodies - their priorities and interest; their initiatives to monitor the implementation of international standards, guidelines and recommendations; and the financial, technical, and human resources required, as well as the support provided to Members to meet the harmonization provisions of the SPS Agreement.

Speakers:

- **Codex Alimentarius**
- **OIE**
- **IPPC**

Followed by Q&A session and discussion

3 REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Regional/cross border cooperation and regional or economic bodies which are currently pursuing harmonization of SPS measures.

Speakers:

- **OIRSA**, to present on the preparation of the Harmonized regional guide to good risk-based agricultural practices (**Speaker name and title TBC**).

Followed by Q&A session and discussion

4 NATIONAL INITIATIVES

Members - share their technical approaches and experiences with regard to harmonizing with international standards and challenges faced when measures are harmonized.

Speakers:

- **Ms Edith Villanueva Huamán**, Food Safety expert, General Directorate of Environmental Health and Food Safety (DIGESA), Peru. *Harmonization of the national regulatory framework with Codex standards and guidelines, and other regulations.*
- **Mr Sam Bishop**, Head of International Plant Health Policy and Risk Co-ordination, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), United Kingdom. *Utilizing International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures to shape national legislation and decision-making processes.*
- **Canada, Speaker name and title TBC**

Followed by Q&A session and discussion

5 CLOSING REMARKS
