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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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

SUBMISSION BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The following submission, received on 24 June 2022, is the statement made by the United States of America at the 22-24 June 2022 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 the concerns we have shared with this Committee for the past two years regarding the measures China continues to implement, including testing requirements on imported foods, port-of-entry rejections of imported products when positive nucleic acid test results are reported, and suspension of imports from specific facilities.
 2. We and other Members again remind China of the most recent FAO guidance for preventing transmission of COVID-19 within food businesses, which 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. Increasingly, these measures appear to discriminate against imports while providing significantly more lenient pathways for the production, transportation, and sale of domestic food products. SPS measures, including unjustified measures, should not operate as a discriminatory barrier to trade that unfairly advantages a Member's domestic producers.
 4. As the world continues to reopen and rebuild, the unjustified trade restrictions adopted by China during the COVID-19 pandemic continue to increase food prices for consumers, threaten global food supply chains, slow global recovery efforts, unfairly disadvantage imported cold chain food products, and further challenge global food security.
 5. We urge China to immediately withdraw these measures and meaningfully engage with its global partners to support the guidance of international organizations, which is based on 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.
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