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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**CHINA'S COVID-19 RELATED TRADE ACTIONS AGAINST FOOD
AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS – [SPECIFIC TRADE CONCERN 487](#)**

SUBMISSION BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The following submission, received on 8 November 2021, is the statement made by the United States of America at the 3-5 November 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 would like to reiterate the concerns we have shared over the past year regarding several measures China continues to implement, including testing requirements on imported foods and port-of-entry rejections of imported products when positive nucleic acid test results are reported, and suspension of imports from specific facilities.
 2. In August 2021, the FAO released updated guidance for preventing transmission of COVID-19 within food businesses. That document states that, "current data indicates that neither food nor food packaging is a pathway for the spread of viruses causing respiratory illnesses, including SARS-CoV-2. In other words, SARS-CoV-2 is not a direct food safety concern."
 3. Through notification [G/SPS/N/CHN/1173](#), China indicated that it is implementing these measures on an emergency basis. To date and in response to numerous requests by WTO Members, China has not provided any science-based justification or testing results to support the need for, or efficacy of, these measures, and we would remind China that in order to maintain provisional measures, China must seek to obtain enough evidence to justify them.
 4. As the world continues to slowly reopen and rebuild, the unjustified trade restrictions adopted by China during the COVID-19 pandemic continue to threaten global food supply chains, slow global recovery efforts, and further challenge global food security.
 5. As Members of the WTO, we again urge China to withdraw these measures and work with its global partners to support the guidance of international organizations by building the body of scientific evidence on COVID-19. Collaborative engagement is essential as we collectively seek to combat the pandemic, avoid unnecessary barriers to trade on food and agricultural products, and maintain food security for all.
 6. Lastly, the United States notes that two US poultry production facilities remain ineligible to export to China over a year after China suspended exports allegedly based on COVID-19-related concerns. These facilities have provided substantial information to China to support reinstatement, but China has not provided a clear process for trade to resume. We encourage China to make public this process and promptly reinstate these facilities as eligible to export to China.
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