



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ([G/SPS/GEN/181/ADD.16](#))

SUBMISSION BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The following submission, received on 20 November 2023, is the statement made by the United States of America at the 15-17 November 2023 WTO SPS Committee, and is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the United States of America.

1. The United States is pleased to inform the Committee of our submission [G/SPS/GEN/181/Add.16](#). This submission provides summary information regarding over \$14 million in US-sponsored technical assistance provided between October 2020 and September 2021 aimed to support Members in their efforts to enhance their implementation of the SPS Agreement.
2. The United States values the continued work of the SPS Committee to strengthen implementation of the SPS Agreement and notes that this is a timely topic as the Committee prepares to report on the SPS Declaration Work Programme and to launch the Sixth Review of the SPS Agreement.
3. This reporting period, during which programming was heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrates the continued US commitment to meet the evolving technical assistance needs of developing and least developed countries. We have invested resources and adapted activities to support new challenges to the application of the SPS Agreement, including moving to virtual and hybrid formats for trainings on topics ranging from transboundary animal disease and system-based approaches to audit to pesticide registration for food safety.
4. We also shared freely accessible online resources, including a suite of SPS distance learning courses at www.SPScourses.com. We promote these modules through our programs, but also through public outreach, including a side event held on the margins of the July 2021 SPS Committee meeting. Global usership has expanded significantly since 2020 and now has reached more than 15,000 individuals in more than 240 countries.
5. The United States values partnerships in technical assistance. During the period covered by this addendum, the United States partnered with the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and other collaborators on: 1) three complementary regional biopesticide programmes that apply innovative, science-based approaches that will help combat rising pest and disease pressures due to climate change; 2) the implementation of the ePhyto solution electronic certification programme; and 3) the application of the Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA) tool, which offers an evidence-based approach to inform and improve SPS planning and decision-making processes.
6. We look forward to continuing our cooperation with STDF, the international standard setting bodies, and international intergovernmental organizations on cross-cutting SPS programmes. In addition to providing financial support to partners like the STDF and Codex trust funds, we recognize the value of leveraging the skills and experience of these strategic, forward-looking partners.
7. The United States welcomes collaboration with Members and observers in how best to facilitate impactful capacity building activities. We also welcome input on the types of capacity building

projects that would be of interest to Members, including those to be identified in the upcoming Sixth Review.

8. We remain committed to providing technical assistance on SPS issues to implement the SPS Agreement, to support Members in meeting their international obligations, and to facilitate safe trade in agricultural products.
