

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT PROCEDURAL MANUAL ON THE OPERATION OF
SPS ENQUIRY POINTS AND NATIONAL NOTIFICATION AUTHORITIES**

Note by the Secretariat¹

1. During the workshop on transparency held in October 2007, New Zealand submitted a proposal regarding the development of a step-by-step operational procedural manual which would assist developing country Members in their transparency operations.² Members welcomed this proposal. One of the Committee's recommendations arising from the workshop was the development of this procedural manual by interested delegations, with a view to post the finalized manual on the WTO website.³

2. As a follow up, New Zealand, Australia, and Oman have worked together to produce a draft procedural manual, on which they would like to receive Members' comments.⁴ The manual can be found on the WTO Members' Website:

http://members.wto.org/WTO_resources/SPS/Files/Draft_Procedural_Manual.doc⁵

3. Written comments on the manual should be submitted directly to the New Zealand SPS Contact Point (NewZealand.SPS@maf.govt.nz), the Australian SPS Contact Point (SPS.Contact@affa.gov.au) and the Enquiry Point of Oman (plus1015@yahoo.com) by **26 March 2008**.

4. The upcoming meetings of the SPS Committee scheduled for 1-3 April 2008 will also provide an opportunity for Members to exchange comments on the manual and review progress on this initiative.

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 or obligations under the WTO.

² See G/SPS/W/214, paragraphs 4-5.

³ See G/SPS/R/47, paragraphs 41 and 44.

⁴ The manual might also need to be revised in light of proposed changes to the Committee's Procedures for Implementing the Transparency Obligations of the SPS Agreement (Article 7) (G/SPS/7/Rev.2). These proposed changes can be found in G/SPS/W/215/Rev.1 and they will be considered by the SPS Committee during its upcoming meetings.

⁵ Open Members' site on the Internet (<http://members.wto.org/members/>), click on **WTO resources** open book icon, scroll down the page to **Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures** and then click on the icon to the right of "Draft Procedural Manual on the Operation of Enquiry Points and Notification Authorities".