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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**POSITION PAPER OF CHINA REGARDING JAPAN'S DISCHARGE OF
NUCLEAR-CONTAMINATED WATER INTO THE OCEAN**

COMMUNICATION FROM CHINA

The following communication, received on 19 September 2023, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of China.

The Preamble to *the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization* articulates "the objective of sustainable development", and provides that the Parties to the Agreement shall seek to "protect and preserve the environment". *The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures* reaffirms that WTO Members have the right to take sanitary and phytosanitary measures necessary for the protection of human, animal or plant life or health.

Since Japan's announcement of its plan for discharge of Fukushima nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean in 2021, China has repeatedly raised serious concerns and questions at the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Committee and under the Trade Policy Review of Japan, pointing out that Japan's release of huge amounts of nuclear-contaminated water into the marine environment imposes serious risks to environmental safety, food safety and public health. However, the Japanese government, insisting on going down the wrong path despite all the oppositions, unilaterally and arbitrarily started the discharge of nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean on 24 August 2023.

China noted that, on 4 September 2023, Japan submitted a communication document to the SPS Committee and repeated its rhetoric under the Committee. It must be emphasized that this is the first time in human history that such a large quantity of nuclear-contaminated water is poured into the ocean. So far, major concerns of the international community, such as the legitimacy and legality of Japan's discharge of nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean, the long-term reliability of the purification facility, and the authenticity and accuracy of the data of nuclear-contaminated water, have not been truly and effectively addressed. An independent, objective, and fair international monitoring scheme has not yet been established. After Japan's release of nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean, the Japanese aquatic products, under the influence of marine food chain accumulation and bio-concentration, will pose widespread and long-term threats to the life and health of humanity and huge risks to food safety.

In this context, in order to fully prevent the risks of radioactive contamination on food safety caused by Japan's discharge of nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean, to protect the life and health of Chinese consumers and to ensure the safety of imported foods, in accordance with Chinese laws and regulations and *the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures* of the WTO, China has taken emergency trade measures against aquatic products originating from Japan, which are totally justified, reasonable and necessary.

China urges Japan to take seriously the legitimate concerns of all sides, reflect conscientiously and seriously on itself, faithfully respect, and fulfil its international obligations, by immediately stopping the dumping of nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean, and faithfully engage in consultations with all relevant stakeholders, especially its neighboring Members, in order to find a truly responsible solution in disposing the nuclear-contaminated water.
