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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES
IN PEST RISK IDENTIFICATION, ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT**

WTO SPS COMMITTEE – PROPOSED THEMATIC SESSION

COMMUNICATION FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

Revision

The following document, received on 14 October 2021, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the European Union.

1 BACKGROUND

1.1. The plant health international standards laid down by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) aim to protect sustainable agriculture and enhance global food security, protect the environment, forests, and biodiversity, and facilitate economic and trade development. Over the years, the IPPC has developed numerous important guidance such as the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 20: Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system which provide a foundation for the organization and regulation of safe trade in plants and plant products. Other important achievements of the IPPC to be highlighted in this context are ISPM 2 (Guidelines for pest risk analysis), ISPM 11 (Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests) and ISPM 21 (Pest risk analysis for regulated non-quarantine pests).

1.2. Notwithstanding these accomplishments in establishing international standards aimed at facilitating international trade, the approval procedures for plants and plant products, including fruit and vegetables, still can be complex and on some occasions long and burdensome.

1.3. This is witnessed by the significant number of specific trade concerns raised by WTO Members on a recurring basis in the WTO SPS Committee agenda.

1.4. International trade in plants and plant products, including fruit and vegetables, is hindered by undue delays in dealing with import applications. This is economically unsustainable and inefficient. In many of these cases, the pest risk analysis presents the bottleneck in the approval procedure.

2 SESSION OVERVIEW

2.1. The thematic session will provide an opportunity for WTO Members to increase their awareness about the relevant ISPMs and to elaborate and corroborate how these are reflected in their national import phytosanitary regimes. In particular, Members are invited to share best practices in conducting pest risk analyses efficiently and apply effective risk management options that are facilitating trade.

2.2. The session will focus on trade-related questions and aim to identify best practices, in particular on issues such as:

- (1) Identification of pests of phytosanitary concern;

- (2) Use of reference databases (Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International, CABI; European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization, EPPO);
- (3) Performance of pest risk analyses (PRAs);
- (4) Use of standard risk mitigation measures;
- (5) Phytosanitary certification/phytosanitary import conditions;
- (6) Review of available risk management options based on the IPPC standards.

3 OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOME

3.1. The thematic session will provide Members an opportunity to learn from one another's best practices.

3.2. Sharing experiences about the challenges, as well as the benefits, of defining safe trade conditions for plants for planting, fruit and vegetables will contribute to building confidence among trading partners when recognizing or seeking recognition of their phytosanitary measures including regional conditions.

3.3. In addition, the session's outcome may feed into the work programme of IPPC by identifying possible existing gaps in the relevant standards, if any, or new projects that are desirable from a trade perspective.
