



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**SPS COMMITTEE THEMATIC WORKSHOP ON TRANSPARENCY
MONDAY, 18 MARCH AND TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2024
WTO, CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD, GENEVA**

PROGRAMME

Note by the Secretariat¹

Revision

1. As decided by the SPS Committee at its November 2023 meeting, the Secretariat of the World Trade Organization will organize a workshop on the transparency provisions of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), on 18-19 March 2024. The workshop will be followed by informal and formal meetings of the SPS Committee, lasting until Friday, 22 March 2024. The workshop, open to participation by WTO Members and Observers, will be of particular interest to government officials in charge of the implementation of the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement, i.e. SPS national notification authorities (NNAs) and enquiry points (NEPs).
2. The workshop aims to enhance the implementation of SPS transparency provisions by bringing together officials to engage in a technical discussion on SPS transparency-related work, and to exchange experiences on the use of online transparency tools, including the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#). It builds on the successful [June 2022 SPS Workshop on Transparency](#) which had provided the Committee with an introduction to the main functions of the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#), launched in July 2022, which integrates SPS and TBT online transparency tools.
3. The workshop will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, beginning on Monday, 18 March at 15:00 (CET) for all interested delegates, and continuing on Tuesday, 19 March at 10:00 (CET). The workshop can be attended in person or virtually via Zoom. Interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish. Additional training will be held for SPS NNAs and NEPs (in person only), as indicated in the programme.
4. Members are invited to submit comments on this draft programme as soon as possible and at the latest by **Friday, 1 March 2024**. The Secretariat will circulate a final programme after taking into consideration the comments received.

¹ This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 18 MARCH 2024

10:00 – 11:15**Group work on SPS transparency provisions** (in person only)

This session for SPS national notification authorities (NNAs) and enquiry points (NEPs), will include group work and training on SPS transparency provisions.

Resource persons:

- WTO
- Speakers/External experts

11:15 – 11:30**Coffee Break****11:30 – 13:00****Group work on the roles and responsibilities of SPS NNAs and NEPs and implementation challenges** (in person only)

This session for SPS NNAs and NEPs will include an interactive exercise to enhance the work of SPS NNAs and NEPs.

Resource persons:

- WTO
- Speakers/External experts

13:00 – 15:00**Lunch Break****15:00 – 15:15****Opening remarks**

Chairperson of the SPS Committee: Mr Tayutic Mena Retana

15:15 – 16:30**Session 1: Transparency in the SPS Agreement and relevant online tools**

In this session, the Secretariat will provide a brief overview of SPS transparency obligations and recommendations, work undertaken since the Fifth Review of the SPS Agreement, and online transparency tools.

Speakers:

- WTO

Q&A and discussion

16:30 – 18:00**Session 2: Linkages with transparency-related work in the TBT Committee**

This session will discuss notifications of SPS and TBT measures as well as ongoing transparency-related work in the TBT Committee.

Speakers:

- **Mr Rolando Alcalá**, WTO.
- **Ms Serra Ayrál**, WTO. *Transparency-related work in the TBT Committee*
- **Mr George Opiyo**, Uganda.

Q&A and discussion

TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2024**10:00 – 11:15****Session 3: Monitoring the implementation of international standards**

This session will discuss the interface between transparency and monitoring the implementation of international standards, including the work of the ISSB observatories.

Speakers:

- **Mr Farid El Haffar**, Technical Officer, Codex Secretariat. *Use and impact of Codex texts*
- **Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel**, Head of Data Integration Department, World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). *Monitoring the implementation of international standards: Two examples from the WOAH Observatory: 1) Monitoring WOAH members' transparency and 2) Using SPS ePing*
- **Mr Descartes Koumba**, Agricultural Officer; and **Ms Rokhila Madaminova**, Programme Specialist, IPPC Secretariat. *Monitoring IPPC: Successes and challenges*

Q&A and discussion

11:15 – 11:30**Coffee Break****11:30 – 13:00****ePing clinic – Building the operational capacity of NNAs and NEPs (in person only)**

In this session for SPS NNAs and NEPs, the Secretariat will explain the different levels of access on the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#), including the functions available to admin users.

Resource persons:

- WTO
- Speakers/External experts

13:00 – 15:00**Lunch Break****15:00 – 16:15****Session 4: Preparation and submission of notifications: National perspectives**

In this session, Members will be invited to discuss the procedures to submit SPS notifications to the WTO, including through the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#).

Speakers:

- **Dr Maia Beruashvili**, Head of Food Safety Division, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia. *Preparation and submission of SPS notifications*
- **Mr Diego Schuch Nakayama**, Health Regulation Analyst, Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa), Brazil.
- **Ms Sally Griffin**, Senior Policy Analyst - New Zealand SPS Contact Point Manager, Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand.
- **Ms Bahati Samillani**, National Enquiry Point Officer for SPS, Bureau of Standards, Tanzania. *How do we implement transparency under the SPS Agreement? Procedure for drafting SPS notifications*

Q&A and discussion

16:15 – 17:45

Session 5: Reaching out to national stakeholders and other Members

In this session, Members will share their experiences on coordination at national level and/or with other Members, including through the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#).

Speakers:

- **Dr Mohammed Benhaddou**, Official Veterinarian, Standardisation and SPS issues Department at the National Food Safety Office (ONSSA), Morocco.
- **Ms Xianxian Tang**, Government Counsel, Section Chief of the SPS Commenting Division and National Enquiry Point, General Administration of Customs, China.
- **Mr Andrés Quiróz**, Director of Negotiations on SPS Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade, Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investment and Fisheries, Ecuador. *Compliance with WTO transparency provisions, analysis of ePing notifications and coordination of the WTO TBT and SPS committees in Ecuador*
- **Dr Betül Vazgecer**, Regulatory Expert, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Türkiye. *Transparency and food safety approaches in Türkiye*
- **Ms Priscila Rech Pinto Moser**, Federal Inspector, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA), Brazil. *Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture perspectives on identifying, preparing and sharing WTO SPS notifications*

Q&A and discussion

17:45 – 18:00

Next steps and closing remarks

Discussion of any possible next steps, followed by closing remarks.

Chairperson of the SPS Committee: Mr Tayutic Mena Retana