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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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UPDATE ON OECD ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST TO THE SPS COMMITTEE

COMMUNICATION FROM THE OECD

The following communication, received on 17 May 2022, is being circulated at the request of the OECD.

1 RECOMMENDATION ON INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY COOPERATION TO TACKLE GLOBAL CHALLENGES

1.1. The OECD is in the process of adopting a Recommendation on International Regulatory Cooperation to Tackle Global Challenges, that builds on the [Best Practice Principles on International Regulatory Co-operation](#). This will be adopted at the Ministerial Council's Meeting on 10 June. This Recommendation will give higher standing to the OECD principles on IRC, and reinforce the importance of implementing IRC across government. The content of the draft Recommendation builds very closely on the Best Practice Principles, and are therefore divided into three building blocks: (1) Establishing an IRC strategy and its governance structure at the domestic level; (2) Embedding IRC throughout the domestic rulemaking; and (3) Fostering international co-operation (bilaterally, plurilaterally and multilaterally).

2 LARGE-SCALE FOOD FORTIFICATION

2.1. The OECD is working on a project on Large-Scale Food Fortification (LSFF) regulation measurement framework. This consists in a largescale project to build a strong assessment and measurement conceptual framework for food fortification regulation as the first step for subsequently developing a Large-Scale Food Fortification Regulatory Index. This regulatory diagnostic tool on food fortification aims to assess the success of regulatory delivery through indicators on policy, regulation and institutional set-up and their practical implementation.

3 OPTIMISING FOOD SAFETY REGULATORY SYSTEMS FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY

3.1. The OECD published in October 2021 a paper on [Optimising food safety regulatory systems for economic recovery](#), which discusses the opportunities that the COVID-19 crisis presents to rethink and optimise food safety regulation for the recovery. The pandemic has stressed the importance of reducing administrative barriers but also the need for regulations that effectively foster safe practices. Food supply systems showed resilience due to governments' rapid implementation of temporary measures. Prioritisation and reduction of the number of physical controls did not lead to a safety crisis, and this highlighted the need for greater optimisation and efficiency of controls, and recognition of results of food safety management systems. Progress in technology and data management can help respond to the need for more co-operation and collaboration among control agencies and improved information exchange to improve efficiency and effectiveness of control measures.

4 WORKING TOWARDS MORE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL RULEMAKING

4.1. In September 2021, the OECD published a report on [Working Towards More Effective International Rulemaking](#), co-developed with the [IO Partnership for effective international rulemaking](#), in which the WTO participates. This Compendium of International Organizations'

Practices gathers the experiences of some 50 IOs with different mandates, members and institutional frameworks to draw lessons for international rulemaking. It examines the diversity of instruments in the international rulemaking ecosystem; describes trends and challenges; and discusses how to strengthen the implementation and evaluation of international instruments, ensure efficient stakeholder engagement, and maximise opportunities for co-ordination across IOs. The IO Compendium is designed to serve not only all national and international policy practitioners, but also civil society actors, academic experts, private actors, and citizens who seek to understand, benefit from and possibly contribute to the international rulemaking process.

Contact:

Marianna Karttunen (E-mail: marianna.karttunen@oecd.org)
